



TECH

Freire Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Directors

October 19, 2016

Minutes

Place: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board attendees: David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Bruce Lesser, Sakinah Rahman, David Shahriari, Scott Solomon

Other attendees: Leigh Botwinik, Jasmine Boyd (student representative), Tom Caramanico, Kelly Davenport, Jibree Hill (student representative), Gerard Kunkel (via phone), Johnny Mills, Bill Ray, Julia Regan Fanelli, Melanie Burke Reiser

10:06 am, meeting called to order.

I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on September 14, 2016

- a. The Board reviews the minutes from its meeting on September 14, 2016.
- b. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Lesser seconds. All in favor.

III. Governance

- a. Parent Board Members
 - i. The Board discusses the ongoing process of connecting with parents/guardians of TECH Freire students who would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors.
- b. Board Diversification
 - i. The Board discusses plans for diversifying the membership of the Boards of TECH Freire Charter School and Freire Charter School, in order to reduce the overlap in membership between the two Boards.

IV. School Report

- a. Community Race Conversations
 - i. Dave Shahriari explains that TECH Freire's leadership have been making plans to host community conversations focusing on race at TECH Freire, in the same vein as similar conversations that have been held at other Freire campuses.
- b. School Update
 - i. Dave Shahriari, Jasmine Boyd, and Jibree Hill update the Board on the progress of the school year to date, noting that TECH Freire's extracurricular clubs and sports are up and running, and that enrollment recruitment efforts for the 2017-18 year are underway.
- c. Textbook Review
 - i. Dave Shahriari explains that the Board must approve any textbook to be used at TECH Freire Charter School. The Board reviews all textbooks proposed to be used at TECH Freire in 2016-17.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the full list of proposed textbooks. Gerald Escovitz seconds. All in favor.
- d. Teacher Evaluation Plan

- i. Dave Shahriari reviews TECH Freire Charter School's Teacher Evaluation Plan, which outlines how Freire evaluates teachers during the school year, and how those evaluations are used in teachers' contract renewal processes.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve the Teacher Evaluation Plan. Sakinah Rahman seconds. All in favor.
- e. Catchment Update
 - i. Dave Shahriari reviews a letter from the Charter Schools Office of the Philadelphia School District, which affirms that failure to meet the enrollment requirement to enroll 60% of students from the Strawberry Mansion catchment, as set forth in TECH Freire's charter, is not a sole cause for revocation, nor as a sole item of non-compliance would it be sufficient to support a recommendation of non-renewal of TECH Freire's charter.
- f. Certification Update
 - i. Melanie Burke Reiser reviews an audit by Build the Future of the certification status of professional staff working at TECH Freire. TECH Freire's leadership has developed an action plan to raise to increase certification, and is actively monitoring all uncertified teachers as they work through their certification process.

V. Development and Fundraising

- a. Fundraising Update
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews year-to-date fundraising progress, noting that TECH Freire's Opening Celebration event went well and that an annual fundraising appeal campaign is in the works for the coming months.

VI. Financials

- a. September 2016 Financials
 - i. Bill Ray reviews financial statements for September 2016. Bill notes that Build the Future met with the Philadelphia School Partnership about a possible grant revision mentioned by PSP leadership, and heard that the proposed revision is unlikely to occur, but that the final decision will be confirmed in writing shortly.
- b. Transfer of Funds Memo
 - i. Bill Ray reviews a memo that outlines several grants and donations in its bank account that are earmarked for TECH Freire and recommends that the TECH Freire Charter School Board approve the receipt of \$62,500 from the Freire Foundation. The Foundation Board has already approved such disbursement at their September 2016 Board meeting.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Gerald Escovitz seconds. All in favor.

VII. Policy Adoption

- a. Family Involvement Plan
 - i. Melanie Burke Reiser presents TECH Freire's Family Involvement Plan, explaining that the proposed policy meets all requirements and outlines the family involvement activities that TECH Freire conducts.
 - ii. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve the Family Involvement Plan. David Bryant seconds. All in favor.

11:22 am, meeting adjourned.