



TECH FREIRE

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 14, 2020 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 840 9802 8857 | PASSWORD: 819428

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Charles Ware

Start 8:05am

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no comment.

II. COVID Reopening*

- a. Kelly Davenport shares a plan to open the school for special education/high need students through small group in-person hybrid instruction. Students would be allowed to enter the school by grade one day a week and participate in online learning along with a staff member and a student services teacher.
- b. Bruce Lesser motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
- c. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on September 16, 2020 (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - i. Gerry Escovitz makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - ii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Slate of Staff with Salaries (*Attachment 3B*)*
 - i. Bruce Lesser asks if the schools have offered any raises to staff since last year. Bill Ray notes that no campus has raises this year due to COVID.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. 2020-2021 Textbook Review (*Attachment 3C*)*
 - i. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerry Escovitz seconds.
 - ii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. Financials

- a. August 2020 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)
 - i. Bill Ray shares TECH Freire School's cash on hand as of August 31, 2020 is \$1.18M. TECH Freire is projected to end the year with approximately \$1.31M, representing a \$78k increase from 6/30/20.
 - ii. Bill shares that based on historical enrollment trends, the School is projecting an average total enrollment of 483 students, which exceeds budgeted enrollment of 480. This projection assumes no backfilling. Bill states his team will continue to closely monitor enrollment to determine what impact remote learning has on attrition.
- b. Audit Update

- i. Bill Ray notes that all fieldwork has been completed for the annual audits. To date, there are no findings or concerns. Draft reports should be received by the end of next week.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5A*)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the Advancement Committee of the joint boards met a few weeks ago and decided to set a more ambitious fundraising target for the year, with a network-wide fundraising goal of \$525k. The committee agreed to hold on scheduling any fundraising event until after the election.
 - ii. Instead of participating in Giving Tuesday, Freire Schools wants to begin a fall fundraising push in the coming weeks that focuses both on Freire Schools' COVID response and anti-racism work.
- b. Political Landscape Report
 - i. Melanie shares that Freire Schools leadership recently met with Representative Johanna McClinton, a representative for West Philadelphia, who is perceived as a charter advocate. Rep. McClinton shared that charter reform is not on the horizon
 - ii. Representative Jordan Harris recently shared that the state anticipates a \$5.5 billion deficit for the coming year due to COVID-19.
 - iii. Kelly Davenport shares that Friday morning there will be a short press event taking place in front of Freire High School on Chestnut Street to introduce the new Executive Director of PCPCS (Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools), Lenny McAllister.
- c. Talking Points (*Attachment 5B*)
 - i. Melanie reviews the talking points with the board noting that Freire Middle School and TECH Freire are now serving as meal distribution sites two days a week for any student under 18 years old. Families can stop by at either campus, or any other distribution site in the city, to pick up a week's worth of meals for each student living in their household.

VI. School Report

- a. Façade/Building Report
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares the façade is coming along and should be done before the first snow fall.
- b. Student Update
 - i. There is no student update at this time.
- c. Staff Update
 - i. There is no staff update at this time.
- d. Heads Report
 - i. Charles Ware shares three things his team has been focused on this year: student attendance, how to effectively support the students in virtual learning, and how to build relationships/community with the students virtually.
 - ii. TECH Freire is holding Student Council Elections this week and the speeches have been broadcasted during advisory. Charles also shares parents are struggling virtually as well, his team has planned to have parents come in and get some one-on-one sessions to help them understand their child's schedule.
 - iii. September 2020 Data Report (*Attachment 6*)
 - Leigh Botwinik shares that the September 2020 Data Packet is entirely based on attendance. Leigh shares that the students are operate under both a synchronous and asynchronous class schedule. Student attendance is only taken during synchronous classes since asynchronous time is focused on students completing individual work.
 - Leigh shares that assignment completion is tracked by looking at the total amount of work assigned to students compared to the number of assignments turned in and complete. Recent checkpoints to mark the data occurred in September and in October. Freire High School has been focused on "mastery skill" which is when the teachers look at the progression of the student's skill in each subject.
- e. Anti-Racism Update
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire Schools is currently developing 40 leaders across the network through anti-racist training facilitated by Just Instruction. Kelly shares that the training is challenging but incredibly powerful. Kelly notes that the end product from this training will hopefully be a place with less pain for staff of color and more equity for the students across Freire

Schools.

- ii. The board asks specifics about how the training is conducted. As of right now, there is no plan to include the board in these trainings due to cost. Once the initial 40 leaders complete the training, the plan is to open up the program to all staff members across the network.

VII. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. There is not update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned 9:52am