

Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education, Inc.
(Benjamin Franklin High School) Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:30 PM Cafeteria

1. Call to Order: 4:36 p.m.

2. Roll Call: Sean Blondell (4:43pm), Jill Condon, Alea Cot, Shaneika Dabney-Henderson '96 (5:12pm) , Tim Duncan, Charmaine Cooper Hussain, Jenny Kottler '79, Dolly Malik, Alexis Parent-Ferrouillet '96 (4:41pm) , Mark Rubin '86, Jeffrey Seymour, Mitchell Turnbough, Excused: Jon Levy '03, Todd Ragusa, Anu Varadharajan.

3. Announcements

- a. Meet a student : Mr. Jarrell introduced the student activists– Amelia Lovelace '24, Camille Sejud '24, and Jude Armstrong '25. Students spoke about their devised theater performance on the Capitol steps , as a means of protest and advocacy. They elaborated about the partnerships between Tectonic Theater, Jana Kreutziger, GSA, and Key Players Theater Club. The HB concerns were detailed and why this is relevant to the Franklin student experience. Each student spoke to their involvement, goals, and how even course content will be impacted if these bills are passed. Students also spoke to the benefits of community engagement and support in this process. Board members inquired about if the piece could be performed on campus as well, to share the message with those who can't attend. Further discussion of getting more press coverage for their work continued. Details about how the school will move forward if the bills pass was further discussed, with a working group already in formation. The students' courage and leadership was celebrated.
- b. Next meeting on April 18, 2024
- c. Graduation is Tuesday, May 21, 4:00 pm, UNO Lakefront Arena
- d. [Tier Three Financial Disclosure](#) due May 15

Ms. Cot gave the floor to Mr. Swanson to announce concerns about upcoming plans that City Park has proposed that would eliminate the Grow Dat Farm and program. This program has been a meaningful extracurricular opportunity for many students, and losing the program would be a loss for students citywide.

4. Approval of Agenda – Ms. Cot proposed a motion to add an action item that Alex Jarrell be added as the control person and bank account signatory on all bank accounts and that Dr. Widhalm be removed. Motion to amend the agenda. Second. Approved unanimously. Motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion. Second. Approved unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes of Feb. 21, 2024–Motion. Second. Approved unanimously with no comment.

6. Information/Reports

- a. CEO Monthly Report (Mr. Jarrell) - Mr. Jarrell opened the report by asking for feedback about the CEO updates. He presented nationwide findings regarding school satisfaction, and how our city's success is related to our school's success. His top priorities were outlined, including the Principal search process and committee. Details regarding how he has been engaging in the community, meeting with all stakeholders, and building relationships were shared, as well as consistent findings about what makes Franklin unique. He further shared potential school-wide priorities for the 24-25 school year based upon his research and engagement. A discussion about his findings and research, and how he hopes to engage the board more in this strategic planning, including presenting existential questions about Franklin's future as it relates to overall public school enrollment dropping. Mr. Jarrell shared brief data points and SWOT Analysis related to the topic posed. Details about how the board will engage with this topic continued, including how topics can be addressed monthly or if only possible at a board retreat. Mr. Duncan noted that this level of planning and engagement is appropriate for the board, and that we can present digestible pieces to allow the discussion to work in monthly meetings, as well as the role of committees in this process. Ms. Cot shared that this kind of strategy and planning as thought partners is both needed and viable. Additional board members supported the idea of having shared objectives and key priorities as beneficial, as such structures are needed.
- b. Committee Reports and Discussion
 - i. Finance Committee (Ms. Perkins) - Ms. Condon presented on the financials and findings of the committee meeting. Proposed and actual budget expenditures were noted as well as budget surplus. Candidates to join the committee are being considered. Ms. Perkins followed with MFP increases, donations, and interest yield that were not originally budgeted for. Legal, materials, supplies, books, increased as well, all of which are presented in the proposed budget amendment. Facilities costs increases were discussed.
 - ii. Facilities Committee (Mr. Turnbough) - The most recent March 12 meeting outcomes were shared. Summer of 2024 construction with OPSB, the upcoming cooling tower project, the security grant will go to bid in May, as well as Mr. Jarrell's role in performing outreach for facilities updates and needs. The Capital Improvement Grant application, and details of impacts were discussed.

7. Discussion:

- a. Board retreat with K. Allen Consulting. - Ms. Cot shared the retreat, with a proposed date of June 8, 2024, is intended to reset goals, priorities, and perform steps in strategic planning. Ms. Malik shared details about the upcoming Falcon Fest Athletic Association fundraiser and silent auction event.

9. Action Items

- a. Approval of Amended 2023-2024 Budget (Ms. Perkins) - Motion. Second. Approved unanimously with no comment.
- b. Approval that Alex Jarrell be added as the control person and a bank account signatory on all bank accounts and that Dr. Widhalm be removed. Second. Approved unanimously with no comment.

10. Adjourn. Motion. Second. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.