

**The Abington Foundation**  
**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**November 14, 2020**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Abington Foundation was held virtually via Zoom on November 14, 2020. The following members of the Board were present: Alyssia Daley, David Ford, Senior, David Ford, Junior, Donald Ford, Laura Perrotta Ford, Ned Ford, John Ford, Windsor Ford, Abby Murphy, Alyssa Murphy and Sarah Ford Whitener. Also present, by invitation, were Foundation Management Services consultants Cristin Slesh and Sherri Clancy.

On the prior day, November 13, 2020, the Trustees met virtually with the Foundation's investment advisors, Rich Veres and Barb Meyers of Highland Consulting, as well as with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and University Settlement.

**MINUTES**

Sarah Ford Whitener, President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the June 2020 Board Meeting, and the September 30, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved, as mailed.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Trustees approved the following:

Term Trustees:

Hope Ford Murphy – 4th term (1/1/21-12/31/23)

One-year Terms (1/1/21-12/31/21)

Dylan Ford (Amasa branch)

Windsor Ford (David Senior branch)

Alyssa Murphy (Allen branch)

Lise Ford (Oliver branch)

2021 Officers:

President – Donald Ford

Vice President/Secretary – David Ford, Jr.

Treasurer – David Ford, Jr.

Old Business/New Business

David Ford, Jr. gave a brief update about the Fund for Our Economic Future. In November 2019, founding President Brad Whitehead announced his retirement and Vice President Bethia Burke, who joined the Fund in 2010, was promoted to the position of president. In December 2019, the Fund established a civic board as a way to diversify its membership and structure. In 2019, the Fund fully funded its three-year, \$10 million budget.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed Highland's presentation and made the following decisions regarding adopting a more environmentally conscious approach to the Foundation's portfolio:

1. The Board does not have an interest in having outside experts present more information about sustainable investing.

2. Highland will be asked to continue to provide a one-page screening on fossil fuel involvement, low carbon designation, and carbon risk score of the portfolio annually.
3. A fund manager will be asked to present to the Board periodically during the investment report by Highland.
4. The following new language will be added to Section IV, Monitoring of Objectives and Results of the Foundation's Investment Policy Statement: "The Foundation investments will be monitored by the Board on an ongoing basis. Performance and risk will be monitored relative to objectives, including environmentally conscious investing."

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### *Investment Report*

According to Highland's presentation, the portfolio's market value as of October 31, 2020 was \$32,029,282 allocated in U.S. equities (28.9%), international equities (30%), global equities (24.2%), fixed income (12.5%) and alternatives (4.4%). Highland recommendations included: rebalancing the portfolio with distributions and doing a Small Cap manager review and search, including replacing Walthausen Small Cap Value with ICM Small Company and maintaining AQR Small Cap Momentum.

### *2020 Budget*

Treasurer David Ford, Jr. reviewed the operating expenses as of October 31, 2020 against the projected operating budget approved at the March 2020 meeting. All expenses are on target.

### *2020 Payout*

He also reviewed Meaden & Moore's recommended payout for 2020 which was up to \$1,498,887 (from \$1,343,776 at the June meeting). After allowable administrative expenses (\$192,433), grants paid to date (\$990,167) and commitments (\$150,000), this left a balance of \$166,287 to pay in grants at the November 2020 meeting. Mr. Ford reminded Trustees that the 5% is the recommended minimum for distribution, not the ceiling.

## **GRANT PROPOSAL REVIEW**

### *Letters of Inquiry*

The Trustees reviewed a Letter of Inquiry from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) for support of a scholarship fund in Phillip Ranney's name. Since the Foundation does not normally consider scholarship support, Trustees indicated they would be interested in considering a request if the scholarship were to support CMSD students. If the scholarship does not, then CWRU should not apply to the Foundation.

### *Administrative Expense*

Trustees approved payment of \$1,000 to the Western Reserve Historical Society in support of the philanthropic archives program.

### *President's Immediate Decline Report*

The report was reviewed and approved. While he approved the immediate decline list, Donald Ford noted that the request from The MetroHealth Foundation could be considered aligned with the Foundation's interest in access to care.

### *Pending Proposals*

Trustees gave careful consideration to 41 requests totaling \$1,108,680, of which 26 grants were approved for a total of \$641,500 all payable in 2020.

### **Approved**

1. America SCORES Cleveland  
\$15,000 for after-school literacy and fitness programming in CMSD schools
2. Beech Brook  
\$15,000 for mental health services for CMSD students
3. Benedictine High School  
\$25,000 for the capital campaign for campus improvements
4. Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio  
\$20,000 for Academic Success programming
5. Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeastern Ohio  
\$20,000 for programming to prepare low-income students for college and career success
6. Candid Midwest  
\$1,500 for program support
7. Center for Arts-Inspired Learning  
\$15,000 arts-integrated residencies for CMSD students
8. Center for Employment Opportunities Cleveland  
\$25,000 for employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals
9. Cleveland Play House  
\$25,000 for theater residencies in CMSD schools
10. Coach Sam's Scholars  
\$10,000 for intensive virtual and hybrid in-person literacy programming for CMSD students
11. Dobama Theatre, Inc.  
\$10,000 to provide virtual playwriting workshops to schools
12. Effective Leadership Academy  
\$10,000 for social-emotional learning and leadership development programming for CMSD students
13. Great Lakes Museum of Science Environment and Technology  
\$10,000 for the CLE4SCI Collaborative for CMSD 6th and 7th graders
14. Journey Center for Safety and Healing  
\$15,000 to provide stabilization services for survivors of domestic violence
15. Malachi House  
\$20,000 for housing and support services for terminally-ill homeless individuals
16. Musical Arts Association  
\$25,000 for education concerts and music resources for CMSD students
17. Passages Connecting Fathers and Sons, Inc.  
\$15,000 for workforce development and family resiliency programming
18. Playhouse Square Foundation  
\$15,000 for virtual Classroom Connections workshops for CMSD students
19. Progressive Arts Alliance  
\$10,000 to provide STEAM residencies in CMSD schools
20. Reach Out and Read Greater Cleveland

- \$15,000 for program support
21. Support Center for Child Advocates  
\$25,000 to provide legal representation and advocacy for low-income children with behavioral health needs
  22. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
\$100,000 for phase II of the capital campaign for new facilities and exhibits
  23. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
\$10,000 for the CLE4SCI program for 2nd graders in the CMSD
  24. United Way of Greater Cleveland  
\$25,000 for the Community Wraparound Strategy in CMSD schools
  25. University Settlement  
\$150,000 for the capital campaign for a new facility
  26. Youth Opportunities Unlimited  
\$15,000 for Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

**DECLINED**

1,000 Ties  
 After-School All-Stars Cleveland  
 Art House, Inc.  
 BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival  
 Boys 2 Men  
 Building Hope In The City  
 Children's Museum of Cleveland  
 Cleveland Metroparks  
 College Now Greater Cleveland  
 Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc.  
 Cornerstone of Hope  
 Cuyahoga Community College Foundation  
 Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio  
 Economic and Community Development Institute  
 EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute  
 Eliza Bryant Village  
 Envision Excellence in STEM Education  
 Esperanza, Inc.  
 Facing History and Ourselves, Inc.  
 Fairhill Partners  
 Future Institute  
 Great Lakes Theater  
 HELP Foundation  
 Les Délices  
 MAGNET  
 NU Transitions Foundation Inc.  
 OhioGuidestone  
 Project Habit  
 The LD Edge Network  
 The MetroHealth Foundation

The National Teachers College  
The Salvation Army  
Towards Employment  
West Side Catholic Center

Comments/Contingencies

1. Although the application from Children's Museum of Cleveland was declined, there was interest among the Trustees in supporting this program and the organization should be encouraged to come back for support in the future.
2. Trustees approved a grant to Journey Center for Child Advocates. Staff should communicate to the organization that the request in the future should be for general program support and not for programming that attempts to align to the pathways to independence priority.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

*Staff Reports*

Ms. Slesh gave an update on the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to which the Foundation contributed \$50,000 in March 2020. Overall contributions to the Fund total more than \$8.9 million from over 80 different corporate, civic and philanthropic partners, as well as individuals and families from across the region. Grants were awarded to 161 nonprofit groups and organizations, and 130 small grants through Neighborhood Connections. Discussion about a Phase II were facilitated by a consultant, and has specific goals related to Greater Cleveland's response to, adaptation within, and recovery from COVID-19. \$3.2 million has been raised to date for Phase II. The areas of focus will include: basic needs; family supports; and personal protective equipment, testing and contact tracing.

Trustees decided not to make an investment in Phase II at this time, but asked staff to continue to monitor the developments of the collaborative fund, as well as the aligned funding opportunities that may arise as a result of the RRF. Staff will also monitor the funding gaps as a result of the pandemic by participating in Philanthropy Ohio and other funder programming.

*2021 Board Meeting Schedule*

Trustees agreed to the following meeting schedule: March 5-6; June 18-19; and November 12-13

The Board excused the staff and went into Executive Session. Trustees reviewed and approved the 2021 FMS contract. The Board voted to give a \$5,000 stipend to the FMS staff for the additional work they did this spring and summer as a result of the Abington Foundation joining the Rapid Response Fund effort.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Ford Whitener  
President