

# FRANKLIN ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE: March 12, 2018**

**TIME: 5:00**

**LOCATION: Web meeting via “Zoom”**

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Luddy      Rick Eddins  
Bill Francis    Judy Nunnenkamp

## **Call to order**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. The board reviewed the minutes and there were no questions. Bill Frances motioned that they be approved and Judy Nunnenkamp seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## **Agenda items**

### **2018 Graduation Speaker Announced – Bob Luddy**

Ashley Rogers Berner, Deputy Directory at John Hopkins Institute for Educational Policy was announced as the keynote speaker for the Franklin Academy 2018 graduation ceremony to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. She recently did a TEDx Talk titled, *Educational Pluralism*. She is an excellent speaker and we are excited to have her as our keynote speaker this year.

### **Special Recognition to Chase Moseley – Bob Luddy**

We would like to recognize the very strong academic record of former Franklin Academy student Chase Moseley, currently finishing his second year as a West Point cadet. We are pleased to hear of his ongoing success.

### **FA5 Management: MaryJo Sullivan, Principal – Bob Luddy**

We received a resignation from James Kornegay. He decided to move on and gave a sixty-day notice. MaryJo Sullivan was appointed as Franklin Academy High School’s new principal. MaryJo Sullivan is currently in her twelfth year with Franklin Academy of which eight of those years have been in administration. MaryJo is doing an outstanding job with curriculum instruction and operations at the high school.

### **Changes and Updates: FA5 – MaryJo Sullivan**

We have begun to make immediate changes here at the high school. From security changes to include locks on exterior doors, much like all other FA campuses. We have received positive feedback from families and staff. We are currently working on streamlining protocols for increased effectiveness. Attendance protocols have been streamlined to ensure all students are accounted for and where they need to be throughout the school day. Looking to next school year, we are looking to make changes to our current schedule by moving away from a hybrid schedule to a traditional schedule. We are also looking to focus on student experience. Making sure to take into account their needs by looking at homework and testing load protocols. Bob Luddy added; In short, improved quality, tightening on safety, and gain better outcomes by our students.

Question: Judy Nunnenkamp – Based on the changes, what is the overall climate of the staff?

Answer: MaryJo – Nervous initially. Change is scary. I have acknowledged that the past few months have been unsettling, but have helped them realize that it is part of change. I have placed an emphasis on moving forward and keeping our students success in focus and recognize these changes are for their benefit. I believe that the staff is becoming more comfortable with the changes and the direction we are headed.

## Updates on the Charter Renewal – Denise Kent

We received notification from The Office of Charter Schools and The State Board of Education that we were granted a ten-year renewal that is the highest renewal receivable.

## FA1 through 4 Updates – Denise Kent

Our Twenty-year Celebration will run in conjunction with our Cultural Arts event, which is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have also updated the website to include a banner that says we have been in operation for twenty years. We will have updates to share, as we get closer to the date. Our teachers are planning events and will include all grades from K – 12 to celebrate our twenty years in operation. We will be making updates to the FA1/2 playground this track out to make it safer and more accessible to all of our students. We also have our eighth-grader, Ethan Fisher who will be doing an Eagle Scout Project in conjunction with the playground updates. Looking more broadly at our K-8 program, Ms. Lloyd and Ms. Daniels will be working to realign our English and Shirley Grammar to be sure we are both, vertically and horizontally aligned. We are also taking great steps to re-access our safety protocols on each of our campuses. At FA4, we will be accessing the HVAC systems over track out to insure proper working order. Lastly, our lottery was held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our number of applications has always maintained a consistently large number. This year we exceed our number of applications by over 150 from the previous year. We had a total of 1,865 applications this year for K-12 grades, for an average of about 112 spots. This shows that we are still a high demand in the community even with all the other competition in the area, including new charters in the area.

Question: Bill Frances- Do you think that we are more highly viewed than some of the other options out there than perhaps the other newer charter school options?

Answer: Denise Kent- I think that parents have confidence in our school because it is established and doesn't run the risk of making mistakes that some other newer charter schools have made. Even schools run through management companies such as NHA, make mistakes. Much like when Wake Forest Charter opened, they had to re-do their lottery because they didn't do it in accordance with State guidelines. I think that along with that, parents like that we can offer a continual services from Kindergarten through twelfth grade, makes us more lucrative. At Franklin Academy students can start in Kindergarten and matriculate through high school. Along with historical data and students that are now in the workforce, all add to our success.

## Adjournment

No further questions – Meeting adjourned at 5:19pm