



## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 | 8 AM**

**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

**MEETING ID: 872 3017 3232 | PASSWORD: 749788**

**Board Members Present:** William Brinkman, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Dawn Eubanks, Scott Solomon, Dior Fields, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Royster

**Others Present:** Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Joseph Hargrave (Freire Charter School Parent), Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Max Matthews, Kevin McCoy (TECH Freire Student), Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Rayna Vinson (Freire Charter School Staff), Jonathan Walker (TECH Freire Staff), Charles Ware, Lorraine White, Nakiyah White (Freire Charter School Student), Chris Zagacki

Meeting start, 8:06 AM

### I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

### II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on August 4, 2020
  - i. The board reviews the minutes from August 4, 2020.
  - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Gerald Escovitz, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Approve 2020-21 Title I Schoolwide Plan
  - i. Max Matthews shares the Schoolwide Title 1 School Plan with the Board. The Board is required to approve this plan annually for TECH Freire to receive Title 1 funding for the coming year.
  - ii. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Gerald Escovitz, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Approve Children's Internet Protection Act Policy
  - i. Max Matthews explains the Children's Internet Protection Act Policy, a requirement by law for receiving Title I funds and the federal technology grant. The policy prevents students from accessing explicit or harmful content through the internet. With learning currently virtual, Freire Schools has taken additional steps to ensure that all student Chromebooks have the proper protections and monitoring software installed.
  - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Gerald Escovitz, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. CSO Addendum III – Director of Learning & Innovation
  - i. Bill Ray shares that the proposed CSO Addendum is a one-year addendum to support Paul Ramirez, Freire Schools new Director of Digital Learning and Innovation, with all things technology and instruction related as Freire moves to a virtual learning environment. This position is funded through the CARES Act and is essentially budget neutral for the schools.
  - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Gerald Escovitz, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### III. Financials

- a. June 30, 2020 Financial Report
  - i. Bill Ray shares that TECH Freire ended the year with \$1.24 million of cash on hand (54 days of cash on hand). The school is required to hold at least 45 days of cash on hand.
  - ii. TECH Freire is expected to receive an overall rating of “meets standard” for financial health in its upcoming charter renewal.
  - iii. Bill further reviews the June 2020 financial report.
- b. Audit Update
  - i. Bill Ray shares that the initial audits were completed over the summer and Freire is expected receive draft audit reports by mid-October. Final numbers must be submitted to PDE by October 31, 2020.

### IV. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares that in FY20, Freire Schools raised \$435,000 which is \$35,000 above the fundraising goal for the year. Unrestricted fundraising for last year included 66 new donors.
  - ii. Melanie shares that the Advancement Committee will meet on September 29 to discuss the fundraising plan for the FY21 with respect to the current pandemic. Additionally, the advancement team is working on changing outreach language to be more asset based instead of deficit based, in line with Freire’s commitment to anti-racism work.
- b. Political Landscape Report
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the Speaker of the House Mike Turzai retired – causing a shake-up in House leadership and losing the biggest charter champion in the legislature.
  - ii. In August, Freire met with Janelle Lynch, Policy Director to new House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff. The conversation was largely to introduce Freire Schools and explain our COVID response. Freire has offered to provide the brick and mortar charter voice in any upcoming policy issues.
  - iii. From all legislative officials Freire has met with over the summer, it is evident that charter reform and the Governor’s proposed charter special education cuts are not seriously being considered at this time.
  - iv. In a show of solidarity with the city, Freire joined the PHLConnected program to provide free WiFi (via Comcast) for up to two years to our families at greatest need.
- c. Talking Points
  - i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points with the board.

### V. School Report

- a. Heads Report
  - i. Charles Ware shares that teacher office hours and advisory are beginning to help the new students form bonds with fellow classmates. However, since things are virtual, the relationships are forming slower than when in person.
  - ii. August 2020 Data Packet
    1. Leigh Botwinik shares that the data packet reviews the average daily attendance for each campus throughout the first three weeks of school.
    2. Charles shares that, although TECH Freire has not started home visits, the school is practicing three contact points with students if they are not present for a class during the day. These contact points include text messages, phone calls, and email. The school is taking a very targeted approach to student outreach to help combat absences.
  - iii. The board discusses additional student supports, including food pick up for students. Currently, TECH Freire is a food pick up site for all Philadelphia Freire schools. Freire Middle School is looking at becoming a food pick up site if there is sufficient parental interest.
- b. Anti-Racist Efforts
  - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire has partnered with Just Instruction to participate in anti-racist training. Currently 40 leaders across the network are participating in the training over 12 training days. Starting next year, the training will be expanded to the larger Freire community.
  - ii. The board discusses how to address racial justice and anti-racist efforts throughout the schools, including within the school’s curriculum.
- c. TECH Façade Update

- i. Max Matthews shares that TECH Freire's façade work is on schedule. Once the team began working, they noticed the front façade of the school was in worse condition than expected. Project completion is anticipated for November, with scaffolding coming down before the winter.
  - d. Student Update
    - i. Kevin McCoy, a current senior at TECH Freire, shares that the teachers at TECH Freire have learned how to be more interactive over virtual learning since last spring. Kevin shares that the positive and negative of virtual learning is that he is comfortable in his home and his space but he also finds that he can become too comfortable in his own space.
    - ii. Kevin shares that students are doing a good job of supporting one another through group chats, video calls, and social media. Kevin shares that his dream college is NYU.
  - e. Staff Update
    - i. Johnathan Walker, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Math teacher at TECH Freire, shares that even though everything is virtual, he feels connected and engaged with his students. He, along with his co-teacher, stay engaged with the students and the students respond with the same level of engagement.
    - ii. Johnathan shares that students are building community even virtually. Johnathan notes that cameras are required for students during synchronous class periods.

## VI. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
  - i. Education Committee Report
    - 1. Leigh Botwinik reviews the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CPRE) report with the Board which compared the reopening plans of 106 school.
- b. Audit Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- c. 403(b) Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- d. Safety Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.

10:21 AM, adjourned