



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 12, 2019

Minutes

Location: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board Members Present: David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon

Other: Paul Archibald (via phone), Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Travis Edwards, Gerald Escovitz, Kait Ginder, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Beth Packer (phone), Bill Ray, Maurice Roberts, Teryn Thomas, Lorraine White, Chris Zagacki

The meeting is called to order at 8:09 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment

II. Executive Session

- i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to enter executive session. David Bryant seconds.
- ii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- iii. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:11 AM to plan and review records related to the school's emergency preparedness plan and the protection of public safety and security.
- iv. The Board of Directors exit executive session at 8:59 AM.

III. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from Recent Board Meetings
 - i. The Board of Directors review the minutes from the April 10, April 25, May 13, and May 17 Board Meetings.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Reelection of Board Officers
 - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to reelect Scott Solomon as Board Chair, David Bryant as Vice Chair and Treasurer, and Dawn Eubanks as Secretary for the TECH Freire Charter School Board of Directors. Paul Archibald seconds.
 - ii. The Board of Directors reviews those officers. 3 members. Scott Solomon as Chairman, Dawn Eubanks as Secretary, David Bryant as Vice-Chair and Treasurer.
 - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the reappointment of Board Officers. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iv. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. 2019-20 Board Meeting Schedule
 - i. The Board of Directors review the proposed Board Meeting Dates for the 2019-2020 School Year. The Board agrees to reschedule the October 9, 2019 Board Meeting in observance of Yom Kippur. The Board proposes that joint Board Meetings alternate the meeting location between Freire Middle School and TECH Freire.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve the schedule with the proposed changes. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

- d. Adoption of 2019-20 School Calendar
 - i. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve the 2019-20 School Calendar for TECH Freire Charter School. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - ii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Schoolwide Plan
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the updated Schoolwide Plan for the 2018-2019 School Year. The Schoolwide Plan is a requirement to receive Title 1 funding.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Student Handbook Policy Amendments
 - i. Max Matthews shares that the policy amendments within the student handbook help clarify the separation between which aspects of the handbook are procedural verses policy.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- g. Policy 112 – Amended Conflict of Interest Policy
 - i. Max Matthews explains that the conflict of interest policy has been rewritten under the guidance of the school’s legal counsel. The policy better reflects the ethics act and includes special provisions for the charter school law.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- h. Policy 114 – Amended Whistleblower Protection
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the amendments made to Policy 114, which closer align the policy with Pennsylvania Whistleblower Law through the help of the school’s legal counsel.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- i. Policy 250 – Amended Admissions Policy for 2019-2020
 - i. Max Matthews explains the amendments to the admissions policy relevant to students who will be starting school in Fall 2019. The changes reflect recommendations from the Charter Schools Office to remove grade level placement for new students, accepting any student into a grade based on their previous promotion at another school.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- j. Policy 250 – Admissions Policy for 2020-2021
 - i. Max Matthews reminds the Board that they must approve the admissions policy every year, including the proposed dates for the admissions lottery and other aspects of the admissions timeline.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- k. Policy 523 – Amended Contract Review and Monitoring Policy
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the amended changes to Policy 523 which charge the Head of School to develop and implement contract review and monitoring procedures pursuant to the policy.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- l. FY 2020 Budget Approval
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed FY 2020 Budget. Bill notes the capitation rate has been release for the coming year and is reflected in the budget proposal. The personnel costs for the school are increasing by 15% while health insurance premiums decreased.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.

- iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- m. Unrestricted Donation Approval
 - i. Bill Ray shares that the Freire Foundation has approved donations to the school of up to \$100,000 in unrestricted funds. The donation represents the school's budgeted unrestricted fundraising for the 2018-19 school year.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- n. EITC Donation Approval
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed donation of \$36,277 in EITC funds. These funds are split between the Philadelphia campuses. Out of a \$51,277 EITC Donation, Freire Charter School only has \$15,000 of eligible EITC spending. This proposed donation allocates the remaining EITC funds to TECH Freire. These funds must be transferred to the school before June 30, 2019.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- o. Lease Reimbursement
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the Lease Reimbursement Application which is a requirement of the state of Pennsylvania for all buildings being utilized as a school.
 - ii. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- p. Approval of New Check Signers
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the authorized check signs with the Board. Bill proposes removing the former Head of School as an eligible check signer and adding the Head of School for Culture as a new check signer.
 - ii. Bruce L makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- q. Approval of Proposed 5th Floor Renovations
 - i. Johnny Mills explains the plan to renovate the 5th floor including 5 additional classrooms. 4th Floor makerspace will be reopened, and a computer lab will be added. Bill Ray explains how the current financial ratios allow for a comfortable cushion to allocate funds for the short-term and long-term construction.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- r. PDE E-Signature for Charles Ware
 - i. Max reviews the allows PDE e-signature form for the new Head of School for TECH Freire Charter School, Charles Ware.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- s. CW Educational Services Agreement
 - i. The Board of Directors proposes a settlement amount agreed upon in Executive Session for the CW Educational Services Agreement.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

IV. School Report

- a. Student Council Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- b. Staff Member Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- c. Alumni Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- d. Heads Report

- i. Teryn Thomas shares that TECH Freire has developed a plan for the upcoming school year that ensures a climate conducive to the success of our students. Teryn highlights a recent push to increase communication with parents. This additional communication has been well received by TECH Freire staff and families.
- ii. Kelly Davenport expresses her gratitude toward Teryn in her work with building the overall atmosphere at TECH Freire during this transition period.
- iii. May Data Packet
 - 1. Leigh Botwinik shares that TECH's May student attendance is similar to this time last year. Leigh also notes that the number of students with 30 days or more of consecutive attendance has increased to 6%.
 - 2. Although suspensions are higher than this time last year, Teryn and the culture team at TECH are working on new approaches to support students and decrease negative student behavior.
- e. College Report
 - 1. Travis Edwards, the Director of College Counseling at TECH Freire, shares that there are 68 students in the Class of 2019, TECH Freire's first graduating class. Travis notes that 85.3% of students plan to attend college in the fall, with over half of those students planning to attend a 4-year college or university.
 - 2. Overall, the first graduating class of TECH Freire raised over \$1.5 million in scholarship and aid funds.
- f. MCSO Application Update
 - i. Max Matthews shares that the Board of Education will be holding a special Board Meeting on Thursday, June 13 to vote on the Freire Charter Merger Application. The expectation is for the Board to deny the merger application.

V. Financials

- a. April 2019 Financial Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the April Financial Dashboard for TECH Freire Charter School. Bill notes that TECH Freire is finishing the school year financially strong. The school is expected to exceed all financial ratios.

VI. Advancement

- a. Fundraising Update
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that, as of last Friday, there was still an additional \$47,000 needed to raise in order to meet the fundraising goal for the year. Freire exceeded their projected EITC donations and received a number of private grants over the previous months.
- b. JOMO Update
 - i. Last year, Summer Uptown, a fundraiser in support of the Freire Network, cost \$107,000 to produce. This event raised \$341,000 in donations. This year, Freire hosted a non-event, JOMO (Joy of Missing Out), which cost \$6,000 to produce and brought in around \$422,000 in donations.
 - ii. The Freire Network anticipates a few additional donors contributing before the end of the fiscal year. These donors will be engaged over the coming weeks.

VII. Board Committees

- a. Education Committee
 - i. An Education Committee update will be shared in September.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. Bill Ray shares that audits will take place over the summer months.
- c. 403(b) Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- d. Safety Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.

VIII. Governance

- a. Updated Board Self-Evaluation Results
 - i. The Board reviews the self-evaluation results from the recent survey. Scott Solomon highlights the need for more robust fundraising among board members. The Board agrees that there is a need for greater diversity on the TECH Freire Board.
- b. Build the Future Evaluation

- i. Gerald Escovitz shares that the Build the Future Evaluation was positive and applauds the Build the Future team for their continued dedication and hard work. Scott Solomon echoes this sentiment.
- c. Resignation of Kelly Davenport
 - i. The Board recognizes Kelly Davenport's resignation and thanks her for service to TECH Freire.

The meeting is adjourned at 11:06 AM