



TECH FREIRE

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 14, 2022 | 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 838 6878 8340 | PASSWORD: 952334

LOCATION: ZOOM & FREIRE CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL (1026 MARKET ST., PHILA., PA 19107)

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Matt Fontana (Exude Inc), Kimberly Fox (Exude Inc), Brian Galetto (Head of Academics, TECH Freire), Lisa Hoffstien, Jisu Jeong (instructional Coach, TECH Freire), Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Shakeeta Parker (Head of School Culture, Freire Middle School), Tanza Pugliese, Melanie Reiser, Lilian Wehbe, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:06 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on October 12, 2022 (Attachment 2A)*
 - i. The board reviews the board minutes from October 12, 2022 board meeting.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Audit Report (Attachment 2B)*
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Kelly and William Brinkman reviewed TECH Freire's audit with the auditors recently. Noting that, as expected there were no significant findings and the Auditors deemed TECH Freire a proper client.
 - ii. Scott Solomon praises the financial team for their hard work and dedication to ensure TECH Freire stands strong within financial health.
 - iii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iv. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Auditor Communication (Attachment 2C)
 - i. No vote is required.
- d. 403(b) Investment Review & Proposed Changes (Attachment 2D)*
 - i. Kelly Davenport proposes 403(b) Investment Changes and notes this would affect all the Freire campus staff. Each year Freire Schools reviews the 403(b) investment options that are offered to our staff and reviews investments. Currently three of our investment products are significantly down in the stock market and Freire Schools would like to provide staff with a better performing option.
 - ii. Once the changes are approved by the board and have been acknowledged by Alerus, all staff who have investments in one of the three products will be notified of the switch.
 - iii. The TECHFreire Charter School board of directors requests TECH Freire Charter School to set up the ability for all staff to meet with Alerus and discuss their current financial investments.
 - iv. Over the next 12 months the business team will research a socially responsible fund to invest in to replace one of the low performing funds.
 - v. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - vi. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- e. Review & Approve Amended Bylaws (Attachment 2E)*

- i. Tanza Pugliese proposes a revision to the School's bylaws, to increase the minimum meetings of the board from two to six. This would better reflect actual practice, since the board does meet at least six times per year, and is a condition of current charter agreements.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Joann Wszolek seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- f. Approval of Nate Durant as Principal & Head of School (Attachment 2F)*
- i. Leigh Botwinik shares that Nate Durant holds Principal certification in DE and is awaiting PDE to grant him a principal cert for PA. PDE shared that Nate Durant's title as Head of School does not align with traditional certification titles. In order to reduce confusion with PDE, Leigh proposes that the Board vote on an adjusted title of "Principal and Head of school".
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

- a. Staff Update & Student Update
 - i. Nate Durant introduces Brian Galetto and Jisu Jeong to the board.
 - ii. Jisu shares the progress from the recent Keystone testing for TECH Freire with the board. Jisu notes months before the keystones were distributed to the students and staff, an emphasis on the importance of the testing was relayed.
 - iii. The testing was held from December 5, 2022 - December 13, 2022, and from the data they noticed a positive spike in attendance during the weeks of testing.
 - iv. Brian explains that TECH Freire staff were fully briefed on the importance of Keystone testing to graduation due to Act 158 and praises the TECH Freire staff members who showed up and asked good questions in order to make the testing process run as smoothly as possible.
- b. Heads Report
 - i. Nate Durant shares the same concern as Chris Moore (Head of School, Freire Charter High School) for the incoming students at TECH Freire in regard to traumatic experiences outside of the school community.
 - ii. TECH Freire staff are ensuring they will hold safe spaces for students to be themselves and to receive assistance if needed.
 - iii. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 3*)
 - Lilian Wehbe Kobeissi shares the Freire Network Dashboard with the board.
 - For Keystones, important caveat: only half as many test results were released in 2022, compared to pre-pandemic years. Since the Keystone exams are administered at the end of a course but are only recorded when the test taker is in 11th grade, most 11th graders in 2022 were exempt from taking the Keystone exams during Covid. With that warning: TECH Freire Keystone data has not returned back to pre-pandemic levels. surpassed their similar schools group in both biology and literature. did not surpass District overall. Insufficient sample in algebra.
 - TECH Freire students exceeded the growth standard in Literature but did not meet the growth standard in Algebra or Biology
 - Students with an IEP met the standard for growth in Biology but did not for Algebra and Literature.
- c. TFCS Construction Project Proposal
 - i. Kelly Davenport discusses a potential construction project to build out a gym in TECH Freire's basement. Likely cost of \$1,700,000.
 - ii. Nathan Yufer states ESSER funds could be used to pay for the construction of the TECH Freire basement gymnasium.

IV. Financials

- a. October 2022 Financial Report (Attachment 4)
 - i. Nathan Yufer shares the October 2022 Financial Report with the board.
 - ii. Nathan shares TECH Freire currently possess \$141,000 in operating cash and \$1,400,000 in operating reserve. As of October 31, 2022, TECH Freire contains a total \$810,000 in receivables which represents a \$84,000 lease reimbursement receivables from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- iii. TECH Freire holds a deficit of \$170,000 due to lower than expected enrollment numbers. Enrollment is currently lower than the budgeted average of 490.
- iv. TECH Freire is projected to meet 6 of the 7 financial ratios in the 2023 fiscal year.
- v. The financial team will commence a deep dive into ESSER fund distribution until the board meets again in February.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (Attachment 5A)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the network has raised \$125,934 to date towards its goal of \$400,000. Freire Schools "Deck the Halls" end of year appeal began hitting mailboxes this week and will follow up with a digital version before winter break. The Advancement Committee will convene in January 2023 to begin planning the spring fundraising push.
 - ii. Two grants were submitted to Pennsylvania's Commission on Crime and Delinquency for their School Mental Health and Safety and Security which both TECH Freire and Freire Charter School received \$140,000 each.
 - iii. Over the summer Freire Schools collaborated with World Cafe Live, who submitted a grant request to the William Penn Foundation to run music programs in our three Philadelphia campuses. World Cafe Live was awarded a \$105,000 grant, and programming will begin in our schools in January.
 - iv. The Advancement Team recently held a Coffee and Conversation Event at Freire Wilmington back in November and this event introduced current and new donors to the athletic facility project.
- b. Annual Appeal (Attachment 5B)
 - i. Melanie reviews the Annual Appeal with the board.
- c. Political Landscape Report
 - a. Melanie shares Freire Schools continues to pay close attention to any proposed charter regulation, budget cuts or proposed changes to the charter school renewal process.

VI. Governance

- a. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
 - i. Olivia Burgess updates the board on clearances and training that are due by June 30, 2023.

VII. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:26 AM