**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 Chyenne Schmidt at 774.6007 ext. 11 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 Chyenne Schmidt at 774.6007 ext. 11.

Friday, September 19, 2014 1:30 PM at FJA Middle School

755 North Bonito Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**MINUTES**

The retreat discussion began at 1:35pm.

**Retreat Discussion**

Thomas Drumm explained that FJA would be having a board visioning retreat to discuss FJA’s future and goals. Mr. Drumm invited parents who showed interest, board members, and administration.

* Introductions

The following people attended the FJA visioning retreat:

* + FJA Administration – Thomas Drumm, Gina Lanzetta, and Chyenne Schmidt.
  + FJA Board Members – John Doskicz and Todd Firth.
  + FJA Parents – Kirsten Mellinger, Shawn Thomas, Heidi Henderson, and Laura Umphrey.
* Brainstorming and Discussion

Mr. Drumm explained that the purpose of the visioning retreat was to discuss the following:

* FJA’s niche or vision – The group discussed the need for a clear strategic plan to define FJA and ensure that FJA meets goals. The group discussed items such as educating the whole child, academics, excellence, small class sizes, community, experiential learning, the cost of the expeditionary brand, Montessori influence, and the needs of the Flagstaff community. The group brainstormed these “bumper sticker” sayings as potentially a reflection of FJA’s mission:
  + Educating the whole child through academics, experiential excellence, and community.
  + Mastering experiential excellence through educating the whole child.
  + Fostering excellence through academics, experiential learning, and community.
* FJA expansion – The group discussed the idea of adding a high school to FJA. After discussion the group agreed FJA needed to add to existing waitlist for all grades, as well as tackle the challenge of having two campuses for elementary and middle school students, before embarking on a high school.
* FJA facility and campus location – The group discussed the need to combine both the elementary and middle schools into one campus. The group discussed the following points:
  + The group talked about the current financial health of FJA savings account and equity in the elementary property. FJA may have the funds to pursue a new campus in the near future.
  + The group discussed having a campus with two wings or buildings to help segregate the older children from the younger children.
  + There is a concern that FUSD could non-renew the middle school lease if their student count necessitated the addition of a new facility. FJA should develop a backup plan of where to house the 5th-8th graders if the lease was non-renewed.
  + The group discussed the ways to help parents transition from the elementary school to the middle school. They also discussed ways to build stronger relationships between the teachers and students at each campus.
* Three to five year outline or strategic plan for FJA – The group discussed the following types of items for the future:
  + Developing an experiential curriculum for the middle school and integrating experiential learning with the Montessori influences at the elementary school.
  + Researching possible options for transporting students on field trips such as purchasing a van or entering into an agreement with a local company.
  + Pinpointing an FJA brand that will help establish FJA in the Flagstaff community.
  + Creating better transitions for students moving from the middle school to high school and the elementary school to the middle school.
  + Exploring ways to keep the kindergarten through fourth grade classes full, and keeping the same students when enrolling fifth graders.
  + Maintaining a technology replacement cycle so that FJA does not lose any of the momentum that was built during the 2013-2014 school year technology purchases.
  + Building a network of parents and their contact information to help create a community investment in the school.
* FJA needed board skills – The group discussed a need for Board members with skills in areas such as curriculum experience, financial and banking experience, population demographic understanding, and opening new campuses.

The visioning retreat discussion ended at 4:10 pm.