



# TECH

## Freire Charter School

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 8, 2016

### Minutes

Place: 2221 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132

Board attendees: David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Bruce Levine (via videoconference), David Shahriari, Scott Solomon

Other attendees: Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Johnny Mills, Sakinah Rahman, Julia Regan Fanelli, Melanie Burke Reiser, Ben Wainwright

9:02 am, meeting called to order.

#### I. Review & Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on June 10, 2016

- a. The Board reviews the minutes from its meeting on June 10, 2016.
- b. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve the minutes. David Bryant seconds. All in favor.

#### II. Governance

- a. Introduction of Potential Board Member
  - i. Scott Solomon introduces Sakinah Rahman, who has a background in public finance and higher education research and is interested in joining TECH Freire's Board of Directors.
- b. Resignation of Tom Caramanico
  - i. The Board notes that Tom Caramanico resigned his position on the TECH Freire Board of Directors effective June 15, 2016. The Board notes its appreciation for Tom's service on the Board.
- c. Proposed Revision to Bylaws
  - i. The Board reviews a proposed change to its bylaws, which would allow the Board 6 months after the beginning of the school year to elect parent and student members of the Board of Directors, rather than requiring these members to be elected and seated at the first Board meeting of the School year. The Board notes that this change would allow more time to connect with TECH Freire parents and students who are strongly interested in Board membership. If approved by the TECH Freire Board, this proposed change would pass on to the Freire Charter School Board of Directors for final approval.
  - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve the proposed change to the bylaws. Gerald Escovitz seconds. All in favor.
- d. Meeting Calendar for 2016-17
  - i. The Board discusses the dates of its meetings for the 2016-17 school year, and agrees to meet monthly on the second Wednesday of each month. Detailed information on each meeting's time, date and location will be publicly posted in alignment with all legal requirements.

#### III. School Report

- a. PIAA Application for School Membership

- i. Dave Shahriari introduces the application document that TECH Freire must submit to PIAA in order for TECH Freire students to participate in PIAA sports.
    - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve the PIAA application. Gerald Escovitz seconds. All in favor.
  - b. Addendum to Charter Agreement
    - i. Melanie Burke Reiser reviews an addendum to TECH Freire's charter agreement with the School District of Philadelphia.
    - ii. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve the addendum. David Bryant seconds. All in favor.
  - c. Student and Family Handbook for 2016-17
    - i. Melanie Burke Reiser reviews the TECH Freire Student and Family Handbook for 2016-17.
    - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve the Student and Family Handbook. Gerald Escovitz seconds. All in favor.
  - d. Proposed Anti-Hazing Policy
    - i. Melanie Burke Reiser reviews TECH Freire's proposed Anti-Hazing Policy, noting that this policy is in compliance with new state guidelines requiring all schools to approve an Anti-Hazing Policy and post it on their school website.
    - ii. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve the Anti-Hazing Policy. David Bryant seconds. All in favor.
  - e. School Report
    - i. Enrollment Update
      - 1. Dave Shahriari provides an update to the Board on school enrollment, noting that 289 students are currently enrolled out of TECH Freire's enrollment cap of 300.
    - ii. Hiring Update
      - 1. Dave Shahriari provides an update to the Board on hiring, noting that three teaching positions as well as the school nurse position still remain to be filled. The TECH Freire hiring team has several interviews with prospective new staff upcoming. The first professional development session for all staff is taking place this week.
    - iii. Lawsuit Update
      - 1. Kelly Davenport provides an update to the Board on the ongoing lawsuit lodged against TECH Freire by Stockton Advisors.
    - iv. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
      - 1. Leigh Botwinik announces that TECH Freire's Opening Celebration will take place on September 26, 2016 at the school building, and reviews possible guest speakers for the event with the Board.

10:21 am, meeting adjourned.