

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE

January 2024 Board Communication

❖ January is National School Board Recognition Month

We recognize the unique roles academy boards play in promoting and advocating quality education. You put in countless hours in meetings and in the community supporting the academy. Being a board member is a challenging role, an important role, which monitors the fiscal health of the academy, focuses on student growth and achievement and makes decisions that move the academy forward.

The CSO benefits every day from the dedicated time, skills and talents board members devote to what is best for all students. Even though it's School Board Recognition Month, we recognize your contributions reflect a year-long commitment. We are truly fortunate to have such conscientious and dedicated community members guiding and supporting your academy.

Thank you for your leadership, service and continued commitment to ensure the children in your community receive the education they deserve!

❖ 2023-2024 Board Professional Development Webinars

Mark your calendar for the third live webinar, [How to Protect Against Charter School Closure](#), in our 2023-2024 board professional development series, [The HOW TO'S of Board Governance](#). It is scheduled for Tuesday January 16, 2024 6:00pm – 6:30pm. Board members look for an email invitation from AirWin Educational Services with registration information. This webinar will focus on how board members can assess the overall health and condition of the school in order to avoid closure of the school.

Below are links to the on-demand webinars, as well as the recording of previous live webinars.

[How to Engage in Legislative Advocacy](#)

[How to Become An Effective Board President](#)

[Transparency Requirements: HOW TO... Ensure Your Board is Complying](#)

[Board Recruitment Strategies: HOW TO... Recruit Board Members Effectively](#)

[Board/School Leader Relationship: HOW TO... Ensure a Positive Working Relationship With Your School Leader](#)

[Using Board Policy to Inform Decision Making](#)

[Board's Appropriate Role in Parent/Community Complaints](#)

Each board member that attends a live webinar or watches an on-demand webinar can earn one professional development credit for their respective board. To earn the credit the board member will share their 2-3 takeaways about the webinar at a board meeting. Boards are required to complete three credits per academic year by two or more board members.

❖ Important Epicenter Deadlines

January 1, 2024 – Certification of Constitution Day

January 1, 2024 – Certification of Constitutionally Protected Prayer

January 6, 2024 – Board Candidate Application (for consideration at the 2/23/2024 FSU BOT meeting)

January 15, 2024 – Emergency Drills Report – WEB POSTING

January 31, 2024 – Budget 2nd Quarterly Financial Statement

❖ Important Date

January 16, 2024 – Board Professional Development Webinar

❖ 2023-2024 CSO Competitive Grants Program

The CSO received grant applications from 18 of the 19 FSU-authorized academies for the CSO Competitive Grants Program. While the program had a limit of \$300,000 to award, the CSO received a combined request amount of \$397,526. Therefore, the CSO had to make decisions about how to distribute the funds in a fair and equitable manner. It was important to the CSO that each applicant receive a portion of the grant. Below is the breakdown of grant awards.

In December 2023 the CSO processed a supplemental payment in the award amount, prior to the normal State Aid payment at the end of December. By June 30, 2024 the academy is required to submit in Epicenter verification and certification that the award amount was spent on its intended purpose.

Academy	Award Amount	Intended Purpose
Battle Creek Montessori Academy	\$15,000	Outdoor Education Program
Benton Harbor Charter School Academy	\$20,000	Field Trip to Historically Black Colleges & Universities
Blended Learning Academies Credit Recovery High School	\$7,100	Support Robotics Program
Bridge Academy	\$20,000	Safety & Security
Clara B. Ford Academy	\$15,000	Tutoring Program
Creative Technologies Academy	\$22,000	Fine Arts/Activity Center
Hope Academy of West Michigan	\$17,500	Safety & Security
Hope of Detroit Academy	\$17,500	Enhance Small Group Instruction
Huron Academy	\$17,000	Staff Professional Development
Joy Preparatory Academy	\$17,500	Gym/Cafeteria Renovations
Lighthouse Academy	\$20,000	Safety & Security
Marshall Academy	\$17,000	Math Curriculum
Michigan Collegiate	\$19,000	Safety & Security
Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change	\$17,500	Classroom Interactive SmartBoard System and Salmon in the Classroom Project
New Bedford Academy	\$17,385	Safety & Security
Northridge Academy	\$15,000	Safety & Security and Field Trip
Pittsfield Acres Academy	\$17,500	Safety & Security and Playground Project
Voyageur Academy	\$9,619	Safety & Security and Support Robotics Program

❖ **2022-2023 CSO Annual Report**

The 2022-2023 CSO Annual Report has been published and shared with Ferris State University leadership and other stakeholders. Besides summarizing information about the CSO, the report provides important facts about each of the academies in our portfolio. Below is a link to the report.

[2022-2023 Charter Schools Office Annual Report](#)

❖ **Any Questions?**

You may contact your FSU Field Representative or Sharon Hopper if you have any questions regarding this Board Communication. Important and/or urgent information that cannot wait until the next Board Communication will be sent to you by email.