

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



March/April 2023
News and Updates
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When Ferris State University authorizes a public school academy, it is an endeavor to positively transform the life trajectory of the students who attend that academy. The Charter Schools Office holds as its most fundamental goal that all students be prepared for success in college, work, and life. Test scores and knowledge are important but are not enough to succeed in an ever-competitive and connected global community.

We believe that students must be able to apply knowledge to new situations, and to seek out new information through research skills and technological competence. To accomplish this, each academy must provide an environment to achieve academic excellence by delivering quality programming and instruction for the students it serves.



Happy Spring!

Besides the oncoming arrival of spring, we celebrate *March is Reading Month*. The goal of this designation is to make reading a central theme for youngsters. Research has conclusively shown that the act of simply reading to young students increases their interest in learning to read by themselves.

I'd like to take a moment to reminisce on the effect that reading had on my own life. When I was in third grade at Masonic Heights Elementary School in St. Clair Shores, I distinctly remember we had a woman named Mrs. Webb who would read to us. Every so often, we would gather on the floor of our school's library, and Mrs. Webb would bring a story to life for us. To this day I can remember how she would use different expressions as she read, often holding up the pages with pictures for all to see. Books such as *Pippi Longstocking*, *Charlotte's Web*, and several others transported us to new adventures and spurred my interest in learning to read those books myself. I don't know whether Mrs. Webb was a volunteer or was paid for her work, but I do know that I owe her a debt of gratitude. The fact that I can still distinctly remember her and some of those sessions (at my age . . .), speaks to the power and significance of that activity.

Thank you for all you are doing in your academies this month to spur interest in reading-no act is too small or insignificant.

Ronald S. Rizzo, Ph.D.
Director

Ronald Rizzo, Director



Contact:

Dr. Ronald S. Rizzo
Director of Charter Schools
RonaldRizzo@ferris.edu
(231) 660-2851 cell
(231) 591-5807 office



MARCH



is reading month



21st Annual Spring Briefing & 25th Anniversary Recap

Many thanks to all of you who attended our virtual Spring Briefing and 25th Anniversary celebration on March 3, 2023. We would have much preferred to have held this event in person; however, the weather that day showed that it was prudent for us to meet virtually. We will be delivering special awards to our academies celebrating their 25th Anniversary as well:

- ***Northridge Academy***
- ***Creative Technologies Academy***
- ***New Bedford Academy***
- ***Voyageur Academy***
- ***Benton Harbor Charter School Academy***

If you missed the event, you can access it [HERE](#) in it's full entirety.

Access Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Allen's, presentation [HERE](#).



Christopher White
Associate Director



Contact:
Dr. Christopher White
Associate Director
ChristopherWhite@ferris.edu
(231) 591-5803 Office



**MI Charter Mastermind
Network**

Reminder for you to register on the Mastermind Network and FSU CSO Hubs

REMINDER - Are you a member of the MI Charter Mastermind Network through the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA)? You should be! This network will help you stay up to date on information regarding Charter Schools shared by MAPSA, as well as, Ferris State University Charter Schools Office!

Within the Mastermind Network, you will find Ferris State University Charter Schools Office two private hubs, one for **school leadership** and the other for **board members**.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to join the Mastermind Network and FSU CSO hubs by clicking on the links in the narrative to the left or the pictures below. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Chris White at ChrisWhite@ferris.edu.



FSU CSO: Academy Board Members
Ferris Forward



FSU CSO: School Leadership
Ferris Forward

Remaining Leadership Convenings for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

We have two remaining Leadership Convenings for the 2022-2023 academic year. The next convening on **April 12, 2023, will be virtual**, (School Climate & SEL) while the last convening will be **in person at**



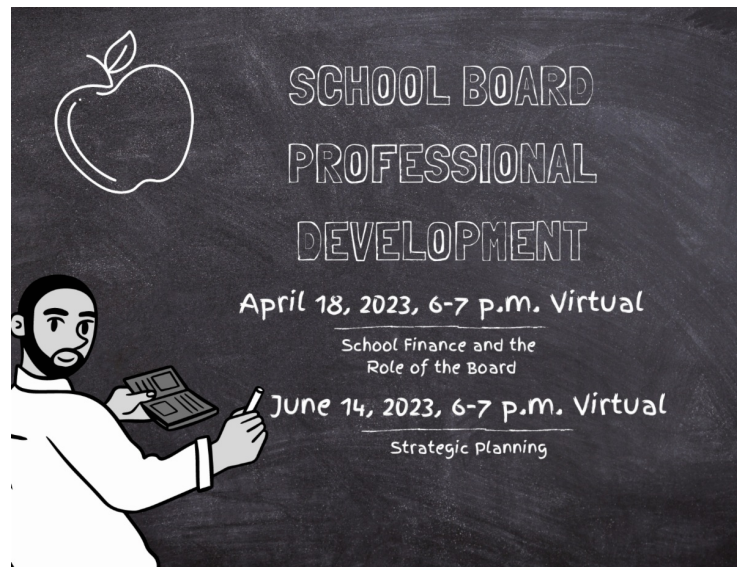
the Crowne Plaza Lansing West on May 10, 2023 (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). Andrea Ruggles will send the Zoom link out to school leaders prior to the virtual event and an email invitation for the final convening, as you will need to register in order for us to get a count for the lunch.

Please contact AndreaRuggles@ferris.edu, if you have questions or need

additional information on any of our Leadership Convenings.

Remaining School Board Convenings for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

We have two remaining School Board Convenings for the 2022-2023 academic year. Both convenings will be held **virtually from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** The first convening will be on **April 18, 2023**, with the topic *School Finance and the Role of the Board* and the final convening will be **June 14, 2023**, with the topic *Strategic Planning*. Watch your email as a registration link will be sent out about a month before each event.



Please reach out to AndreaRuggles@ferris.edu, if you have questions or need additional information on any of our School Board Convenings.





Development of 2023-2024 Budget

As a board responsibility, financial oversight is second only to student achievement in importance. Boards have an obligation to ensure that school leaders and/or management companies have competently and effectively managed the school's finances. It is that time of the year when schools begin to develop their budget for the next year.

The law requires the budget to be presented, discussed, and approved at a public meeting. Typically, boards schedule their budget hearing in May or June. With that said, board members should receive the proposed 2023-2024 budget far enough in advance of the scheduled budget hearing to permit time for them to review and understand it, frame meaningful questions, and negotiate changes, if appropriate. Best practices also include comparing the proposed budget with past budgets to understand the school's income and expense trends. The careful planning and strategic allocation of resources is critical to the success of your school.

In order to provide fiscal oversight and inform academy boards, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office reports on six Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) - *Current Ratio, Change in Fund Balance, Days Cash on Hand, Enrollment Change Over Time, Debt to Asset Ratio, and Current Year Enrollment Change*. (See KPI explanations to the left.)

The CSO KPIs are only some measures of fiscal health. Academy boards may want to work with their finance professional to determine what other indicators might be useful for future planning.

In order to provide fiscal oversight and inform academy boards, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office reports on the following six Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

Current Ratio Answers the question: Can the school pay its short-term obligations? Current ratio should be greater than or equal to 1.0.

Change in Fund Balance Answers the question: Is the school operating within its means? Fund balance should be at 20% of revenue OR increasing over time.

Days Cash on Hand Answers the question: Does the school have the cash to pay bills? The academy should have 60 days cash on hand.

Enrollment Change Over Time Answers the question: Is the school's main revenue source stable over time? Enrollment should remain at 95% of the three prior years.

Debt to Asset Ratio Answers the question: Does the school own more assets than owes in liabilities? The ratio of liabilities to assets should be 0.9 or less.

Current Year Enrollment Change Is the school's current year enrollment stable? Each year the academy should have at least 95% of the previous year's enrollment number.

SPRING

a lovely reminder
OF HOW

BEAUTIFUL

change can truly be
Stay inspired. Never stop creating.

From All of Us at the Charter Schools Office

We wish that this Spring will be a season of hope, optimism, and growth for you all. Be inspired and take defined steps each day, each week, to move towards your goals - *live with intention.*

Our Mission and Vision Statement

Ferris State University Mission

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

Charter Schools Office Vision Statement

FSU will authorize public school academies that promise to transform the lives of students by demonstrating high-quality performance.

Charter Schools Office Mission

By implementing quality oversight, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office focuses on student growth and achievement, offers professional learning opportunities, and provides relevant resources to its authorized public school academies.

Core Values

1. Student Learning
2. A Collaborative Working Environment
3. Diversity
4. Opportunities
5. Excellence
6. Accountability
7. Integrity and Trust

**Ferris State University
Charter Schools Office
1020 Maple Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 591-5802**

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**Visit our
Website**



Ferris State University Charter Schools Office | FSU-CSO, 1020 Maple St,
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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