



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 12, 2022 | 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 847 6883 5259 | PASSWORD: 170450

LOCATION: TECH FREIRE (2221 N BROAD ST., PHILADELPHIA PA 19132)

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Nate Durant, Kimberly Fox (Exude Inc), Johnny Mills, Keisha Weeks (TECH Freire Staff), Chris Moore, Bobby Panchoo (TECH Freire Student), Tanza Pugliese, Melanie Reiser, Lilian Wehbe, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 9:04 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on September 14, 2022 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - i. The board reviews the board minutes from September 14, 2022 board meeting.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Slate of Staff (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the Slate of Staff with the board.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. 2022-2023 Textbook Review (*Attachment 1C*)*
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares the newly updated curriculum for both TECH Freire and Freire Charter School. The board is required to view the school's textbooks annually.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Joann Wszolek seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. Amended Employment of Relatives & Romantic/Domestic Partners
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that the Employment of Relatives & Romantic/Domestic Partners policy is a part of the Employee Ethics Act and PA School Code which dictates the limitations on hiring immediate family members to become board trustees and school administrators.
 - ii. An updated version of the policy will be shared with the board for approval once additional information has been finalized.

III. School Report

- a. Student & Staff Update
 - i. Nate Durant introduces Bobby Ponchoo, 12th grade student at TECH Freire, and Keisha Weeks, Student Services Teacher at TECH Freire.

- ii. Bobby Ponchoo shares that TECH Freire continues to prepare him for college. The Student Government Association (SGA) is going strong and planning events for quarter 2. Bobby and the SGA board are working to ensure all students are prepared to take the ACT.
 - iii. Keisha Weeks shares that this is her 4th year at TECH Freire and notes this is the first school that made her feel at home. With the addition of a resource room this year, Keisha has an opportunity to tend to students who struggle with reading and developmental skills. Keisha shares that with her background in financial literacy, she can teach students how to do their taxes and file for LLCs and other business related certifications.
 - iv. Keisha shares excitement and passion for being a part of this school community and strives to ensure every student receives the supports they need in order to be successful.
- b. Heads Report
- i. Nate Durant shares that TECH Freire inducted new members to the National Honor Society (NHS) last week and praises the staff who helped make that event a success. This week is College Week at TECH Freire and a few students have been named official recipients of the Cecil B. Moore Scholarship.
 - ii. Enrollment is a challenge this year, with 462 students currently enrolled at TECH Freire.. Approximately 88% of enrolled students are in attendance on average.
 - iii. Students are adhering to the non-violence policy and there have been no incidents so far this year.
- c. October Data Packet (*Attachment 2*)
- i. Lilian Wehbe Kobessi shares the updated October Data Packet with the board, with a focus on suspension rates and updated data on ELA, math and science benchmark testing.

IV. Financials

- a. August 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)
- i. Kelly Davenport shares enrollment at both TECH Freire & Freire Charter School are down, which aligns with lower enrollment across the greater Philadelphia area.
 - ii. All schools are projected to have a deficit this year if there is no change to the current budget. The school is strategically looking at pulling ESSER funds to help offset the deficit.
 - iii. Additionally, Kelly notes that many of the expenses for the school are front loaded for the beginning of the year which is having an impact on the financial projections. Each campus has significant cash on hand that can help offset the current deficits.
 - iv. The network will be interviewing two finalists for the open Controller position at Freire Schools next week.
- b. Audit Update
- i. TECH Freire's audit is drafted and being reviewed. The final audit will be shared with the Board at the next board meeting.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4*)
- i. Melanie Resier shares that the network has raised \$67,000 to date towards its goal of \$400,000.
 - ii. The advancement team will begin drafting the holiday appeal next week, which is the first true fundraising push for the year.
 - iii. Melanie encourages the Board to submit their pledges before the end of the calendar year.
- b. Political Landscape Report
- i. TECH Freire Charter School hosted Senator Martin last week. Melanie thanks Nate Durant and Bobby Ponchoo for their outstanding support during the visit.

VI. Governance

- a. Resignation of Board Member, Bruce Levine (*Attachment 5*)
- i. Olivia Burgess informs the board that board member Bruce Levine has stepped down from both the TECH Freire and Freire Charter School Board of Directors.
- b. Board Clearance Update
- i. Olivia Burgess updates the board on clearances and training that are due by June 30, 2022.
- c. Board Visitation Day - October 14, 2022

- i. Olivia Burgess invites the TECH Freire board to the Visitation Day on Friday, October 14, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:57 AM