

# Findlay Digital Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 3, 2020

12:00 Noon

The Board of Directors of the Findlay Digital Academy met in a regular session at 12:03 PM at the Findlay Digital Academy, 1219 West Main Cross, Findlay, Ohio. 45840. The meeting was offered virtually and livestreamed on YouTube through the Findlay Digital Academy Website.

President, Ms. Bash called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Board members present were as follows: President Ms. Bash, Vice-President Dr. Wannemacher, Ms. LaRocco, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Miller, Rev. Miller, Mrs. Rooker (FDA Executive Director)  
Also attending: Secretary: Michael Brand (FDA Principal), FDA Treasurer: Stephen Earnest,

Absent Board members were as follows: Pastor Delecruz

Visitors: Troy Roth, Superintendent, Findlay City Schools and Brian DeSantis, Esq, Pepple & Waggoner

## **2020-12-001 Approval of Teleconferencing**

As per the recent legislation of H.B. 404, which amends uncodified law contained in HB 197, the Findlay Digital Academy governing Board can hold, attend, and take public action in public meetings by teleconference, or other similar means. This will be in effect until July 1, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the use of teleconferencing as presented.

Roll call: Mr. Miller, Aye; Mr. Thomas, Aye; Pastor Delecruz, (Absent); Ms LaRocco, Aye; Rev. Miller, Aye; Dr. Wannamaker, Aye; Ms. Bash, Aye.

Ms. Bash declared the motion carried.

## **2020-12-002 Approval of the Minutes**

It was moved by Dr. Wannemacher and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the special board meeting on October 22, 2020.

Roll call: Dr. Wannemacher, Aye; Mr. Miller, Aye; Pastor Delecruz, (Absent); Ms LaRocco, Aye; Mr. Thomas, Aye; Rev. Miller, Aye; Ms. Bash, Aye.

Ms. Bash declared the motion carried.

**Public Participation:** No public participation was requested.

**Correspondence:**

- A. Board Members – Nothing shared.
- B. Executive Director, Rosemary Rooker
  - a. Rosemary reminded the board of the email correspondence they received from the Ohio State Auditor of their upcoming audit of the academy.
  - b. Rosemary shared with the board a celebration of a Findlay Digital Academy student participating in the Hancock Youth Leadership program for the 2020/2021 school year. This is the first time an FDA student has participated in this program. The FDA student, Olivia Cullen is a junior at FDA.
  - c. Rosemary regretfully shared with the board the news of Pastor Delecruz's resignation from the Academy's board.

**2020-12-003 Accept Board Resignation of Pastor Delecruz**

It was moved by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve with regret the resignation of Pastor Delecruz from the FDA Board.

Roll call: Mr. Thomas, Aye; Mr. Miller, Aye; Pastor Delecruz, (Absent); Ms LaRocco, Aye; Rev. Miller, Aye; Dr. Wannmacher, Aye; Ms. Bash, Aye.

Ms. Bash declared the motion carried.

- C. Treasurer, Stephen Earnest
  - a. Steve shared that FDA is just starting our State audit. We have submitted our accrued statement to the State as we do yearly for review and now auditors will be coming to FDA to evaluate our internal controls.

**2020-12-004 Consent Items**

- A. Monthly Financial Report  
The Treasurer recommends that the October and November Monthly Financial Reports be approved as presented in Exhibit A
- B. 2021 Board Meeting Dates  
The Executive Director recommends that the 2021 Board Meeting Dates be approved as presented in Exhibit B
- C. Memorandum of Understanding with Findlay City Schools & Mental Health Services  
The Executive Director recommends that the Memorandum of Understanding with Findlay City Schools for Mental Health Services as part of the Findlay Digital Academy Emergency Operations Plan be approved as presented in Exhibit C
- D. Agreement with the Hancock County Educational Service Center for Psychological Services

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance of the agreement with the Hancock County Educational Service Center for Psychological Services as presented in Exhibit D.

- E. Agreement with Findlay City Schools for Millstream Career Center Students  
The Superintendent recommends the acceptance of the agreement with the Findlay City Schools for Millstream Career Center excess costs associated with Non-Findlay City Schools students as presented in Exhibit E
- F. Equipment Inventory Removal  
The Superintendent recommends the Equipment Inventory Removal List as presented in Exhibit F.
- G. Replacement of Policy JCCC Student Discipline Code of Conduct with updated Code of Student Conduct  
The Superintendent recommends the replacement of the Student Discipline Code of Conduct with the updated Code of Student Conduct as presented in Exhibit G.
- H. Adopt Policy INN Recording of Academic Instruction and Other Services  
The Superintendent recommends adoption of Policy INN Recording of Academic Instruction and Other Services as Presented in Exhibit H.
- I. Adopt Policy JJJJ School and Non-school Sponsored Expression  
The Superintendent recommends adoption of Policy JJJJ School and Non-School Sponsored Expression as presented in Exhibit I
- J. Resolution for Compensation of Board of Education Members  
The Executive recommends a Resolution for Compensation of Board of Education Members of Findlay Digital Academy to follow past practice of waiving compensation for Board of Education service be approved

It was moved by Rev. Miller and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the consent Items A through J.

Roll call: Rev. Miller, Aye; Mr. Miller, Aye; Ms. LaRocco, Aye; Mr. Thomas, Aye; Dr. Wannemacher, Aye; Ms. Bash, Aye.

Ms. Bash declared the motion carried.

**Executive Session** – None Requested

### **Discussion Items**

The following items were discussed by the Board:

- **Enrollment** – Rosemary shared the following figures in respect to FDA enrollment: 164 active students, 4 pending students (applied), 5 additional students have graduated since the beginning of the second nine weeks, 20% of our students are from a variety of county schools, 13 students attend Millstream (3 of these are from the county), 3 students are involved in CCP. Also, Rosemary shared information on our tutoring in the midst of COVID-19 during the months of October and November. Out of a possible 750 available spots, 78% were scheduled. Students “attended” these tutoring sessions 76% of the time. Student requests for tutoring continues to grow. We will be looking to expand out tutoring opportunities in the future by extending our tutoring time to 4:00 PM.

- **Climate Data (Exhibit J)** – This was reviewed. At the end of the first quarter, 61% of our students are on target with credits. First quarter credits earned by students has more than double from last year. This is most likely due to last year having a new curriculum at the start of the year. Lab visits are down 1300 from last year, but we are dealing with COVID-19. Staff is working hard and very committed to the success of our students.
- **Testing Update** – We are currently in the midst of the Fall End of Course Testing season. We normally test all our students (grades 9-12) in the Fall; however, due to COVID-19 we are now only testing Seniors and selected Juniors that could graduate by the end of the 20/21 school year. This means that originally, we were going to test 120 students, but now we are only testing 55 students. This allows us to limit our numbers to no more than 12 students testing in the lab at one time. Right now, we are experiencing a 50% rate of attendance. We are currently rescheduling students during make up testing days.
- **E School Funding Update** – HB 123 has passed both the House and the Senate and now waits for the Governor’s signature. This pilot program will allow for multiple avenues for FDA to receive state funding. With this pilot, FDA will be reporting and receiving funding not only student hours of engagement, but also credits earned (up to 5), and a base amount for all students enrolled for a minimum of 30 days.
- **22+ Program Update** – Rosemary has been working with Mark Willeke to process our 22+ applicants. We currently have eight (8) students accepted and working and have four (4) students pending approval from ODE. We have also graduated 3 students already this year. Invoicing to the Ohio Department of Education will begin in January, which will result in helping to fund the program and additional revenue for the academy.
- **CCIP/OIP** – Rosemary has been working closely with our treasurer, Steve, with these federal funds. Throughout the year, federal funds are added and the school must go through a process to update their state plans. Thank you to Steve for being so diligent in helping Rosemary keep this information current.
- **Update on HB 305 Fair School Funding Plan-** Rosemary gave an update of the current status of this legislation. Additionally, she discussed the impact this bill would have on the Academy.

**Sponsor Update:** Troy Roth, Superintendent, Findlay City Schools

- November Oversight Committee Meeting** – The last meeting was held on November 9, 2020. Rosemary has been instrumental in keeping the FCS Oversight Committee up to date and providing the needed documentation. Rosemary also provided professional development in the area of Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools report card.
- Interim Treasurer at Findlay City Schools** – Mr. Mike Barnhart resigned his position earlier this year. Jude Hammond has been selected the Interim Treasurer for Findlay City Schools. Mr. Hammond has a great deal of experience as a treasurer and also has experience with Community Schools. He became official on November 30, 2020.

**Opening Meeting and Public Records Training**

Brian DeSantis, Esq.

(Attendance Form attached for verification of attendance and participation of the training.)

**Executive Director Comments** – Rosemary thanked the Board for the support and guidance they provide for the academy, our students and staff. She also wished all a safe and healthy winter holiday season.

**Board Comments** – Board members thanked Rosemary, Michael and the staff for their work in helping our students be successful.

**2020-12-005 Adjournment**

It was moved by Rev. Miller and seconded by Mr. Thomas to adjourn the regular meeting on December 3, 2020 at 1:13 PM.

Ms. Bash declared the FDA School Board meeting adjourned.

Next Findlay Digital Academy Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 12:00 PM at the Findlay Digital Academy.

  
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President (VICE)

  
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Treasurer

Read and Approved

