



# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020 | 8 AM**  
**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

**Board Members Present:** William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon

**Others Present:** Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Travis Edwards (TECH Freire Staff), Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Tammy Khieu, Roger Kilgerman (Charter School Office), Raquel Leach, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Lauren Plaxa (Freire Charter High School Staff), Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Biridiana Rodriguez (Charter School Office), Teryn Thomas, Cameron Voss (Charter School Office), Charles Ware, Lorraine White, Honeyeh Younesie (TECH Freire Student), Andrea Zepp

8:04 AM, Meeting Start

## I. Public Comment

- a. The Board takes a moment to honor George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement, and all those lost to police brutality. Freire Schools is actively planning ways to address both conscious and unconscious racism and white privilege within the network.
- b. Elana Adams and Shonda McCants introduce themselves to the board. They are both potential parent representatives for the Board of TECH Freire Charter School.
- c. Roger Kilgerman, Biridiana Rodriguez, and Camreon Voss, members of the Charter Schools Office, introduce themselves to the board and share that they will be observing the board meeting as a part of TECH Freire's charter renewal process.

## II. COVID Working Group

- a. 2020-21 School Calendar
  - i. Max Matthews shares that the board is required to approve the school calendar annually.
  - ii. Scott Solomon makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Emergency Delegation of Authority
  - i. Max Matthews explains that the Emergency Delegation of Authority would delegate the necessary authority to the Heads of School to take any action listed in the resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that all actions are approved by the CEO of Freire Schools Collaborative and the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.
  - ii. Scott Solomon makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

## III. Executive Session

- a. The board proposes to hold an executive session in the coming weeks to discuss the Head of School evaluations and the school safety report. Olivia Burgess will connect with the TECH Freire and Freire Charter School boards later this week to reschedule.

## IV. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on April 8, 2020
  - i. The board reviews the minutes from the board meeting on April 8, 2020.
  - ii. Scott Solomon makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.

- iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Election of TECH Freire Charter School Board Officers
  - i. Max Matthews reviews the proposed election of board officers to the TECH Freire Board: William Brinkman as Treasurer, Dawn Eubanks as Secretary, Bruce Lesser as Vice Chair. David Bryant will step down as a TECH Freire Board Member. Gerald Escovitz was recently voted onto the TECH Freire Board of Directors effective July 1, 2020.
  - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. 2020-21 Board Meeting Schedule
  - i. Scott Solomon reviews the 2020-2021 board meeting schedule.
  - ii. Scott Solomon make a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. TECH Freire Charter School Charter Contract
  - i. Max Matthews reviews the resolution to authorize execution of TECH Freire Charter School's Charter Contract. The vote would be to authorize the execution and delivery of the Charter Agreement provided by the Charter Schools Office in September 2019.
  - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- e. Resolution to Oppose Changes to Charter Funding Formula
  - i. Max Matthews shares that Governor Wolf has proposed charter school funding cuts that would greatly impact both Freire Charter School and TECH Freire Charter School.
  - ii. The resolution up for approval would strongly oppose and condemn the proposed changes, any accompanying legislation, and urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly to reject the dangerous and destructive cuts being proposed.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz and William Brinkman ask about the impact these cuts, and COVID-19, could have on cyber charters. Max shares that any potential impacts on cyber charters as a whole has not been publicly addressed.
  - iv. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - v. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- f. Policy 205 -Admissions Policy for 2020-21
  - i. The board agrees that the changes made in the 2020-21 Admissions Policy are covered under the previously approved Emergency Delegation of Authority for the Head of School. The board does not feel a vote is required for changes made to the current year admissions policy.
- g. Policy 205 -Admissions Policy for 2021-22
  - i. Max Matthews reviews the proposed 2021-2022 Admissions Policy, including the amendment to allow the school to amend any admissions deadline in case of an emergency.
  - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Admissions Policy. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- h. FY 2021 Budget Approval
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed FY 2021 Budget and discusses the impact COVID-19 and distance learning will have on the budget moving forward.
  - ii. Scott Solomon makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- i. Lease Reimbursement
  - i. Bill Ray explains that the board is required to approve TECH Freire's PDE-418 (Lease Reimbursement) forms annually. The 2019-20 forms are not yet available but will be identical to the 2018-2019 form and updated to reflect the rent payments made by the school during the

current year. For 2019-2020, two forms will be completed, the first for Building Hope Broad Street and the second for Future Wings Holding Company, TECH Freire's new landlord.

- ii. Scott Solomon makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubank seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes and no abstentions.
- j. Unrestricted Donation
- i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed unrestricted donation from Freire Charter School Foundation to TECH Freire Charter School. The proposed donation represents the School's budgeted unrestricted fundraising for the 2019-20 school year.
  - ii. Scott Solomon makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- k. Academic & Business Services Agreement, Freire Schools
- i. The board reviews the Academic & Business Services Agreement between Freire Schools and TECH Freire Charter School. Max Matthews notes that the proposed term of this agreement aligns with TECH Freire's current charter term.
  - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, David Bryant, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

## V. Financials

- a. April 2020 Financial Report
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the April Financial Report. Bill notes that the only significant purchase since the COVID-19 closure were the Chromebooks for each student. Overall, the school generated a surplus of approximately \$200,000 due to the COVID-19 closure and move to online learning.

## VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the advancement committee met back in April and decided to cancel any in-person or online fundraising event for the year due to COVID-19. Melanie also shares that Freire Schools has exceeded both the restricted and unrestricted donation goals for the year.
  - ii. TECH Freire's FY 2020 board giving is currently at 71%. Melanie encourages all those who have not given or who have not fulfilled their pledges to do so before the end of the fiscal year.
- b. Talking Points
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares that Selena Castro, Recruitment Coordinator for Freire Schools, has successfully filled 94% of hiring vacancies network-wide for the upcoming school year. Currently, 100% of Philadelphia positions are filled for the 2020-2021 School Year. One major hiring goal was to increase the total number of applicants who identify as Black/POC to at least 40%. This year 61.8% of applicants identified as Black/POC.
  - ii. While engaging students in video-based therapy has been challenging, Freire's Emotional Supports Team was able to provide individual therapy to approximately 115 students during the COVID-19 closure.

## VII. School Report

- a. Senior Update, Honeyeh Younesie
  - i. Scott Solomon introduces Honeyeh Younesie. Honeyeh is a graduating senior from TECH Freire and will be attending American University for Neuroscience in the fall. Honeyeh states she was very shy when her family came to America. When she enrolled at TECH Freire she had no knowledge of how to speak English. Honeyeh worked hard and overcame her shyness and is now fluent in English. Honeyeh takes a moment to thank her teachers and academic advisors.
- b. Staff Update, Travis Edwards
  - i. TECH College Report
    - 1. Travis Edwards, Director of School Counseling, shares that TECH Freire saw a 3% increase in college/university applications over last year. To date, 50% of seniors have been accepted to a college or university. Overall, the total percentage of seniors graduating this year is 94%.
- c. Heads Report
  - i. Charles Ware share that in quarter 4, TECH Freire staff knew they had to up their game to keep students engaged and to finish out the year strong. Teachers ensured that students were

learning each week and that strong relationships with the students were maintained. TECH Freire also found that students were yearning to come together in nonacademic settings.

- ii. June 2020 Data Packet
  - 1. Leigh Botwinik shares that Freire had to reconceptualized how to track metrics such as attendance and participation to better represent student involvement in distance learning. Student attendance was measured by how many students turned in at least one assignment per day. During week 4 of distance learning, TECH Freire saw student attendance increase to 79%, over 68% in week 2.
- iii. Class of 2020 Graduation Ceremony
  - 1. Charles Ware shares that TECH Freire is pushing graduation back to July 29, 2020 and are hoping that restrictions will be lifted so each student can walk across a stage.
- d. Freire Schools Commitment to Anti-Racist Action
  - i. Kelly Davenport shares that the entire network will be reading a book around racial justice and asks the board to participate in this reading. More information will be shared with the schools, staff, and board members as additional details are planned.
  - ii. Scott Solomon shares that he does not want this anti-racist action statement to be a reaction to the current situation facing our country but rather a sustained movement within the Freire community.

## **VIII. Governance**

- a. Freire Schools Evaluation
  - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the Freire Schools Evaluation noting that responses were submitted from board members and school leaders across the network. The survey sections mirror the services agreement signed by both Freire Schools and each Freire Campus.
- b. Resignation of David Bryant
  - i. Scott Solomon shares that David Bryant has resigned his position as a board member of TECH Freire.

11:18 AM, Meeting Adjourned