



## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 29, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

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

Others Present: Adam Antonioli, Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Olivia Burgess, Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Malcolm Eleby (Director of Culture), Joseph Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Max Matthews, Lynn McGinley (Dean of Students), Ben Moore (Dean of Students/Cultural Leader), Beth Packel, Bill Ray, Heather Schaffer (Student Services Teacher), Charles Ware, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8:30 AM

### I. Resolutions

#### a. Interim Non-Violence Policy (*Attachment 3F*)\*

- i. The board recognizes the importance of the commitment to peace in the educational program and strives to offer all students an educational environment free from violence. Violence of any kind deprives students and staff of a safe environment for learning. This policy is designed to preserve the unique history of the formation of Freire's Nonviolence requirements and to outline how nonviolence and a commitment to peace interacts with other Board policies.
- ii. Malcolm Eleby, Ben Moore, and Lynn McGinley all agree with the flexibility of revisiting the Interim Non-Violence Policy at each board meeting.
- iii. David Bryant proposes that the board approve the updated Interim Non-Violence Policy subjects to the approval of council.
- iv. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Anthony Royster seconds.
- v. William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Anthony Royster are all in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### II. School Report

#### a. Lead Water Testing Results (*Attachment 4A*)

- i. Max Matthews shares that the Indoor Environmental Concepts LLC was retained by Freire Schools to perform an assessment and testing of the drinking water outlets servicing the TECH Freire Charter School for the presence of lead (Pb). The lead water testing was performed pursuant to the regulations and guidance documents from the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection having principal responsibility to administer the programs and activities of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- ii. Max shares in summary, the assessment and testing performed indicate that the lead levels of the drinking water outlets servicing the school currently meet federal and City of Philadelphia guidelines.

#### b. Heads Report

- i. Charles Ware shares that two weeks ago TECH Freire held graduation for the class of 2021. It was a successful in person event and all parents were appreciative of being able to celebrate their graduates.
- ii. Charles shares the various summer programs TECH will be hosting for the students will be in alignment with the other Freire campuses. Programs include various field trips such as yoga, painting and cooking classes.

iii. June 2021 Data Packet (*Attachment 4B*)

- Leigh Botwinik reviews the data packet with the board.

c. Staff Update

i. TECH College Report (*Attachment 4C*)

- Charles Ware reviews the college report with the board.
- Charles also shares that TECH Freire recently became an ACT site for the first time this year and that TECH has a 3-5 year plan to help implement AP courses more in the senior classes to prepare them for the last two years of school due to the curriculum being more college based.

d. Anti-Racism Update

i. Anti-Racism Overview (*Attachment 4D*)

- Max Matthews shares a road-block worksheet that explores roadblocks of racism that are present within our world and at Freire. The worksheet works to explore how to break down those roadblocks and the potential within each of our students.
- Max Matthews shares that during the collaboration with Rethic (formerly known as Just Instruction) over 40 leadership staff were given the opportunity to be trained and challenged on topics such as race, equity, diversity and inclusion.

ii. Freire Summer Work (*Attachment 4E*)

- Kelly Davenport shares that during the summer, over 250 staff members will be doing anti-racism homework. Kelly invites the board to participate in learning with the staff during the summer, even though it is not a requirement.

e. COVID Update

- i. Kelly Davenport shares that all Freire Schools campuses will return to in-person learning in the fall at full capacity. There will be a continuation of the mask mandate inside all Freire Schools campuses and there will be health checkpoints to ensure no outbreak has/will occur.

f. Façade/Building Update/Charter Renewal Update

- i. Max Matthews shares that TECH Freire was recommended for a 5-year charter renewal by the Charter Schools Office. The school is waiting on the Charter Office to send over the updated charter agreement.
- ii. Today is the final inspection date for the façade work that was recently completed at the school.

III. Advancement

a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5A*)

- i. Melanie Reiser shares Freire Schools has raised \$433,000 in unrestricted fundraising and is within \$2,000 of matching funds raised last year. The Advancement Committee is meeting on July 12 to discuss the possibility of having an in-person event in the fall.

b. Political Landscape Report

- i. Melanie shares that the General Assembly passed their budget on Friday which included a \$416 million increase in education funding. Governor Wolf shared that he would not rest until the state fixed the charter school law, however no charter school reform made it into the current legislation and will likely be revisited in the fall.
- ii. The State Senate recently approved new members to the Charter Review Board, two of them are likely sympathetic to charters and the other two are likely anti-charter. There are still two open spots on the Charter Review Board.
- iii. Melanie notes that Freire Schools has terminated the contract with Triad.

c. Talking Points

- i. Melanie Reiser reviews the Talking Points with the board.

IV. Financials

a. Financial Report (*Attachment 6*)

- i. Bill Ray shares that TECH Freire's cash on hand as of April 2021 is \$1.84M. TECH Freire is projected to end the year with \$1.60M. The drop in cash between April 30, 2021, and the end of the fiscal year is primarily due to a \$250,000 payment to complete the facade project.
- ii. TECH Freire is projected to end the year with a \$400,000 annual surplus, which exceeds the budgeted surplus of \$152,000.
- iii. TECH Freire plans to allocate a portion of this surplus to building out a gym space in the basement. This project is in the design phase and no contracts or commitments have been executed to date.
- iv. Bill shares TECH Freire's 5-year Outlook projected capitation rates are based on the School District of Philadelphia's actual FY 2022 rate and their 5-year projection presented at their May 2021 school

board meeting. Regular Education capitation rates are projected to drop significantly in FY 2023 (based on the district's 2022 budgeted expenditures). Rates are projected to slowly increase in FY 2024 and FY 2025 before returning to pre-pandemic levels by FY 2026. Bill noted his team will closely monitor these rates when updated financial data from the district is available.

- v. TECH Freire has been awarded \$5.6M of federal funds (ESSER-I, ESSER-II, and ESSER-III) available through 9/30/24. TECH Freire plans to use \$600k (FY 2023) and \$650k (FY 2024) to balance its budgets due to the drop-in capitation rates. All other funds will be available for supplemental costs in FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024. Additional funds can be allocated to fund additional deficits through FY 2024 if rate projections decrease.
- vi. TECH Freire is projected to return to a balanced budget by FY 2026 when capitation rates return to pre-pandemic levels. Bill notes that his team closely monitor these projections over the next 3 years.
- vii. TECH Freire's revenues are projected to exceed the budget by \$676,000. This is primarily due to total projected enrollment exceeding the budget enrollment by 29 students, special education enrollment is projected to exceed the budgeted by 3 students, and ESSER-I Funds of \$343,000 were not included in the original budget. These funds offset against supplemental expenses directly related to COVID.

#### V. Governance

- a. Freire Schools Annual Performance Evaluation (*Attachment 7*)
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that at the end of each year the Freire Schools Network Office requires all boards to participate in an annual performance evaluation survey.
  - ii. Leigh notes that there were a few requests from the boards around technology for students.
- b. Board Trainings & Clearances Reminder
  - i. Olivia Burgess notifies the board the deadline to turn in all clearances will be on June 30, 2021.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:41 AM