



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 6, 2022 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 892 7088 2192 | PASSWORD: 589078

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Kristen Altman, Leigh Botwinik, David Bryant, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Candice Fontaine, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Charles Ware, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8:03 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no comment at this time.

II. Resolutions

a. Executive Session[†]

- i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the Slate of Staff. William Brinkman seconds.
- ii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- iii. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:04 AM.
- iv. The Board exists Executive Session at 8:18 AM.
- v. Slate of Staff (Attachment 1A)*
 - The board reviews the Slate of Staff.
 - Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

b. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on February 9, 2022 (Attachment 1B)*

- i. The board reviews the minutes from February 9, 2022, board meeting.
- ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
- iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

c. Teacher Equity Plan (Attachment 1C)*

- i. Leigh Botwinik shares the Teacher Equity Plan is required as part of receiving Title I educational funds. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the school districts are not disproportionately assigning teachers with less experience to schools that qualify for Title 1 funds or have significantly higher portions of low-income students.
- ii. Each Freire Schools campus is classified as its own district; however, the teacher equity plan outlines what Freire Schools is doing as a network to provide the highest level of education for all students.
- iii. Bruce lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
- iv. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

d. Proposed 2022-2023 Board Schedule (Attachment 1D)*

- i. The board reviews the proposed board schedule for the 2022-2023 school year.

- ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Levine seconds.
- iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

- a. Staff Update
 - i. Charles Ware shares that TECH Freire is facing challenges regarding school safety, behavioral problems, and attendance. The current usage of cellphones during the day with students is evident at TECH Freire and, even though Charles and his staff have not thoroughly deliberated on handling the issue, they are aware of what needs to be done.
 - ii. In the spirit of joy, recently TECH Freire gained more notoriety overnight due to the viral GoFundMe page for Julian Perrin's (World History Teacher, TECH Freire) shoes. Originally made as an April Fools prank, many people have reached out and donated money to Julian and the school.
- b. Student Update
 - i. No student update at this time.
- c. Heads Report
 - i. Freire Network Dashboard (Attachment 2)
 - Charles shares benchmark testing has improved across the board for TECH Freire.
 - ii. Graduation Update
 - Leigh Botwinik shares TECH Freire has not found a keynote speaker for graduation additional details will be distributed soon.

IV. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (Attachment 3A)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares Freire Schools has raised roughly \$226,000 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 \$81,000 in EITC funds to-date.
 - ii. Melanie introduces recent hires for the Advancement Team, Kristen Altman (Development Coordinator, Freire Schools Network Office) and Candice Fontaine (External Relations Manager, Freire Schools Network Office) to the board.
 - iii. The Advancement Committee met on March 9, 2022, to discuss a spring fundraising strategy and concluded they will explore their options such as a coffee and chat for guests to sit and chat with some students.
- b. Discussion on Board Involvement in Fundraising
 - i. Melanie asks the board whether the Advancement team should set up certain parameters around board giving and fundraising and asks if the members experience any challenges with finding new donors.
- c. Political Landscape Report
 - i. Melanie shares that Freire Schools is paying close attention to the state's proposed redistricting, Governors' race, and proposed budget cuts.
- d. Talking Points (Attachment 3B)
 - i. Melanie reviews the talking points with the board

V. Financials

- a. February 2022 Financial Report (Attachment 4)
 - i. Bill Ray shares TECH Freire has approximately \$1,830,000 of cash on hand which represents an increase for \$118,000 from June 30, 2021. TECH Freire is expected to end the fiscal year with \$1,550,000 cash on hand which represents a decrease of \$150,000 from June 30, 2021.
 - ii. TECH Freire is projecting a surplus of funds totaling \$73,000 for FY 2022 but has projected a budget deficit of \$42,000.
 - iii. Enrollment for TECH Freire is averaging at 480 students, which is 10 students less than the original budget enrollment of 490. Special Education enrollment has also increased by a total of 2 students.

VI. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interest
 - i. Olivia Burgess informs the board that May 1, 2022, is the new deadline to submit their 2021 Statement

of Financial Interests forms.

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

Meeting Adjourned, 9:56 AM

*Requires Vote

¹Citation of reason for executive session: II.a: 65 Pa. C.S.A. § 708 (1) "To discuss any matter involving the ... evaluation of performance ... of any specific ... current ... employee... employed ... by the agency."