



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 16, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 864 7664 2211 | PASSWORD: 775593

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Oliva Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Gerald Escovitz, Kait Ginder, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Ben Moore, Chris Moore, Maxwell Matthews, Lynn McGinley, Beth Packel, Melanie Reiser, Heather Schafer, Teryn Thomas, Rayna Vinson, Charles Ware, Lorraine White, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Executive Session

- a. The board votes to go into Executive Session to discuss the Head of School Evaluation and the School Safety Report at 8:01 AM. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
- b. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shanda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. The board exits Executive Session at 8:36 AM.
- d. Review of May 12, 2021 Executive Session

III. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on April 14, 2021 (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - i. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - ii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Election of TECH Freire Charter School Board Officers (*Attachment 3B*)*
 - i. The Board reviews the list of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the renewal of board terms for TECH Freire as listed. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - ii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Policy 205 – Admissions Policy for 2022-23 (*Attachment 3C*)*
 - i. The board reviews Policy 205 for 2022-23.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. FY 2022 Budget Approval (*Attachment 3D*)*
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the FY 2022 TECH Budget noting a surplus of \$116,000 for FY 2022 after capital purchases and debt service payments. Based on the budget, TECH Freire will meet

- all financial bond covenants (Debt Service Coverage Ratio and Days with Cash on Hand).
- ii. TECH Freire will be planning to utilize the ESSR funds to build a new classroom space along with a gymnasium in the basement of the school, purchase curriculum supplies , new chrome books, and summer programming.
 - iii. Bill shares that in the next three years the ESSR Funds will deflate which will impact the Network Office and across the Freire campuses.
 - iv. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
 - v. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Lease Reimbursement (*Attachment 3E*)*
- i. Bill Ray shares the Board is required to annually approve the School's PDE- 418 lease Reimbursement Forms. The 2020-21 PDE-418 form is not yet available, but the Board is presented with the approved 2019-20 Lease Reimbursement Forms and the lease payments made in 2020-21.
 - ii. Bill asks the Board to approve the 2020-21 Lease Reimbursement Forms, identical to the 2019-20 forms, reflecting the rent payments made in 2020-21.
 - iii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iv. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Interim Non-Violence Policy (*Attachment 3F*)*
- i. Kelly Davenport shares the document is to show the importance of the concept of nonviolence and a commitment to peace in the educational program and strives to offer all students an education free from violence. This policy is designed to preserve the unique history of the information of Freire's nonviolence requirements and to outline how nonviolence and a commitment to peace interacts with other Board policies.
 - ii. Kelly introduces Lynn McGinley (Dean of Students for TECH Freire) and Rayna Vinson (Dean of Students for Freire High School) to explain the Interim to Non-Violence Policy further to the Board. Lynn notes the new policy will work to front-load resources for students to help them address conflict without resorting to physical violence.
 - iii. Kelly notes that the interim policy will help students deescalate conflicts before they turn violent, allowing for more restorative practices and student resources.
 - iv. Rayna notes that this policy change will help students come together as a stronger community and prepare them for life outside of Freire.
 - v. Kiara Allison shares that she would like to see a greater connection between the Non-Violence Policy and trauma informed policy. Kiara notes that when the original policy was drafted, we did not know as much about trauma or how it affects an individual's behavior.
 - vi. The Board discusses the proposed changes to the Non-Violence/Commitment to Peace Policy and how it will affect the school, culture, and lives of the students.
 - vii. The Bord will postpone voting on the Interim Non-Violence Policy. The Board agrees to meet on Tuesday, June 29 at 8:00 AM to further discuss the proposed policy changes.
- g. Proposed Donation – EITC
- i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed EITC donation from the Freire Foundation Board to TECH Freire Charter School. The proposed donation, of \$52,877, funds the actual FY 2021 expenses for two EITC approved programs.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes the motion to approve. Will Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- h. 2021-22 School Calendar Approval

- i. The board reviews the proposed 2021-22 School Calendar.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- i. TECH Freire Charter School Amendment & Business Services Agreement
- i. Kelly Davenport shares that the Network Office is proposing an increase in Freire Schools' fee to the schools. The new fee would be an increase from the current rate of 9.5% (8% fee with the addition of staff-specific contracts) to a 10% fee. An increase of 0.5%. This increase is built into the current FY 2022 budget proposal.
 - ii. Bill Ray shares that the Network Office estimates a significant drop in capitation rates in Philadelphia while the school district uses their ESSER funds. Because ESSER funds cannot be included in the network office fee percentage, the decrease in the capitation rate will impact the Network Office disproportionately compared to the schools.
 - iii. Dawn Eubanks proposes a motion to approve a modification to the Academic & Business Services Agreement, increasing the percentage paid to the Network Office to 10% for a term coterminous with the respective school's charter agreement. This modification also authorizes the Chair of the respective Board to sign, approve and execute such agreements with a mechanism to limit the amount paid to the Network Office in the instance that the school district's capitation rate increases to exceed, in excess, the amount paid to the Network Office through the approved Academic & Business Services Agreement.
 - iv. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Anthony Royster seconds.
 - v. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- j. Updated Health and Safety Plan
- i. Max Matthews shares that the ESSER III funding requires that Health and Safety Plans contain additional provisions related to learning acceleration and pandemic response. Additionally, the new plan notes that the Health and Safety Plan will be adjusted as new guidance comes out pertaining to pandemic response and individual safety.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- k. TECH Freire – TSI Plan
- i. Max Matthews shares that based on student performance on standardized testing in the past year, this plan is to ensure that TECH Freire will focus on increasing proficiency rates for all students, including students arriving at TECH Freire with scores/academic backgrounds below the aligned grade levels in all subjects.
 - ii. Max also ensures the board that TECH is working on developing a more robust MTSS program to provide students with better academic, behavioral, emotional and attendance support this year, TECH has also developed a 5 point plan to address and decrease the Keystone performance gap and to continue developing and integrating strong programming that will provide students with activities to satisfy the Career Education and Work Academic Standards.
 - iii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iv. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Shonda McCants, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.