

# **The Governing Board of Freedom Preparatory Academy**

## **HELD A PUBLIC MEETING**

### **IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**May 18, 2023 – 12:10 PM-12:51 PM**

*In attendance via zoom: Cary McConnell, CAO, Robert Merrill, CFO, board member Paul Baltes (joined @12:25), Executive Director Lynne Herring, Director of Finance Chris Helvey, Director of Operations Buddy Ivie, Principals Carrie Banfield, Brandon Winn, Grayson Wolf, Curriculum Director Karla Kay Snow and teachers Wendy Wishart and James Bethke. Executive Secretary Tracey Noonan, board member Thomas Chan, and School Counselors Amanda Gabbitas and Keith Powers participated at the anchor location.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. Approval of minutes from the April 27, 2023, Governing Board Meeting

Continued to next meeting.

2. Executive Director Update

No discussion.

3. Approve or Deny Student Study Abroad Trip to Italy in June 2024

James Bethke and Wendy Wishart presented a brief overview and summarized estimated costs. Itinerary and travel timeline were discussed as well as possible fundraising ideas.

Thomas Chan moved to approve the trip.  
Robert Merrill seconded.

After the motion and second, discussion ensued regarding appropriate ratio of adults to students. Chris Helvey recommended to the board that future study abroad trips be private ventures and not linked to FPA at all other than possible fundraising assistance.

After the discussion, Thomas made an amendment to his motion that the governing board will discuss the financial details of the trip at a later governing board meeting.

4-0 passed, no opposition; Jay Garlock absent.

4. Overview of Graduation Class

Amanda Gabbitas, High School Counselor, highlighted the graduating class of 2023:

- One student committed to swim as an NCAA athlete at Seattle University (full ride scholarship)
- One student committed to play volleyball for a junior college in AZ (full ride scholarship)
- First ever National Merit Scholar finalist
- First ever Sterling Scholar finalist
- Three students graduating from MTECH as well as FPA
- One student (an early graduate) has committed to attending USC (where she'll receive a scholarship for half tuition)
- 1.2 million in scholarships

5. Approve or Deny Privacy Policy

Continued to next meeting.

Robert Merrill moved to continue agenda items 1 and 5 to the next meeting.

Paul Baltes seconded. 4-0 passed, no opposition; Jay Garlock absent.

6. Accept Resignation of CFO

All governing board members acknowledged and thanked Robert Merrill for his years of service to the school.

7. Review New Board Member Vacancy Process

According to the bylaws, the CAO and CFO of the Governing Board must have children currently attending Freedom Prep. The Governing Board needs to start interviewing potential new board members. Cary mentioned that it would be nice if any Vineyard campus parents qualified.

8. The Governing Board may consider a motion for a Closed Meeting in accordance with The Utah Open and Public Meetings Act for purposes outlined in Utah Code\*

Stricken-not needed.

Next Governing Board Meeting is the Summer Retreat: 8-12 on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

9. Adjourn

Robert Merrill moved to adjourn @ 12:51 PM

\*The Freedom Preparatory Academy Governing Board may consider a motion to close the meeting to hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property, and/or the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in conformance with § 52-4-204 and 52-4-205 et. Seq., Utah Code Ann.

#### Current Board Goals

##### a. Student and Employee Success

- i. Ensure the development data-driven methods to understand student success.
- ii. Contribute to improving lives through development of policies and practices

##### b. Operational Efficiency

- i. Require school to operate in the black
- ii. Oversee Retaining and Enrolling Students
- iii. Quarterly Enrollment review
- iv. Regular Policy Review each Board Meeting

##### c. Community Relations

- i. Be involved regularly in Parent and Student engagement activities
- ii. Evaluate PR quarterly
- iii. Governing Board Members attend and assist fundraisers

##### d. Specific Areas of Focus

- i. Define what makes Freedom different/unique
- ii. Support consistent culture across campuses