

The Governing Board of Freedom Preparatory Academy

HELD A PUBLIC MEETING

IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

Aug 24, 2023 – 12:03PM-1:43PM

In attendance via zoom: Cary McConnell, CAO, board members Paul Baltes, Thomas Chan, and Jay Garlock, Executive Director Lynne Herring, Director of Finance Chris Helvey, Director of Operations Buddy Ivie, Principals Carrie Banfield, Matt Fullmer, Brandon Winn, Grayson Wolf, and Assistant Principal Brandon Waite. Executive Secretary Tracey Noonan participated at the anchor location.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REGULAR AGENDA

Cary McConnell joined the meeting at 12:15. Board member Paul Baltes managed the meeting in the meantime and presented agenda items 1 and 2 to the board members.

1. Approval of minutes from the June 20, 2023, Governing Board Meeting

Thomas Chan moved to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2023, Governing Board Meeting. Paul Baltes seconded. 3-0 passed, no opposition; Cary McConnell absent.

2. Executive Director Update

Lynne Herring highlighted a few items from her update:

- A “Welcome to FPA” event for new families took place at the Provo Elementary in early August, organized by Hilary Cramer (FPA’s marketing and publicity manager). The hope is to replicate this successful event next year at the St. George campus.
- FPA added total of 29 new full and part time teachers at all four campuses.
- SY2023-2024 has been one of the smoothest start of the year in recent memory.
- 17 new Charter Directors in the state this year.
- 27 applicants to replace Jennifer Lambert.
- First day of school number: 2,278 students enrolled. Highest we’ve ever had.

Jay Garlock asked about the 29 new teachers. Buddy Ivie explained that it’s a mix of teachers moving, leaving the profession, increase of classrooms, etc.

Cary McConnell joined the meeting at this point.

3. Discuss Governing Board Vacancy and Appointment Timeline

Discussion ensued concerning filling the current board vacancy. Cary McConnell reminded the board that the CFO must have a student currently attending FPA. Cary McConnell and Thomas Chan know of potential candidates. Cary McConnell wants to set a day and time to meet regarding this issue.

Lynne Herring clarified that Jay Garlock will need to be replaced as well, since he's retiring and leaving for an LDS mission.

The board all agreed that they should be looking for potential candidates amongst FPA parents. Thomas Chan mentioned getting recommendations from the campus principals.

4. Approve Small School Expansion Application

Lynne Herring explained that this application is a request to add 6th grade to the St. George campus starting SY2024-2025.

The application is due by 8/31 so it will be electronically sent to the board members for their signatures.

An edit was made to the explanation page to not designate a specific number of classrooms.

Paul Baltes moved to approve the Small School Expansion Application.
Thomas Chan seconded. 4-0 passed, no opposition.

5. FPA Teacher Driven Scholarship

Chris Helvey explained this scholarship: teachers will be donating a certain amount from their paychecks which will be used as scholarships for graduating seniors to attend college. Potential to extend this donation opportunity to community businesses and parents.

No approval needed. This scholarship program was presented to the board for their information only.

6. Approve Charter Land Trust Council Policy

Buddy Ivie described this policy to the board. Carrie Banfield detailed how the Land Trust Council works.

Cary McConnell stated that there is detailed information regarding the Land Trust Council on the FPA website.

Paul Baltes moved to approve the Charter Land Trust Council Policy as presented.
Jay Garlock seconded. 4-0 passed, no opposition.

7. Approve Recording Policy

Buddy Ivie gave some context about why this policy was needed and explained that Lynne Herring worked with FPA council to create this policy. Buddy Ivie emphasized that this policy was created to protect students and FPA teachers/employees.

Paul Baltes expressed concerns about enforcement.

Jay Garlock moved to approve the Recording Policy as presented.

Paul Baltes seconded. 4-0 passed, no opposition.

8. Approve Amended Title 1 Parent-School Engagement Policy

Buddy Ivie gave some background regarding this policy: it's reviewed by parents each year and then edits are presented to the board.

Thomas Chan moved to approve the Title 1 Parent-School Engagement Policy as presented.

Jay Garlock seconded. 4-0 passed, no opposition.

9. Review Budget

Chris Helvey reviewed the final year-end budget that was presented to the bond holders.

After the Oct. 1st count, Chris will present a budget update for the current school year.

10. 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*

Paul Baltes moved to enter a Closed Meeting @ 12:56 PM.

Cary McConnell seconded. Roll Call Vote 4-0 passed, no opposition.

At 1:43 PM, the Governing Board exited the Closed Meeting.

11. Adjourn

Thomas Chan moved to adjourn @ 1:43 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