

FCMS Board Meeting

22 April 2026

Attendees:

Rosa

Lorie

Steve

Paul

Danielle

James

Rosa began the meeting at 6:12pm

Read mission statement

Reviewed the consent agenda

Move the Board approves the agenda for today and the minutes (approved)

Resolution - Moved to determine FCMS teacher bonus based on the amount of funds available above the debt coverage ratio of 1.2 – Jim

Second by Lorie

All board members in favor

Resolution – adopt the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 FY, general fund expenditures (4.7M), general fund reserves (2.1M) total general fund appropriations (6,764,588)

Jim moved to vote on the resolution on the proposed budget, seconded by Steve

All members approved

Danielle – is the board having a meeting in May? (Yes) and will the school be addressing parking concerns as the parking is getting harder and harder.

Head of school report

Students working well in classes

CMAS has finished – shortened schedule from the state – typically given 4 weeks and this year it was done in 3 weeks

Makeups are all done and submitted and done for the year

Learned and shared with families – school earned John Erwin award and Government improvement award

Testified at the state for the Mill Levy bill – once passed it goes to the House and will likely ask to testify again – will ask school districts to engage with the charters before they go to the voters – not every district shares mill levy equally and is a big deal with the state

Water was turned off by the landscapers without any notice to the school. First time this has happened and have not been able to get a hold of the landscapers to turn it back on within 3 minutes. Paul has asked for the landscapers to give the school a key (6 ft long). If they do not provide a key, Paul will have Marcus (groundskeeper) get a key from Home Depot

Whoever put in the mainline didn't clearly mark it – the landscapers turned off the wrong water

Looking at different fencing bids - \$12k - \$29k – Marcuses is getting a few more estimates on this

Vinyl plank flooring and carpeting in the building have been discontinued – looking at other options – subcontractor is meeting with Marcus this week to show scrap designs to make a determination on what will work

Not sure how much it will cost – not sure whether GC is covering under a warranty – last heard is that does not fall under warranty because less than an inch of settling and the settling is less than an inch

If on FCMS end – do not want to work through contractor because will add a 10% fee to FCMS

Gradient and fire line are still being looked at where rocks are falling into neighbors' fence lines to put in a retaining wall

Fence is on the property line and HOA does not own the fence

Ensure contractor has the same insurance coverage

Big Give – James Hamilton presents

Presentation Fundraising –

Each of us has a special relationship with the school – captive audience with the school

Engaging people with philanthropy will help bridge that gap which motivates donors to give

Trends in giving – looking back 20 years ago – fewer donors but those donors are making larger gifts – 80% of the fundraising effort is made up by 20% of the donors – now 90% of the fundraising effort is made up by 10% of the donors

Looking for more trust and transparency

Limited pool of donors – looking back over the years, typically parents of the school with some community and extended family members

Donors have a limited attention span and will likely only give when kids are enrolled at the school

How do we engage those donors and maximize their support over that time period – typically in the empire building phase so limited giving ability

Where kids are enrolled in school is the third stool of giving – typically alma mater, then place of worship, then children's school

Enrollment cannot grow – every charter school hits enrollment cap which stagnates fundraising – how do we move past that stagnation

How can we shift from episodic fundraising

Fundraising events

Moving to a philanthropy model – what is core to the case for support for FCMS – all made the choice to send our kids here – higher impact for long-term donor retention

James provided a survey that is typically provided to donors –

Put giving on autopilot

Hoping to have as many donors from PVC, board and classroom ambassadors give prior to the launch as possible

Reaching out to big givers moving forward

Put stars on classroom for those who have given

Start earlier for fundraising – right when back to school August/September – how can families make an impact from the beginning

Can do monthly giving – those gifts will be counted for and we'll already be 80% there at that time

Spending summer/early fall months to really highlight those families to ask for those larger gifts up front – always some in the community

PVC

Spring event – from 3-5pm on Saturday, May 2

Moving forward – if people haven't RSVP'd – they can go into account and RSVP on site

Financials –

Financials look good – Paul and Dawn budget conservatively –

Discussed going through the budget for this current year and looking at projected actual expenses – only thing that ever changes is the projections on incomes, don't typically ever change expenses

Last year we had a debt coverage ratio in May of around 1.3 and we decided to basically give bonuses to the staff – biggest we could use for the teachers so that the debt coverage ratio would fall to 1.2

One of things we need to do is pass a resolution that we will do the same this year – will not know what the May debt ratio is until now

Resolution to determine staff spring bonus

Teachers do a 12 month annualization – still get paychecks in the summer

Full-time staff that are hourly can opt not to do the annualization – only get paid the hours they work for the month

As long as the board says that with Jim's resolution that anything above the 1.2 debt coverage ration will go to staff bonuses –

Resolution will resolve that the amount of funds available that the FCMS staff bonus be determined by the amount of funds available above the debt coverage ratio of 1.2

Resolution - Moved to determine FCMS teacher bonus based on the amount of funds available above the debt coverage ratio of 1.2 – Jim

Second by Lorie

All board members in favor

Budget

Estimate the number of pupils next year

Reflected in the proposed budget

Rest of the budget is standard as to what has occurred in other years

Resolution – adopt the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 FY, general fund expenditures (4.7M), general fund reserves (2.1M) total general fund appropriations (6,764,588)

Jim moved to vote on the resolution on the proposed budget, seconded by Steve

PPR keeps dropping – assuming that it's terrible – scheduling a 1% increase in PPR – not huge amounts but significant chunk that would make a big deal

Summer camp is not included in the budget – it was a loss for the school

Rosa will sign the resolutions as President, then Shannon to sign as Secretary

Transitioning to Executive Session

Lorie moved to go into executive session

James seconded

Lorie moved to end executive session

Jim seconded

Rosa adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm