



TECH FREIRE

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020 | 8 AM
1026 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

Board Members Present: William Brinkman (phone), David Bryant, Darrell Collins (phone), Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel leach, Michael Maholick, Max Matthews, Chris Moore, Jeremy Ross, Beth Packel, Alphonse Pignataro, Bill Ray, Teryn Thomas (phone), Charles Ware, Kiesha Weeks, Lorraine White

8:01 AM, Meeting Start

1. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

2. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from the Board Meeting on December 11, 2019
 - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - ii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Darrell Collins, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

3. School Report

- a. Heads Report
 - i. Charles Ware shares that TECH Freire is focusing on how to build a stronger sense of school culture throughout the building. The school implemented "Take Back TECH" Day which offered mindfulness lessons, character building lessons, and student and staff sharing circles, and enjoyed an in-school carnival to build deeper connections within the TECH community.
 - ii. January Data Report
 1. Charles Ware notes that math benchmarking scores recently dropped by a percentage point compared to the last wave of benchmark testing. TECH Freire is focusing on students who rushed through the test in a matter of minutes instead of taking the suggested time of 30 minutes to complete the exam.
 2. In an effort to improve student attendance, TECH has begun to provide students with transpasses who are just below the transportation threshold to receive a free pass from the city. TECH has implemented a new cohort system where leadership has a caseload of 10 students that they are responsible for making sure are present at school each day.

3. The Board discusses ways to increase student attendance.
- b. Update on TECH Purchase, Façade & 5th Floor Phase 2 Construction
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that the Building Hope PA Board has purchased the TECH Freire building. Upon completing the purchase, TECH Freire received a letter from SEPTA about plans to build a subway staircase directly in front of the school's entrance. The school also received a letter from the Historic Commissions about a newly proposed historic automobile district, which would include the front façade of TECH Freire.
- c. Staff Member Update
 - i. Keisha Weeks, a Students Services Teacher and member of TECH's Sunshine Committee, thanks the Board for their work, commitment, and passion for the students of TECH Freire. Keisha notes that attendance is the gateway to learning and that TECH is serious about attendance and is working to make sure students are in school every day.
 - ii. Charles Ware thanks Keisha for brining one hundred percent every day and being an incredible force at TECH Freire.
- d. Student Council Update
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- e. Emotional Supports Team
 - i. Jeremy Ross, the Associate Director of Emotional Support Services at Freire Charter High School, gives a presentation to the Board outlining the numerous emotional support offerings at Freire Charter School. Jeremy explains the environment Freire students face both inside and outside of school and how the school has implemented supports for all students.
 - ii. Alphonse Pignataro, Director of Emotional Support Services for Freire Charter School, thanks the Board for being available and willing to support the school's counseling and emotional support programs. He notes these programs are pivotal in shaping the lives of Freire students and keeping our youth safe.

4. Financials

- a. December 2019 Financial Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the December financial report and notes the school currently has 37 days of cash on hand. The school is required to maintain over 40 days cash on hand for the recently completed bond deal. The school is currently working on reaching this target.
- b. FY 2019 Form 990- Draft
 - i. Bill Ray reviews TECH Freire Charter School's annual form 990 for fiscal year 2019. Bill notes that there are no major changes compared to last year.

5. Advancement

- a. Scott Solomon reminds the Boards of both Freire Charter School and TECH Freire Charter School to make their annual board donations, in an amount that is meaningful for them, before June 30, 2020. Reaching 100% board donation participation is incredibly important in securing outside funding.
- b. Advancement Update

- i. Melanie Reiser shares that every year Freire Schools strives to raise \$400k, divided out to \$100k per campus.
 - ii. Melanie shares that Chuck Widger, the Founder & Executive Chairman at Brinker Capital, has agreed to be the honoree for Bridge to Wisdom this year. The Advancement Committee is beginning work on planning the logistics of Bridge to Wisdom and will share with the Board during the April Board Meeting.
 - iii. Freire has received \$63,000 in EITC funding which supports enrichment and afterschool programs for next school year. Melanie reviews the current grants and other fundraising sources Freire has received so far this year.
 - c. Talking Points
 - i. Melanie reviews a list of talking points the Board can use with potential donors and partners when fundraising. These talking points will be updated monthly.
 - d. Political Landscape Updates
 - i. The Board discusses the current political landscape facing Freire and the recent proposals coming from Governor Wolf's Office which would greatly impact Freire and other charters throughout Pennsylvania.
 - ii. Upcoming Events
 - 1. On February 24th, Councilman Darrell Clark is visiting TECH Freire. Freire Schools will ask Councilman Clarke to be this year's commencement speaker for Freire Charter High School.
 - 2. On March 10th, the Philadelphia Delegation will visit TECH Freire. This includes all the democratic representatives and Senator Sharif Street.

6. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.

7. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interests
 - i. The Board is reminded to complete their annual Statement of Financial Interest and return them to the Freire Schools team before May 2020.

10:37 AM, Meeting Adjourned