



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FEBRUARY 9, 2022 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 848 5309 1404 | PASSWORD: 582803

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, William Brinkman, Olivia Burgess, Gerry Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Cynthia Leonard (9th Grader English Teacher, TECH Freire), Johnny Mills, Beth Packel, Chris Moore, Alexis Prince (Freire High teacher), Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Sylvia Spivey, Alanna Walker-Kegler (Freire High student), Charles Ware, Lilian Wehbe, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8:03 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment at this time.

II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on December 15, 2021 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the December 15, 2021, board meeting.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerry Escovitz seconds.
 - iii. Bill Brinkman, Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on January 31, 2022 (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the January 31, 2022, special board meeting.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Anthony Royster seconds.
 - iii. Bill Brinkman, Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. FY 2021 Form 990 (*Attachment 1C*)*
 - i. Form 990 is an information return that Freire Charter School is required to submit annually to the IRS due to their status as a non-profit. This document will be available to the public.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Gerry Escovitz seconds.
 - iii. Bill Brinkman, Gerry Escovitz, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Proposal to Change Mission Statement (*Attachment 1D*)*
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares at the last board meeting in December, Kelly proposed a change to the mission statement for the TECH Freire campus. After evaluating the feedback from the board, Melanie shares the document explains more in depth the reasoning behind the words "love" and "equity" being implemented in the new statement.
 - ii. The board discusses the pros and cons of changing the mission statement.
 - iii. Kelly Davenport, after hearing the opinions of the board, proposes holding on a vote to update the mission statement until the summer months when there is more bandwidth from all stakeholders to entertain a thoughtful conversation around the mission.

III. School Report

- a. Staff Update
 - i. Charles Ware introduces Cynthia Leonard (9th Grade English Teacher). Cynthia shares that the first thing she ensures is safety for the students especially with the recent events that has happened outside the TECH Freire building. The safety procedures the staff implemented include checking coats, jackets bags, and temporary usage of Wand Metal detectors.
 - ii. The current curriculum has been high paced for the students and the results have been astonishing. Cynthia presses the board on the importance of having smaller class sizes, due to the impact it has on the moral of the students and helps build better relationships with their peers and teachers.
- b. Student Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- c. Heads Report
 - i. Charles notes safety has been in the forefront of the minds for staff and students during this semester and thanks the board for all the support and decisions they have made for the school.
 - ii. Black History Month at TECH has been rebranded as “Black Excellence Month”, by showing different representations for the students to witness weekly.
 - iii. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 2*)
 - Charles shares the same emphasis on the Keystone Testing scores as Chris Moore and Chris Zagacki. TECH Freire staff knew there would be many challenges in the beginning of the new school year but instead of seeing the numbers as unsatisfying, the numbers are now used as gages of improvement.
 - Benchmark Testing will commence this week with Math, then English. From the first Benchmark scoring in the beginning of the year over 7% of 9th grade students scored proficient for the Biology Keystone and 27% of 10th grade students scored on the Biology Keystone; within the second half of the semester, over 28% of 9th graders scored proficient and 48% of 10th grade students within the science subject.

IV. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 3A*)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that Freire Schools has raised roughly \$200,000 of the \$400,000 FY 2022 goal, running slightly ahead of last year. Melanie attributes some of this increase in funds to the change in the deadline for board members to submit their annual pledge. Freire Schools has raised \$80,000 in EITC funds to-date.
 - ii. The Advancement Committee will meet on March 9, 2022, to discuss a possible spring event.
 - iii. The Freire Foundation has secured a P.O. box for all future checks and advancement mail.
- b. Update on the Retention Committee
 - i. Lillian Wehbe shares that a retention committee met earlier this year to discuss how to retain staff and teachers across the network. The committee discussed a myriad of ideas including an increase to staff base salary of 5%, retention bonuses, hiring additional para-professional and co-teachers to increase the time full-time teachers have to prep, offering additional scholarship money for staff, etc.
- c. Political Landscape Report
 - i. Melanie shares that Freire Schools is paying close attention to the state’s proposed redistricting, governors’ race, and proposed charter school budget cuts.
- d. Talking Points (*Attachment 3B*)
 - i. Melanie reviews the talking points with the board.

V. Financials

- a. December 2021 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the December 2021 Financial Report noting TECH Freire is doing well in comparison to the budget and is projected to receive a surplus of \$3,000 due to an increase from the ESSR funds. Projections for the end of the year will hold up to \$1,520,000 cash on hand which would represent a \$168,000 decrease from June 30, 2021.

VI. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interest
 - i. Olivia Burgess informs the board that she will email digital versions of each member’s Statement of Financial Interest later today. The deadline to submit these forms is March 31, 2022.

b. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members

- i. Olivia Burgess reminds all board members to complete all outstanding trainings and submit any overdue clearances.

VII. Board Committee Reports

a. Education Committee

- i. No update

b. Audit Committee

- i. No update

Meeting Adjourned, 9:40 AM