



FRIENDSHIP ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

Where friendship and academic excellence meet

2600 E. 38th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 | P: 612-879-6703 | F: 612-879-6707 | www.friendshipacademy.org

Minutes of School Board Meeting August 3, 2015 5:00 pm

Location: 2600 E. 38th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406 Lower Level

Attendees:

Board Beryl Wingate, Brenda Hill, Dorothy Richburg, Steven Belton, Wendy Hines
Staff: Nell Collier, B Charvez Russell,

I. **Call to Order** by Wendy Hines, board chair at 5:18p.m

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve [DR, BW approved unanimous]

III. **Minutes [062215]**

Motion to approve [BH, BW approved unanimous]

IV. **Authorizer Communications**

Betsy Ohrn, MPS ONS, reminded us of the need to apply to an authorizer. Wendy Hines reported having made contact with Molly McGraw Healy of University of St. Thomas. Molly sent her guidelines and invited any board member to give her a call if they had any questions whatsoever. At the state charter conference, several members of our team met the remaining staff from the UST Charter office and spoke with the school directors from two schools that are authorized by them, both of whom had encouraging things to say about UST and comparisons with at least one other authorizer.

V. **Financial Update**

a. **Financial Report** The financial report shows a positive 2015 year for FAA although the food service fund lost \$50K. Staff has not yet determined if we can recoup any of the losses caused by reporting errors.

b. **Resolution regarding MN Unemployment Insurance System** A resolution was offered to give Mary Riley, business manager authority to access State of MN Unemployment Insurance systems in behalf of FAA.

Motion to accept finance report and to give Mary Riley authority to access State of MN Unemployment Insurance systems. [SB, BH.. approved unanimous]

VI. **Reports –**

a. **Executive Director**

Mrs. Collier gave her report which included the hiring of 5 new teachers. A suggestion was made to plan for teacher retention.

1. **Arts Coordinator-New Position** Mrs. Collier will stay with FAA in the position of Arts Coordinator. This position was included in the annual budget.

b. **Academic Director** No report as the school year is just beginning.

VII. Contracts

- a. BWK Rogers PC (auditor)
- b. Lancer Dining Services (food service)
- c. Northstar Bus Lines, LLC (transportation)
- d. ABR IT Services (computer technology)

Motion to approve contracts for BWK Rogers, PC; Lancer Dining Services, Northstar Bus Lines, LLC; Northstar Bus Lines, LLC.

[BH, SB approved unanimous with request that breakfast prices be brought to the next board meeting]

- e. Sharon Kennedy Vickers (grantwriting)

This contract was tabled after discussion by the board.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. **Marketing Committee** No separate report. Efforts were discussed by Executive Director.

B. **Fundraising Committee-**

1. **Minneapolis Foundation Letter of Inquiry-Education** –Increase the number of great schools serving children of color – Letter of Inquiry was accepted so they are willing to entertain a grant proposal from FAA.
2. **Request to expand outreach into St. Paul-** Minneapolis Foundation has discussed possibly providing funds to help us expand our outreach into St. Paul. These funds would cover transportation and promotion costs.
3. **Funds Received-Anonymous Donor.** FAA was awarded \$145,000 from an anonymous donor. These funds will be used to equip a playground, hire and train an extra teacher, transportation and training and development for the next Executive Director.

C. **Governance Committee-** No report.

D. **Executive Committee** – No report

E. **Executive Search Committee**

Dr. Beryl Wingate presented the results of the Executive Director search. Mr. Billy Charvez Russell was presented as the candidate for the position. Mr. Russell has experience in both the business and educational realms. He has also been a parent of four FAA students.

Motion to approve Billy Charvez Russell as Executive Director for Friendship Academy of the Arts effective August 4, 2015. [BW, DR approved unanimous]

IX. Other Items

A. **Recap State Charter School Conference-**Several staff and board members attended the State Charter School Conference. It was a positive day for learning about charters and networking with people in the charter community. Attendees shared observations of the day.

B. **Charter School Partners** (Education Transformation Initiatives (ET) Charter School Partners was able to obtain funding from other sources and returned the fee we previously paid.

C. The board wishes to thank Mrs. Nell Collier for her efforts in behalf of Friendship Academy. She came at a time of disruption and brought a calming spirit to us.

X. **Next Meeting** was set for August 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

XI. **Adjournment of Board Meeting**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18p.m. [BW, DR approved unanimous]

approved 8/28/15

Notes taken by Chandy Stines