



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, John Brown (Freire High School Staff), Joseph Hargrove, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Zholie Fashina-Lawrence (TECH Freire Student), Raquel Leach, Maxwell Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Jackie Nunery, Beth Packel, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Ben Wainwright, Jamie Weiss, Lorraine White, Asia Wilkerson (Freire High School Student), Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8:01 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on December 16, 2020
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the December 16, 2020 Board Meeting.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

- a. Heads Report
 - i. Jamie Weiss, the Director of School Operations at TECH Freire, shares the college initiatives taking place at TECH Freire this year. Jamie shares the academic team has worked to set up eight university and HBCU college fairs and the advisors have been preparing students for the application process, interview questions and financial aid/scholarship opportunities.
 - ii. Jamie notes that, to date, 43 TECH Freire students have received acceptance letters.
- b. January 2021 Data Packet
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the January 2021 Data Packet with the board and explains each of the five key domain metrics in depth. The data packet measures school performance in the following areas: achievement, progress, attendance, college, and teacher recruitment/retention.
- c. Staff Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- d. Student Update
 - i. Zholie Fashina-Lawrence, a current senior and the Vice President of Student Council at TECH Freire, shares why Black History Month is important to the students and staff. She states how Black History Month should be taught throughout the year to all grade levels due to the impact it has on the identity of most black and brown students.
 - ii. Zholie shares that TECH Freire has done a wonderful job celebrating Black History Month with students through talent shows, door decorating contests, and inviting other PA schools to participate in joint activities.
- e. Anti-Racism Update
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that Freire Schools network has been committed to training over 40

network leaders through Just Instruction.

- ii. Leigh notes that the training has spurred additional work within each campus to reexamine practices that could allow for unintentional racial biases including within hiring, performance reviews, curriculum, etc.

f. COVID Update

i. COVID Operations and Relief Funding Summary

- Jackie Nunery reviews the relief funding breakdown and how the funds have been spent by the schools. All schools in the network are beginning to transition to small group instruction specifically targeted to students with the most need.
- As soon as more information about vaccines is available, the schools will update the staff and board. Jackie asks the board to share any possible connections to doctors and medical workers of color who could participate in a vaccine panel with parents across the network.

ii. COVID Testing Overview

- Jackie Nunery shares that Freire Schools is still working on securing a vendor for COVID tests that could be used in the school buildings. In Philadelphia, if there is a positive test in a class, the entire class must be quarantined.

g. Façade/Building Update

- i. Max Matthews shares that TECH Freire's recent façade work has been completed on the front of the building, however, the contractor is still working on the back of the building and has been delayed due to the cold weather.

IV. Advancement

a. Advancement Report

- i. Melanie Reiser shares Freire Schools has raised \$121,860 in donations and pledges toward the network-wide goal of \$525,000 in unrestricted fundraising (\$125,000 for each Philadelphia campus; \$150,000 for Wilmington), leaving \$403,140 remaining to raise by June 30, 2021. Freire Schools has received \$81,000 in EITC donations which support after school, summer programs, maker space learning.
- ii. Melanie shares that Freire Schools will be holding a cultivation event on March 18, 2021 at 8 AM. This event will be a virtual coffee hour with students from each of the Philadelphia campuses.

b. Political Landscape Report

- i. Melanie Reiser shares that last week her team met with State Representative Martina White and State Representative Bullock to discuss charter school reform and how both can become stronger charter school allies.

c. Talking Points

- i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points and notes all campuses have been pushing the Cameras On initiative. The Cameras On initiative is focused on having all student faces visible during virtual learning. Before this initiative started, only 36% of students had cameras on during class and of those only 10% of students were visible in the Zoom camera frame.

V. Financials

a. December 2020 Financial Report

- i. Ben Wainwright shares TECH Freire's cash on hand as of December 31, 2020 is \$1,770,000. TECH Freire is projected to end the year with \$1,400,000, which represents approximately 52 days of cash on hand. TECH needs a minimum of 40 days of cash on hand by June 30, 2021 and 45 days every June 30th thereafter to meet its bond agreement.

- ii. Ben also shares that TECH Freire is projecting an average total of enrollment of 505 students, which exceeds budgeted enrollment. TECH Freire's special education enrollment is currently at 106, which exceeds the budget by 1 student.
- iii. Ben shares that the overall projected surplus of \$208,000 will exceed the budgets surplus by \$55,000. The \$55,000 surplus is available for any unexpected costs that cannot be covered by the COVID grants even though TECH Freire was awarded over \$433,000 in COVID grant funds from both federal and state sources.

VI. Governance

a. Statement of Financial Interest 2020

- i. Johnny Mills reminds the board to complete and submit their 2020 Statements of Financial Interests

VII. Board Committee Reports

a. Education Committee

- i. No update at this time.

b. Audit Committee

- i. No update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:05 AM