



## MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 885 1499 6632 | PASSWORD: 805940

**Board Members Present:** Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster

**Others Present:** Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Brian Brecher (Freire One Teacher), Dave Bryant, Olivia Burgess, Shivana Clark (TECH Freire Student), Kelly Davenport, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Holmes (TECH Freire Teacher), Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Chris Moore, Max Matthews, Beth Packel, Melanie Reiser, Heather Schafer, Charles Ware, Lorraine White, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8:11 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

II. Executive Session

- a. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to enter executive session. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
- b. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster all votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. The board enters Executive Session at 8:15 AM.
- d. The board exits Executive Session at 8:29 AM.

III. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 16, 2021 (Attachment 1A)\*
  - i. The board reviews the minutes from the June 16, 2021, Board Meeting.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, and Anthony Royster votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 29, 2021 (Attachment 1B)\*
  - i. The board reviews the minutes from the June 29, 2021, Board Meeting.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, and Anthony Royster votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Approve Children's Internet Protection Act Policy (Attachment 1C)\*
  - i. Max Matthews explains that the Children's Internet Protection Act Policy (CIPA) requires schools to have the appropriate software installed on all computers to prohibit students from accessing inappropriate or pornographic material. The board is required to annually approve this policy.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, and Anthony Royster votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. Emergency Instructional Time (Attachment 1D)\*
  - i. Max Matthews shares that the Department of Education requires that, if the school needs to shift to virtual learning mid-year, the school should have a board-approved plan for emergency instructional time. The board approved a similar policy for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, and Anthony Royster votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- e. Adopt a Transportation Policy (Attachment 1E)\*

- i. Max Matthews notes that the schools have never had school-specific transportation policies. Due to the pandemic, there is a significant shortage of transportation drivers. If the school district is unable to meet the transportation needs of TECH Freire Charter School, the transportation policy would empower the Head of School to make transportation-related decisions and incentives to ensure students arrive-to and depart-from school on time.
  - ii. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, and Anthony Royster votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- f. Settlement Agreement and Trust for Student KD (Attachment 1F)\*
- i. The Board discussed the settlement agreement during Executive Session.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. Gerald Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, and Anthony Royster votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

#### IV. School Report

- a. Student Update
  - i. Shivana Clark, current 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at TECH Freire, shares that the most exciting thing about the new school year is getting the chance to meet the teachers, make new friends, and start new classes. Shivana shares the COVID precautions at TECH are very simple and straightforward, TECH ensures the students wear masks and are using the sanitizing stations.
- b. Staff Update
  - i. Nicole Holmes, Algebra I teacher at TECH Freire, shares that there are great things happening at TECH Freire this year. Nicole shares on how she approaches teaching the new students and how she guides them through the curriculum.
- c. COVID Update
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that COVID has been “ever-present”. The schools have several precautions in place to ensure that they are safe environments for all the staff and students within the building, including weekly testing (for asymptomatic individuals), twice-weekly testing for unvaccinated students and staff, mask mandates within the building, and hiring a full-time testing coordinator.
  - ii. There have been a handful of cases within TECH Freire Charter however, all cases seem to have originated outside of the school building and there is no indication of community spread.
  - iii. Chares Ware shares they are testing up to 50-60 people a day, but only 4 students and 1 staff member have tested positive.
- d. Heads Report
  - i. Charles Wares states that COVID is the main concern at the moment. Charles shares that recently a school wide meeting was held to alleviate the anxiety and fear around the virus shared by some of the staff.
- e. TECH Façade Update
  - i. Max Matthews shares this is the final facade update to the board. The scaffolding over the front of TECH Freire has been renewed.

#### V. Financials

- a. June 2021 Financial Report (Attachment 2)
  - i. Bill Ray shares that TECH Freire ended the fiscal year with \$1,700,000 cash on hand which represents 64 days of cash on hand, an increase of \$470,000 from June 30, 2020. Approximately \$1,200,000 is needed to meet the TECH Freire’s 45 days cash on hand bond covenant.
  - ii. TECH Freire ended the year with an annual surplus of \$321,000, which exceeded the budgeted annual surplus of \$154,000 by \$167,000. Total revenues exceeded the budget by \$645,000, total operating expenses exceeded the budget by \$221,000, and total capital purchases exceeded the budget by \$257,000.
- b. Audit Update
  - i. Bill Ray notes a draft of the full audit report should be available in the coming weeks.

#### VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (Attachment 3A)

- i. Melanie Reiser shares that Freire Schools exceeded their fundraising goal of \$400,000 by \$37,000, raising a total of \$437,336. The Advancement team is looking to host a cultivation event at the start of the new calendar year.
- ii. The advancement team informs the board that, moving forward, the timeline for board pledging will ask board members to submit their pledges before December 31st each year. This will allow the advancement team to focus on external donors for the second half of the fiscal year.
- b. Political Landscape Report
  - i. Melanie provides the board with an update on the local political landscape, including current proposed legislation in the State House.
- c. Anti-Racism Update (Attachment 3B)
  - i. Melanie shares the *Commitment to Anti Racism: Year Two Update* document with the board, noting that the entire Freire Schools network is participating in year-long anti racism training with Rethic and a small group of staff from across the network are completing a facilitators training.

#### VII. Governance

- a. Resignation of Shonda McCants (Attachment 4)
  - i. Olivia Burgess shares that Shonda McCants a parent representative on the TECH Freire Charter School Board of Directors, has resigned. TECH Freire School is currently looking for a new parent representative for the board.
- b. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
  - i. Olivia Burgess reviews the clearances and trainings needed for each board member.

#### VIII. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
  - i. No update at this time
- b. Audit Committee
  - i. No update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:02 AM