



FGCS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022

Board Members Present

Robbie Pock, Chair
Anita Zijdemans-Boudreau, Treasurer
Mackenzie Carey, Secretary
Amanda Tietze, Member

Board Members Absent

Bob Hatt, Vice Chair
Keri Johnson, Member

Staff Members Present

Vanessa Gray, Principal
Karen Torry, Director of School Operations

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Voting Items

- March 2022 Board Minutes: Unanimously approved as written.
- Late-Start Wednesdays: The Board unanimously approved implementing late-start Wednesdays beginning with the 2022-23 school year. School will start at 9:50 a.m. Wednesdays. Vanessa sought the Board's approval for this change to give teachers more planning and collaboration time. She confirmed that FGCS will still meet instructional hour requirements with late-start Wednesdays.

Discussion Items

- Board Meeting Times: The board discussed the question of moving regular Board meetings to the 3rd or 4th Monday of each month. Vanessa suggested doing this because meeting on the 2nd Monday requires the bookkeeper to generate two sets of financial reports for Board review because the meeting falls so close to the end of the month. Moving the meeting later in the month would be more efficient, reducing the bookkeeper workload and associated costs. Robbie asked board members to notify her if they have any regular conflicts with or preference

for either day. Vanessa stated her wish to change the meeting day starting in May.

- 22-23 Proposed Budget: Vanessa shared a preliminary budget with the Board. She explained that several line items are still in flux and will be finalized in the coming weeks. She will ask the Board to vote on a final budget at the June meeting. Vanessa noted that the budget presented to the Board is the operating budget for the 22-23 fiscal year. She advised the Board that \$650,000 in undesignated funds are not reflected in the budget but are important for the Board to keep in mind for discussions about property, specifically what to do with the vacant rental house. Anita inquired about which employees get which benefits. Vanessa explained that all employees are in the PERS system once they work 600 hours. Staff who work more than 20 hours, which this year includes all staff, get disability benefits. Health insurance is available for full-time employees. This includes administrators, teachers and the office manager. The instructional assistant positions will be maintained next year, thanks to ESSER funding.
- Follow up on formal complaint: Robbie reported that she did not receive any response from the individuals who filed a formal complaint with the Board regarding a disciplinary matter. The complainants did not attend the hearing held to review the complaint. Vanessa reported that she has also not received any feedback from the complainants since the Board's decision was sent to them. Anita thanked Robbie for her leadership in the process.
- Property Issues: Vanessa described generally the possible purchase of a property that adjoins FGCS to expand the school campus. She acknowledged that a venture of this type involves risk but she feels it's worth exploring because the opportunity likely will not come along again. She has made some initial inquiries with Key Bank, which holds the school's mortgage for its current property. Vanessa expressed that she thinks plans for the vacant rental should be put on hold pending further development of this other idea.
 - Mackenzie stated that carving off a section of the property can be complicated, depending on how it's zoned and may require re-zoning, which the school would have to pay for. She strongly recommended contacting the city before doing anything else. Anita supported looking into the idea. Anita inquired about access to loans for charter school capital purchases. Vanessa stated that would likely depend on a variety of factors. Robbie stated her support for exploring the idea. Mackenzie also recommended talking to a mortgage broker, not just the bank, to see more options for interest rates, which are very high right now.

Administrators Report

- The enrollment lottery will take place on Friday.
- FGCS will not offer summer programs this year because existing staff are not interested in summer work and hiring temporary staff is not feasible given current work loads.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The date of the May Board meeting will be set after the Board determines whether meetings will be on the third or fourth Monday going forward.