



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 13, 2019

Minutes

Location: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board Members Present: David Bryant, William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine (via phone), Scott Solomon

Others: Paul Archibald, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein (via phone), Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick (via phone), Beth Packel, Lorraine White, Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Devan Diaz, Paul Holt, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Maurice Roberts, Dave Shahriari, Hillary Sorin, John Vargas, Chris Zagacki

The meeting is called to order at 8:05 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment

II. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from December 12, 2018
 - i. The Board of Directors review the minutes from December 12, 2018.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the minutes. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Minutes from February 4, 2019
 - i. The Board of Directors review the minutes from February 4, 2019.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the minutes. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Authorization of Insurance Broker
 - i. Max Matthews asks the Board to authorize Build the Future to select a new insurance broker better versed in Charter School Law.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Policy 105 – Closure Procedure
 - i. Max Matthews explains that the closure policy is a requirement of the CSP Grant and restates the statutory requirements in the event that TECH Freire Charter School permanently closed. In addition to the policy, there is a multi-page procedure that outlines the required steps of a closure.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.

- iii. David Bryant, William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Policy 225 – Married, Pregnant, and Parenting Students
 - i. Max Matthews explains the Married, pregnant, and Parenting Students policy which is best practice to stay in compliance with Title IX legislation. Max offers deeper clarification on tutoring and at-home requirements for pregnant students on maternal leave.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. Dave Bryant, William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

III. School Report

- a. Student Update
 - i. No Student Update
- b. Staff Member Update
 - i. No Staff Member Update
- c. Heads Report
 - i. January 2019 Data Packet
 - 1. Dave Shahriari reviews the SPR scores for TECH Freire which show TECH placed 7th out of 14 comparable schools. The SPR score also shows that TECH placed 39th out of 83 schools in Philadelphia.
 - 2. Dave shares college application numbers with the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Teryn Thomas shares that TECH Freire recently opened a Reflection Room as a way to help curb student code of conduct issues. Students that are removed from class are taken directly to the Reflection Room and work with a school dean. TECH has noticed a drop in out-of-classroom incidents since the Reflection Room opened.
 - ii. Charter Renewal & CSO Site Visit Update
 - 1. The Charter Office has conducted two visits of TECH Freire since December. Dave notes the first visit was very challenging and there are numerous areas of improvement. The second visit was much stronger and was more effective at showcasing the use of technology within the school.
 - 2. TECH Freire is confident they will be renewed.
- d. Landlord Refinancing – SNDA Estoppel Certificate
 - i. Kelly Davenport explains the purpose for TECH Freire Charter School to hold a SNDA Estoppel Certificate. No vote needed.
- e. CSO Grant Update
 - i. Lisa Hoffstein - Letter of Support
 - 1. Gerald Escovitz shares Lisa Hoffstein's Grant Support Letter with the Board. The letter was wonderfully written and is a beautiful reflection of the Freire Network.
 - ii. CMO CSP Abstract & Grant Summary
 - 1. Max explains that the CMO CSP Grant offers \$1.5 Million per grant as seed funding for new charter schools within a highly performing charter network, as well as \$750k for the charter support organization. The grant would allow Freire Philadelphia and Freire Wilmington to expand into additional grades.

IV. Financials

- a. December 2018 Financial Dashboard

- i. Bill Ray reviews the December Financial Dashboard for TECH Freire Charter School. Bill notes that TECH Freire currently has well over 30 days of cash on hand. Bill notes that special education enrollment is roughly 20% of the school's overall student enrollment.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Update
 - i. Fundraising Update
 - 1. Hillary Soring updates the Board on current fundraising efforts throughout the network. The network still needs an additional \$360k in unrestricted funds. Hillary shares that she has recently met with the head of the Comcast Foundation to discuss a potential grant opportunity.
 - 2. Hillary has been working closely with Bruce Lesser on a Brinker Capital multi-year ask.
 - ii. Brigitte and William Daniel have agreed to be the 2019 Bridge to Wisdom Honorees. The Daniels owned the only African American cable company in the region until a recent merge with Comcast.

VI. Board Committees

- i. Education Committee
 - 1. Board Survey Report
 - a. Leigh Botwinik shares that the education committee has been tasked with tracking special education enrollment and retention across the network.
- ii. Audit Committee
 - 1. The Board compliments Bill Ray for his work throughout the audit processes for all network entities this year.
- iii. 403(b) Committee
 - 1. No update at this time.
- iv. Safety/Property Committee
 - 1. Workers Compensation Claim
 - a. Max Matthews shares that TECH Freire received two workers compensation claims last year. Max is reviewing if the Safety Committee should be doing more to educate the staff on safe practices. and take preventative measure to avoid further occurrences.
 - 2. Lead Testing
 - a. TECH Freire Charter School conducted lead testing in 2016 and found no instances of lead in the building. According to the School District Code, schools are required to test lead in the water every five year.

VII. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interests
 - i. The Board is asked to complete a statement of financial interest for the 2018 calendar year before May 1, 2019.
- b. Act 55 Board Training Requirements

A new law passed requiring Board Members to take an Act 55 training before the 2021-2022 school year. All Board Members are required to participate in a 2-hour training session.

The meeting is adjourned at 10:17 AM