



Governing Authority Members
Findlay Digital Academy
1219 West Main Cross, Suite 101
Findlay, Ohio 45840

March 22, 2018

Dear Governing Authority Members,

Annually Findlay City Schools as your sponsor submits a report to you on Findlay Digital Academy's progress toward meeting contractual goals. It is apparent from the High Stakes Review, numerous site visits, attendance at Governing Authority meetings, the March 20, 2018, Data Analysis of Contractual Targets Performance Monitoring Checklist and a variety of academy documents that Findlay Digital Academy is meeting the terms of the contract and the school is one of the best performing community schools in the state. Based on these findings Findlay City Schools will continue to sponsor the school and renew its contract.

Below I have listed what I feel are the strengths and weaknesses of the academy in the areas of Academics, Finance, and Operations/Organization/Governance. For the items of weakness, I have made some recommendations as to how those weaknesses possibly could be addressed. I am sure you will find other ways to address them as well. However, none of the weaknesses require a Corrective Action Plan as they are all minor in nature. Any institution, no matter how effectively it operates, can always find areas where improvement can be made.

Areas of Strengths in Academics

- Findlay Digital Academy Exceeds Standards on its 2016-2017 State Report Card, placing the academy in the top 10% in the state.
- The High Stakes Review of 5 years of data conducted in September 2017 demonstrated that the academy:
 - Exceeded Standards in 4,5,6,7,8 year Graduation rates for the past five years
 - Exceeded Standards in Combined Graduation rate and out preformed Similar Schools and All Dropout Recovery Schools for the past five years
 - Has shown increased scores in Test Passage rates
 - Has maintained a high Closing the Gap rate, having maintained a 87+% for two years
 - Has met the Progress measures for two of the past three years
 - Attendance rates for the past five years has exceeded the state required rate of 93%
- Site visits have demonstrated that students are actively engaged with the curriculum and the Instructional Coaches
- Climate data has shown mostly upward trends in all areas



- Instructional Coaches make weekly contact with students
- Learning Plans are developed for students who are falling behind in academic progress or participation hours

Areas of Strengths in Finances

- Has ended the past five years with a Carry Over Budget
- Academy Treasurer meets monthly with Sponsor Treasurer and all records are in order
- Predicted Enrollment vs Actual Enrollment has been on target for the past five years
- The School has received the Auditor of the State Award for the past five years
- All audits have been without negative findings

Areas of Strength in Operational/Organizational/Governance Performance

- Governing Authority Policy Book is up to date and in compliance with Ohio Revised Code
- The academy is to be commended on developing a new Mission, Goals and Strategic Plan
- The Governing Authority meetings are held in accordance with policy
- A quorum is present at all Governing Authority meetings and this has been the case for the last five years
- Governing Authority meetings are published in the newspaper and are listed on the School's website
- Governing Authority meetings comply with Open Meeting Requirements
- Governing Authority members receive Records and Sunshine training annually
- Membership in the GRADS Coalition has helped the academy be proactive on legislative issues
- Health inspections and fire inspections occur annually as required by Ohio Revised Code
- Fire drills, Tornado Drills, and Safety drills occur as required by Ohio Revised Code
- The Emergency Operation Plan is updated annually
- Site visits demonstrate that the School is clean, safe and that students are actively engaged in learning
- All staff are properly licensed
- All staff and Governing Authority members have BCI & FBI checks
- All staff and Governing Authority members participate in appropriate professional development



Areas of Weakness in Academics

- Not all students are earning the required credits each academic year
 - Recommendations for Improvement: 1) Have each Instructional Coach alert the Superintendent when a student is three weeks behind in academic pace; 2) Have the Instructional Coach work with the Superintendent, Principal or Counselor to develop a Learning Plan for the student

Areas of Weakness in Finances

- 2015-2016 FTE Review still has not been settled
 - Recommendation for Improvement: Really there is nothing that can be done as the time as the Appeal Hearing is at the discretion of the Ohio Department of Education
- Not capturing full FTE for each student enrolled
 - Recommendations for Improvement: 1) Continue to expand Other Learning Opportunities; 2) Continue to have Instructional Coaches explain the importance of participation hours
- Low number of students coming from adjacent school districts
 - Recommendations for Improvement: 1) Continue to promote enrollment through advertisement

Areas of Weakness in Operational/Organizational/Governance Performance

- Truancy procedures need to be executed in a timelier fashion
 - Recommendations for Improvement: 1) Get the new software up and running that pulls attendance data together more quickly; 2) Brainstorm how to streamline the paper trail

Findlay Digital Academy has well established policies, procedures and daily operations. The students are engaged, making progress and seem happy to be attending the academy. The new Mission, Goals, and Strategic Plan will help the academy grow and stay current with developing educational trends.

It has been a pleasure working with a Governing Authority that is so committed to helping students that need a different model of education to meet their learning styles and needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward P. Kurt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "K".

Edward P. Kurt

Findlay City Schools Superintendent