**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF**

**FLAGSTAFF JUNIOR ACADEMY & CHILDREN’S HOUSE**

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the general public that the Governing Board of Flagstaff Junior Academy & Children’s House will convene a meeting open to the public at the time, date and place indicated. Information regarding agenda items may be reviewed in the office of the Executive Director. The Board may vote to convene in Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, to discuss certain matters, as indicated on the agenda. These matters are marked by an asterisk (\*). The Governing Board of the Flagstaff Junior Academy & Children’s House may, by motion, recess into executive session to receive legal advice from the Board’s attorney(s) on any item contained in this agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3), at any time during the meeting. The Governing Board may consider any item below in any order and at any time during the meeting. One or more members of the Governing Board may appear telephonically.

If any disabled person needs any type of accommodation, please notify Lori Langan at 774.6007 ext. 202 at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting. Copies of the Board packet of information (except for any documents which are to be considered in an executive session) are available by contacting Lori Langan at 774.6007 ext. 202.

Tuesday, April 10th, 2018 5:30 PM at FJA Elementary School

306 W Cedar Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Minutes**

**I. Call To Order**

Dr. Mellinger called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**II. Roll Call of Members**

Dr. Mellinger took roll. Mr. Firth and Mr. Leest were present and Dr. Eadens were present. Additionally, Mr. Drumm, Ms. Lanzetta and Mrs. Langan were present. Members of the public were also present.

**III. Presentations/Information/Reports**

* + 1. **President’s Report** - The President will provide information to the Board regarding matters pertaining to the FJA Board.

1. Report on Phoenix Board - Dr. Mellinger shared an article on Academic Standards. We should be concerned about academic standards with specific goals in how we are going to improve in the future. The other article is about overall governance management. Please take a chance to read this prior to the next meeting.
2. Board Packet, Conflict of Interest Statement and Board Calendar – Everyone has a new Board packet. The conflict of Interest Statements will need to be completed going forward. This will include information for new board members. The Board Calendar will be a reminder/schedule of what we do as a Board. This will help us with planning, etc. Also included are open meeting law requirements. This is a good reminder of how transparent we need to be in our meetings and communications, etc. Any questions or comments.
   * 1. **Director’s Report -** The Executive Director will provide information to the Board.
        1. FJA Academic Feature – Mr. Drumm shared that this will be a standing agenda item. The bottom picture shows one of our 7th/8th grade science teachers, Stephanie Jackson, who was honored for her work with youth by the Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth. There were 6 recipients one of whom was the Mayor. It was great recognition for Stephanie Jackson as well as FJA. She and another teacher, Tony Cola, will be hosting a couple of Watershed and STEM related camps this summer. Stephanie is a big believer in supporting women/girls in science. She has really done fantastic work over the last 4 years and we are lucky to have her as a Science Teacher here at FJA.
        2. Enrollment Numbers 2018-2019 – Mr. Drumm shared that the spreadsheet shows our projected 18-19 school year numbers. Weekly we have a lottery to fill any spots that have not been filled. We continue to work on making these numbers as accurate as possible. Regular phone calls are being made to make sure that spots are being filled to increase that accuracy.
        3. Update on Communication with AZ Charter School Association – Mr. Drumm shared that last month Dr. Mellinger had spoken with a rep from the ACSA, Daniel Norris. He will be planning a trip up here in the next month and we are planning to meet. Dr. Mellinger asked if he shared any updates on the grant funding. Mr. Drumm shared that ACSA was not successful in receiving that grant.
     2. **Business Manager’s Report -** The Business Manager will give an update regarding any FJA financial matters.
        + 1. Profit and Loss – At this point in the school year we should be at approximately 83% of both income and expenses. We are currently at 73.1% of our goal for AZ Tax Credit donations. We could possibly see more donations between now and April 17th. Our overall income is at 79.4%, slightly behind the 83% but will have two equalization payments in June. We have only spent 40% of our budget number for supplies. We will be ordering for next years supplies in May. We have been consistently doing this to stay ahead of supplies. We are currently over our repair/maintain bldg. budget due to the addition of a maintenance person. We will factor that into the budget for next school year. We are in a good position financially and will not need to revise the budget again this year.
          2. Balance Sheet – We currently have a net income of over $238K. This number will be very fluid over the next couple of months as we have the remaining payrolls, large checks being written for upcoming field trips and End of the year Stipends, PTO, Prop 123, etc.

**IV.** **Call To The Public** (Comments regarding matters over which the Board has authority are welcome from the public at this time. A time limit of 3 minutes per person is required due to time constraints. The Board may not discuss or take action on matters raised during the call to the public that are not specifically identified on the agenda. The only action the Board may take as a result of public comment is limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration at a later Board meeting.)

Jenn Cernohous asked a question about Board requirements. Timeline, process, etc.

Mr. Jefferies shared a packet of information about another Elementary School District’s governing board resolution. He would like to formally ask the board to consider signing a resolution in support of RedforED. We would not be the first district to pass the resolution. He also shared the Red for Ed demands. This is important to show that both school districts and charter schools are in support of funding Education. It’s time that teacher, parents, and families demand that there be a change and recognize that funding levels for schools in AZ are a billion dollars below 2008 levels.

Ms. Patterson is here to echo Mr. Jefferies’ sentiments.

Ms. James also feels that it is important to support this movement.

Mrs. Heinsius also feels that it is important to support this movement.

Mr. Walsh shared that he also wants to support this movement. He would also like to suggest that the Board look into why, in his opinion, the SPED department has so much attrition.

**V.** **Consent Agenda** (All items listed hereunder are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be discussed separately.)

1. Approval of Minutes dated March 13th, 2018 – Dr. Mellinger asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Firth made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Eadens seconded the motion and all else were in favor.
2. Review and Discuss with possible action for approval of Montessori Certification Equivalency. Ms. Lanzetta shared that all FJA teachers are highly qualified. She shared that we have a handful of teachers that do not have an ADE certification. One of the teachers asked if the Board would consider recognizing the Montessori Certification she received so that she can obtain her ADE certification. In the handout you can see some of the classes that were required to complete this certification. Currently this teacher has a bachelor’s degree, and should the Board recognize this Montessori Certification she would be able to get her Teaching Certificate through ADE. Mr. Leest said that he would refer to the administration on the quality of this certification. Dr. Eadens shared that he knows that the Montessori curriculum is rigorous. It is obviously a viable option. ADE has issued requirements for the Standard Professional Elementary Certificate which would allow a teacher to obtain their certification when certain rules apply. An approval from the board would provide this teacher the opportunity to meet those requirements. Mr. Firth asked if the program was accredited and if so, who is the accreditation body. Ms. Lanzetta shared that is AMS, American Montessori Society. Dr. Mellinger made a motion to approve the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies, teacher prep program which includes 9 months of student teaching and practicum experiences from an accredited institution which is AMS as a board approved certification. Dr. Eadens seconded the motion and all else were in favor.

**VI. Old Business (**Action items are ready for the Board to take adoptive, approval, or other appropriate action on a matter scheduled for action. Items cannot be placed on the agenda after the public posting or advertisement is made.)

1. Discuss long term building projects – Mr. Drumm shared an update after reestablishing communication with our realtor. Mr. Drumm and Mrs. Langan did go see a property recently, however, our realtor shared that an offer has already been made on the property. Should this offer fall through, we could potentially move forward. It would require significant renovation, etc. We would need to have contractors come in and give estimates, etc. Several Board members suggested that we again get pre-qualified for a loan in preparation. Additionally, Dr. Mellinger suggested that we put together a committee of professionals that would be on stand by should another property become available. The committee could be made up of contractors, engineers, planning & zoning, and/or finance, etc.
2. Review and/or Discuss SPED and other staff hiring decisions fall under administration not governance. – Dr. Mellinger shared that this came to light after a recent Board meeting during public comments. Specifics regarding a person’s pay, or the number of persons required in this department falls under the responsibility of Administration not governance. However, there has been a lot of turnover in this department which does cause concern. Dr. Eadens shared his agreement. He also shared that he worked in SPED previously and it was truly a lot of work. Mr. Drumm shared that our case loads are typically smaller than other districts or schools. Mr. Drumm shared that our SPED director salary is likely not comparable to FUSD, however, the number of students our director is responsible for is smaller than FUSD. Mr. Leest shared that it sounds like the pay is fair but wondered why the turnover. Mr. Drumm shared that while he would not get into personnel specifics in a public meeting, he can say that the reason people are leaving was not due to the same reasons. Mr. Firth asked if we see FJA as a stepping stone for larger schools. Mr. Drumm shared that our sample size is too small to make that determination. Dr. Eadens shared there doesn’t seem to be a consistent reason why they are leaving. He shared that he would rather shift our focus to how do we keep them! The feedback that Mr. Drumm has gotten from past Directors is that they have been given autonomy, smaller student load, etc. Dr. Mellinger recommended that we find out what other SPED coordinators/directors are making in the district. Ms. Lanzetta shared that she has chatted with the SPED director and she indicated that we do not need additional staff, but perhaps support in such areas in student study teams, etc. Mr. Leest made some suggestions around incentives for the SPED Director that could help keep them long term. Dr. Eadens suggested that we potentially change the title of the position to SPED Coordinator rather than SPED Director.

**VII. New Business (** Action items are ready for the Board to take adoptive, approval, or other appropriate action on a matter scheduled for action. Items cannot be placed on the agenda after the public posting or advertisement is made. No action during Executive Session.)

1. Review and/or Discuss with possible action for approval Board Resolution in support of Red for ED. – Would any of the board members like to comment on the resolution or did you have any questions. Dr. Mellinger asked a question about the gap from 2008. Just recently a judge overturned the approval of using Prop 123 to fund education. Mr. Firth asked where the source of the language came from on the resolution. Mr. Jefferies shared that it was from Az Educators United. Mr. Drumm shared that a concerning statistic was that at the start of the 2017-18 school year there were over 1,000 unfilled teaching positions. FJA is fortunate that we don’t have this issue, however other rural areas really struggle with filling positions. Arizona is 49th in the country with median salaries. He would propose that the board support this resolution. Mr. Firth asked what the path would be if we supported this. Mr. Jefferies shared that he wasn’t sure that the Board would have to do anything necessarily. He also shared that we would be the first public charter school to support this. Mr. Jefferies also asked if one of the Board of Directors would be willing to speak to the paper here in Flagstaff. Dr. Eadens shared that he really liked the resolution and felt like the Governor needs to step up. Mr. Leest asked if they had specific proposals for where that funding would come from. Mr. Jefferies shared that no legislation has been drafted up yet. He did share, however, there is no way to do this without raising taxes. With that said, this resolution is a bargaining piece, a starting point. Dr. Mellinger asked if there was a petition to be placed on the ballet. Mr. Jefferies shared that it is in the works. Dr. Mellinger made a motion to support the FJA resolution Supporting Educators and #RedForED. Mr. Firth seconded the motion and all else were in favor.
2. Review and/or Discuss with possible action for approval outcomes for possible Teacher Strike. Mr. Drumm shared that he has been asked by teachers if there were a strike, what would the board think. Mr. Drumm shared with those teachers that there would not be any repercussions from the Administration. Mr. Drumm requested the Board of Directors share their thoughts regarding this potential action. Dr. Mellinger shared that the P&P states the following…

**P. Political Activities**

The Academy respects each person’s right to participate in political activities and encourages its employees to participate in the political process. However, FJA employees shall not take an active part or engage in any political campaign activity while on official duty. The foregoing prohibition shall include the wearing of campaign buttons or other political campaign items while on official duty. Further:

* An employee shall not neglect his/her assigned duties and responsibilities because of permitted political activity.
* An employee may participate in any campaign and election so long as such participation does not interfere with his/her school duties and responsibilities.
* An employee shall not use the property, supplies and equipment of the school in performing political activities.
* With the approval of the Board, an employee may participate in any non­partisan campaign or effort that promotes education or protects the continuation of educational services to the students served by the school.
* An employee shall not appear to represent the school without prior written authority of the Board.
* An employee shall not participate in controversial issues outside the school campus in a manner that may reasonably be interpreted to be representative of the school or its position or in a manner that hinders the operation of the school.

Dr. Mellinger shared that her feelings are that this is up to Administration and not a governance decision. Mr. Firth shared that student safety is a top priority. Mr. Firth shared that a lot of this will depend on how its handled. Mr. Leest shared that there would need to be a contingency plan, like a make up day as an example. Mr. Drumm shared that he feels that the communication lines have been very open between administration and teachers. He doesn’t believe that it would be a last-minute decision and believes that the communication would continue to be strong going forward. Dr. Mellinger shared that this decision would continue to fall under the Administrative duties and not governance and believes that Administration is very capable of making the best decisions for the school.

1. Executive Session: Administrative Contracts –

Moved to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

**VIII.** **Adjournment**

Dr. Mellinger adjourned the meeting at 7.48 p.m. Mr. Firth seconded and all else were in favor.