

**The Governing Board of Freedom Preparatory Academy**  
**HELD A PUBLIC MEETING**  
**IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**January 16, 2025 – 12:03PM-1:18PM**

*In attendance via zoom: Cary McConnell, CAO, Lindsay Owen, CFO, board members Austin Anderson and Paul Baltes, Executive Director Grayson Wolf, Director of Finance Chris Helvey, Director of Operations Buddy Ivie, Principals Cherlynn Imes, Carrie Banfield, Matt Fullmer, Brandon Winn, and Assistant Principal Brandon Waite. Executive Secretary Tracey Noonan and board member Keith Powers participated at the anchor location. Teacher Lafe Peavler joined during agenda item 4 discussion.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**REGULAR AGENDA**

1. Approval of minutes from November 21, 2024, Governing Board Meeting

Tracey Noonan will correct minor typo found by Paul Baltes.

Paul Baltes moved to approve the minutes from November 21, 2024 Governing Board Meeting. Austin Anderson seconded. Motion passed 4-0; Keith Powers abstained.

2. Executive Director and Principal Updates

Items discussed:

- Testing results
- Walkathon numbers
- New marketing campaigns/tools/strategies
- School Carnival advertisement
- Open House
- Charter on the Hill

4. Approve Robotics Travel Request

Lafe Peavler explained the need for travel will depend on whether the Robotics team qualifies in their upcoming competitions.

Utah Championship will be held at SUU.

World Championship will be held in Houston. (April 16-19)

If necessary to attend, premiere events will be held over the summer (possible alternative events in Chicago, Illinois and South Bend Indiana).

Fundraising efforts discussed.

Paul Baltes moved to approve the Robotics Team travel request to the Utah Championship held at SUU and any further trips the team qualifies for up to and including the World Championship held in Houston. Austin Anderson seconded. Motion passed 5-0, no opposition.

### 3. Approve Calendars for the 2025-2026 School Year

Paul Baltes asked about discrepancies in number of days in each term. Buddy Ivie and Grayson Wolf explained the desire to work around holidays, neighboring school district schedules, etc. Austin Anderson asked about any changes from last year and if we've gotten comments from parents/teachers. Grayson Wolf highlighted a few dates on the schedule.

Austin Anderson moved to approve all academic calendars for the 2025-2026 school year. Lindsay Owen seconded. Motion passed 5-0, no opposition.

### 5. Update FY2025 Budget

Chris Helvey summarized the budget updates and answered a few questions from board members.

### 6. Builder's Risk Insurance

Chris Helvey explained the request from the builders to move the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Paul Baltes moved for the board to extend the risk penalties to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Austin Anderson seconded. Motion passed 5-0, no opposition.

### 7. Accept Governing Board CAO Resignation

Informational item rather than formal acceptance needed.

### 8. Review Bylaws to Elect CAO

Stricken

### 9. The Governing Board may consider a motion for a Closed Meeting in accordance with The Utah Open and Public Meetings Act for purposes outlined in Utah Code\*

Stricken

Cary McConnell led a discussion regarding appointment of new CAO. Paul Baltes pointed out that Austin Anderson is the only current governing board member who qualifies to be the new CAO. As the Bylaws

call for the governing board to appoint a new CAO, Paul Baltes immediately moved to appoint Austin Anderson as the new CAO of the Governing Board.

Lindsay Owen seconded the motion. Cary McConnell called for further discussion of the Bylaws. Cary McConnell pointed out that the CAO should be elected. The issue of secret ballots was discussed. Paul Baltes indicated he would be willing to forgo secret ballots and would include such in his motion. Paul Baltes withdrew his first motion. Buddy Ivie asked whether the board could vote on a new CAO if the issue isn't on the agenda. Paul Baltes indicated that the governing board is being transparent in its intent. Chris Helvey suggested that the board vote today and then ratify the vote in the next meeting.

Paul Baltes moved to forgo the secret ballot mentioned in the Bylaws.

Lindsay Owen seconded. Motion passed 5-0, no opposition.

Discussion resumed regarding whether the appointment of the CAO needs to be an agenda item.

Paul Baltes moved to vote immediately to appoint a new CAO.

Cary McConnell seconded.

All board members voted to appoint Austin Anderson as the new Freedom Prep Academy Chief Administrative Officer.

Ratify appointment of CAO at next Governing Board Meeting. (Will be an agenda item).

## 10. Adjourn

Keith Powers moved to adjourn at 1:18PM.

\*The Freedom Preparatory Academy Governing Board may consider a motion to close the meeting to hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property, and/or the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in conformance with § 52-4-204 and 52-4-205 et. Seq., Utah Code Ann.

### Current Board Goals

#### a. Student and Employee Success

- i. Ensure the development data-driven methods to understand student success.
- ii. Contribute to improving lives through development of policies and practices

#### b. Operational Efficiency

- i. Require school to operate in the black
- ii. Oversee Retaining and Enrolling Students
- iii. Quarterly Enrollment review
- iv. Regular Policy Review each Board Meeting

#### c. Community Relations

- i. Be involved regularly in Parent and Student engagement activities
- ii. Evaluate PR quarterly
- iii. Governing Board Members attend and assist fundraisers

#### d. Specific Areas of Focus

- i. Define what makes Freedom different/unique
- ii. Support consistent culture across campuses