



TECH FREIRE

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 | 8 AM

ZOOM INFO: MEETING ID: 834 6581 2309 | PASSWORD: 814774

MEETING LOCATION: FREIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Board Members Present: William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, Joann Wszolek

Others Present: Evageline Berube (SDP Charter Schools Office), Leigh Botwinik, Nate Durant, Jamilah Gibbs (TECH Freire Staff), Mindy Hedgepeth (Freire Middle School Staff), Nyaka Johnson (Freire High School Staff), Chris Moore, Bobby Panchoo (TECH Freire Student), Tanza Pugliese, Sierra Reddy (Freire High School Student), Melanie Reiser, Jada Smith (Freire Middle School Student), Cameron Voss (SDP Charter Schools Office), Lilian Wehbe, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:00 AM

- I. Public Comment
 - A. There is no public comment.
- II. Executive Session
 - A. School Safety
 1. The TECH Freire Board moved into Executive Session at 8:09 AM to discuss a situation related to school safety.
 2. William Brinkman makes a motion to move into Executive Session. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 3. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to leave Executive Session. William Brinkman seconds.
 4. The Board exits the Executive Session at 8:26 AM.
- III. Remembering Gerald Escovitz
 - A. Kelly Davenport and the board take a moment to remember Gerald Escovitz. This is the first board meeting that has taken place in-person since his passing.
 - B. Melanie Reiser notes that, to date, the Gerald Escovitz Memorial Fund has raised \$30,000 in donations.
- IV. Resolutions
 - A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 15, 2022 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 1. The board reviews the minutes from June 15, 2022.
 2. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - B. Approve Children's Internet Protection Act Policy (*Attachment 1B*)*
 1. Leigh Botwinik 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.
 2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.

3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Approve Emergency Instructional Time (*Attachment 1C*)*
1. Leigh Botwinik 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 2021-2022 school year.
 2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- D. Approve Health & Safety Plan 2022-2023 (*Attachment 1D*)*
1. Leigh Botwinik shares the TECH Freire Board approved an updated version of the Health & Safety Plan during the June 2022 Board Meeting. Since then, the CDC has updated the COVID-19 guidance for schools and the new Health & Safety Plan reflects these updated guidelines.
 2. Changes to this plan include the termination of contact tracing, surveillance testing, and social distancing. Masks are now optional for members of the school community and a supply of rapid tests are available at the school.
 3. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 4. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- E. Approve Student & Family Handbook 2022-2023 (*Attachment 1E*)*
1. Leigh Botwinik shares the updated Student & Family Handbook, including updates to COVID information, cell phone policies, and staff contact information.
 2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- F. Approve Staff Handbook (*Attachment 1F*)*
1. Leigh Botwinik shares the updates to the Nondiscrimination Policy, Title 9 Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Anti-Hazing Policy within the Staff Handbook.
 2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- G. Approve Admissions Policy 2023-2024 (*Attachment 1G*)*
1. Johnny Mills shares the updated 2023-2024 Admissions Policy. The proposed policy shifts from accepting applications through the city-wide system, Apply Philly Charter, to a school-based platform, PowerSchool Enrollment.
 2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- H. Election of New Board Member - Joann Wszolek (*Attachment 1H*)*
1. Scott Solomon and Kelly Davenport introduce Joann Wzseeck to the Board.
 2. Joann Wszolek introduces herself to both the TECH Freire and Freire Charter School Board of Directors.

3. Joann extends her appreciation and honor to be a part of the TECH Freire Board.
4. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to elect Joann to the TECH Freire Board of Directors. William Brinkman seconds.
5. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

V. School Report

A. Student Update

1. Nate Durant introduces Bobby Panchoo, senior at TECH Freire, to the Board of Directors. Bobby expresses his appreciation and love for TECH Freire and shares that he is looking forward to going to college and studying pharmaceutical science.
2. Bruce Lesser asks how often the Student Council, STUCO, meets. Bobby shares that STUCO meets weekly to discuss ways to elevate the student body.

B. Staff Update

1. Nate introduces Jamilah Gibbs, a dean at TECH Freire. Jamilah shares that there have been drastic changes to morale within the building this year. The staff of TECH Freire are moving with positive intention and helping students build personal relationships with one another.
2. Jamilah also notes that attendance has improved since last year, likely stemming from the stricter attendance policy which requires contact with a guardian if a student arrives after 9 AM.

C. Heads Report

1. TECH Freire Goals (*Attachment 2A*)
 - a) Nate Durant shares the honor and privilege of being a part of such an amazing team at TECH Freire and praises Brian Galletto for all his hard work and dedication to the culture of the school while supporting the coaching staff.
 - a) Washington University recently visited TECH Freire and spoke with the students about the programs they offer along with the culture of the campus. The students are looking forward to College Week which will take place in the next few weeks.
 - b) TECH Freire is hosting more community events this year, most recently a Chess Tournament for the students and wider community.

D. September Data Packet (*Attachment 2B*)

1. Lilian Wehbe Kobeisse reviews the September Data Packet with the Board.
2. Lilian notes TECH Freire has shown improvement in state assessments around Literature, ELA and Math. This increase is the beginning of a recovery from the significant drop in test scores seen across all campuses and grade levels from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 due to the pandemic.
3. Bruce Lesser asks Lilian to present growth data to the Board when it becomes available.

VI. Financials

A. June 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)

1. Kelly Davenport shares TECH Freire ended the fiscal year with \$2,200,000 cash on hand which represents 74 days, along with representing an increase of \$440,000 from June 30, 2022. TECH Freire needs \$1,300,000 to meet the school's 45 days cash on hand bond covenant.
2. TECH Freire ended the year with an annual surplus of \$281,000 which exceeded the budgeted annual surplus of \$115,000 by \$166,000. Total revenues exceeded the budget by \$255,000, total operating expenses exceeded the budget by \$32,000, and total capital purchases exceeded the budget by \$57,000.

B. Audit Update

1. Kelly Davenport shares that the Freire Schools team prepared the financials, with Charter Choice, an outside accounting firm that supports charters throughout the state, managing all accounting.
2. There are currently 3 candidates being considered for Chief Financial Officer with a goal of hiring someone within 60-days.

VII. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4A*)

1. Melanie Resier shares that Freire Schools raised \$455,757 in donations and pledges in unrestricted funding, exceeding our \$400,000 obligation to the schools by \$55,757.
2. Freire Schools matched their EITC funds raised last year with \$124,000 in donations, which will help run maker education, drama, robotics, and career programming at the Philadelphia schools.
3. The network received \$65,000 to fund the Purple Dragon Scholarship at the Philadelphia schools, an expenditure that would have been incurred even without the gift.

B. Talking Points (*Attachment 4B*)

1. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points with the board, with specific focus on a renewed dedication to the values of joy and growth within the network.
2. The board is invited to participate in a mission statement workshop via zoom on Wednesday, September 28. This workshop will provide an opportunity for Freire stakeholders to discuss if the value of “love” should be added to the mission statement for each Freire campus.

C. Political Landscape Report

1. Melanie Reiser briefs the board on the current political landscape and where Freire Schools is intersecting with the larger charter sector.

VIII. Governance

A. Board Clearance Update

1. Olivia Burgess updates the Board on outstanding training or clearances.

B. Board Contact Sheet (*Attachment 5*)

1. Olivia Burgess encourages the Board to review the Board Contact Sheet and request any necessary changes.

C. Board Visitation Day - TECH Freire, October 14th

1. The Board of Directors is invited to attend the upcoming TECH Freire Charter High School visitation day on Friday, October 14, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:27AM