



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 15, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 876 9921 0895 | PASSWORD: 226831

Board Members Present: Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Jacob Greenbaum, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Lilian Wehbe Kobeissi, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Beth Packel, Bill Ray, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, Emily Torres, Charles Ware, Lorraine White, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start: 8:20 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on October 13, 2021 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - i. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Anthony Royster seconds.
 - ii. Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Updated Health and Safety Plan (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that as part of the conditions for accepting federally granted ESSER funds, the Board is required to approve a Health and Safety Plan that outlines mitigation strategies to address the spread of covid.
 - ii. The updated policy includes changes to the vaccination requirements for athletes to align with new guidelines from the City of Philadelphia. Athletes and coaches that participate in winter and spring sports must be fully vaccinated.
 - iii. Athletes have the option to submit either a medical or religious exemption request form. All exemption requests will be reviewed by TECH Freire's attorney for approval.
 - iv. If a student's exemption is approved, they are required to receive twice weekly covid testing while participating in a school sponsored sport.
 - v. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerry Escovitz seconds.
 - vi. Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Audit Report (*Attachment 1C*)*
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the completed Audit Report for TECH Freire Charter School. As expected there were no significant finding and the auditors deemed TECH Freire a proper client.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Auditor Communication (*Attachment 1D*)
 - i. Bill reviews the Auditor Communication with the board.
- e. Restricted Donation Approval (*Attachment 1E*)*
 - i. The Board is asked to approve the restricted donation of \$11,000 from the Freire Foundation to TECH Freire Charter School. The funds were received through a restricted donation to support TECH Freire

Charter School's 2022 fiscal year science program.

- ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerry Escovitz seconds.
 - iii. Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. FWHC Donation Approval (*Attachment 1F*)*
- i. The Board is asked to approve the restricted donation of \$15,000 from Future Wings Holding Company to TECH Freire Charter School. The funds were received through an unrestricted donation as part of the cell tower lease payments.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

III. School Report

- a. Staff Update
 - i. Charles introduces Emily Torres (Pre-Calc Teacher, TECH Freire). Emily shares that the recent Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings have been beneficial for all math teachers. The PLC meetings have helped each campus identify areas in which the students are struggling and gives a chance for input from another campus to help resolve the challenges.
- b. Heads Report
 - i. Charles Wares shares that last week was Instant Decision Day and over 20 schools set up shop in the maker space and allowed students to apply in-person and get accepted right on the spot. Over 40+ seniors were accepted to a 4-year college/university. After Instant Decision Day, Delaware State University called many TECH Freire parents to alert them of their student's acceptance to DSU with a full ride.
 - ii. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 2A*)
 - Charles Ware notes there has also been an increase in suspensions and attendance issues. COVID continues to play a significant role in attendance for both staff and students. Many are staying home if they are experiencing any symptoms that could be linked to COVID.
 - iii. Kelly Davenport asks the board to provide a representative to support the schools' efforts in over-hiring next school year at all campuses. With "the great resignation" taking place in many industries, Freire Schools has been protected from the increase in resignations due to over-hiring last summer.
- c. Proposal to Change Mission Statement (*Attachment 2B*)
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire Schools is finalizing the application for Freire Newark, a new charter school in Newark, DE that would be a replication of Freire Wilmington.
 - ii. Throughout the process, Freire Schools realized that words within the mission statement seem out-of-date and some elements of our true mission are not reflected in the current mission statement.
 - iii. The proposed change would update the mission statement to the following: *TECH Freire Charter School provides a college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of love, community, equity, and commitment to peace.*
 - iv. The board discusses the proposed changes, with a consensus that the word 'love' should be further defined and the word 'teamwork' should stay within the mission statement.

IV. Financials

- a. October 2021 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)
 - i. The board agrees that the financial report was covered along with the audit report.

V. Governance

- a. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
 - i. Olivia Burgess reviews the required clearances and trainings and reminds the board to complete any outstanding trainings.

VI. Board Committee Reports

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

b. Audit Committee

- i. See Audit Communication (attachment 1D)

Meeting Adjourned: 9:51 AM