

**FSUS CHARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

Workshop

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 3:30 PM
Room 4-154 A&B, Middle School Lecture Hall**

Members Present: Carlos Villa, Chair; Tisha Keller, Vice Chair; Dr. Brandon Bowden; Dr. Jimmie Davis; Judd Enfinger; Dr. Ruth Storm

Members Absent: Dr. Rosezetta Bobo; Elizabeth Croney; Darryl Marshall; Dr. Sara Scott Shields

Ex Officio Members Present: Dr. Stacy Chambers, Director; Carolyn Daniels, Faculty Representative; Alyssa Pumariega, Student Representative

Staff & Guests Present: Monica Broome, ESE Director; William Christie; Jon Moyle, Board Counsel; Robert Prater, IT Director; Jeff Taylor, Chief Financial Officer; Kate Wasson, Board Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Villa called the meeting to order at 3:41 PM and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Campus Expansion

Engineering firm EMI presented preliminary drawings of two options for campus expansion. The first option would create a self-contained elementary school located to the west of the current campus on the newly acquired land across Four Oaks Blvd. The second option would relocate the athletic fields to the new land and create a new high school on the current campus. The middle school would be moved into the current high school and the elementary school would remain in its current location with the addition of a second story.

Chair Villa asked which plan would be the most cost effective and least disruptive. EMI indicated relocating the elementary school across the street would be the most cost effective, assist with traffic flow, and offer the least disruption. Approximately 18 months would be required for the new elementary school's construction.

Dr. Davis asked what metrics were used to develop the two options. EMI explained they were tasked with expanding all schools by 400 students each. They also factored in site limitations relative to pervious and impervious entitlement issues.

Ms. Keller questioned whether the EMI engagement had been approved by the board. Dr. Chambers explained it had been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, which then subsequently reported the engagement to the board.

Public Discussion

FSUS parent Chris Holmes addressed the board as follows:

I have serious concerns about ongoing disregard of *basic* COVID-19 safety measures at FSUS during the current omicron variant surge. While cases are surging in our community and local hospital admissions are rising, FSUS held a large fundraising rally in the gym on January 5, 2022. As you can see from the image below, which appeared on FSUS social media, students were closely packed together, which is against the FSUS policy on social distancing. Most students and staff were unmasked. With the pleasant outdoor weather at this time of year, I see no good reason to have large indoor gatherings for non-academic purposes like fundraising. It is particularly irresponsible (but other less charitable descriptions also apply) to hold this discretionary event immediately after many school families return from holiday travel and the potential COVID exposure that entails.

The photo of unmasked principal and teachers at this rally also confirms the concerns that I repeatedly raised with Dr. Chambers and the FSUS board last fall that the FSUS administration does not demonstrate to students that "masks are expected" even during a COVID surge. To the best of my knowledge, it is still FSUS Board's stated policy that teachers and staff are required to wear masks and that all students are expected to wear masks (following FSU policy). If the principal and teachers do not wear masks while encouraging large indoor events, then FSUS administration is violating its own policies as well as making unsafe choices. It is truly, deeply disappointing to see the principal and teachers violate this safety policy amidst a COVID surge.

Chair Villa thanked Mr. Holmes for his comments.

Student Report

Ms. Pumariega reported the Middle School will be hosting a disco dance to fundraise for the February dance marathon. Rebound Week for Middle and High School will be held January 24 – 28 and will include a pep rally, dress-up days, and a teacher/student basketball game. SGA is preparing Valentine's Day goody-grams for sale to all K-12 students.

Finance Committee

Mr. Enfinger reported the finance committee had met to review the FY 20-21 audited financials; a copy was provided to the board. The STEM equipment issue has been resolved. All furniture has been ordered without the need to utilize additional funds.

Mr. Taylor presented the 12/31/21 budget summary. All departments reflected positive balances, including EDEP, which secured a \$45K grant to assist with this year's funding. The third FTE count will be received later in the month.

Policy Committee

Ms. Keller reported the policy committee did not meet in January.

Attorney's Business

Mr. Moyle reported the collective bargaining agreement had been fully ratified. He indicated he has also been assisting the school with a subpoena received for an employee.

Referring to Mr. Holmes' comments on face masking, Ms. Keller asked if requiring masks for faculty and staff was allowed by current law. Mr. Moyle explained that as faculty and staff are jointly employed by FSUS and FSU, the school has followed FSU's policy on personnel matters. Although there is no legal prohibition to imposing a mask requirement for faculty and staff, the school is following FSU's policy to strongly encourage, but not require, wearing masks.

Director's Business

FSU Physics professor Dr. Paul Cottle presented on preparing pandemic students for college STEM majors, including recommended learning paths for college chemistry, engineering, computer science, meteorology, biology and architecture.

Ms. Brink presented FSUS' current curriculum, goals, and 20-21 student data.

Dr. Chambers reported the STEAM building's flooring will be delivered on 1/17/22; furniture is scheduled to arrive on 1/22/22. The goal is to move students into the building after spring break.

Dr. Chambers indicated the following promotions would require board approval during the action portion of the meeting:

- Promotion from University School Instructor to University School Assistant Professor: Susan Cragg; Kevin Helms; Jamie Lovel; Deborah Whetstone
- Promotion from University School Assistant Professor to University School Associate Professor: Danielle Kerr

Pending approval, the promotions will be effective August 2021.

Announcements/Requests for Information

Ms. Keller commented on Mr. McGriff's departure from FSUS to take a position at Leon High School, noting he was an excellent teacher and a great influence on the students.

Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.