



# TECH FREIRE

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023 | 8 AM**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 893 5757 3298 | PASSWORD: 114271**

**LOCATION: ZOOM & TECH FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL (2221 N BROAD ST., PHILA., PA)**

### **I. Public Comment**

### **II. Resolutions**

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on December 14, 2022 (*Attachment 2A*)\*
- b. Review & Approve Secondary Employment Policy (*Attachment 2B*)\*
- c. Review & Approve Amended Family Involvement Policy (*Attachment 2C*)\*
- d. Review & Approve Health & Safety Plan (*Attachment 2D*)\*

### **III. School Report**

- a. Staff Update & Student Update
- b. Heads Report
  - i. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 3*)

### **IV. Financials**

- a. December 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)
- b. 403(b) Investment Update

### **V. Advancement**

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5*)
- b. Political Landscape Report

### **VI. Governance**

- a. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
- b. Statement of Financial Interest 2022
- c. Kathleen Visco, Parent Board Representative (*Attachment 6*)\*

### **VII. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Education Committee
- b. Audit Committee

\*Requires Vote

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 8:00 AM** at 1026 Market St.

*TECH Freire Charter School provides a college-preparatory learning experience specializing in computer science and entrepreneurship with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, equity, and commitment to peace.*



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**Board Members Present:** William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, Kathleen Visco, Joann Wzsolek

**Others Present:** Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookman (Freire Charter Board Prospect Member), Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, William Brinkman, Trudey Crossley (Freire Charter Parent Representative), Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Chris Moore, Tanza Pugliese, Lilian Wehbe, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

**Meeting Start, 8:04 AM**

### I. Public Comment

- A. There is no public comment.

### II. Resolutions

- A. Kathleen Visco, Parent Board Representative (*Attachment 6*)\*
  - a. The board reviews the resume of Kathleen Visco.
  - b. Kathleen introduces herself to the board and shares her excitement for being a parent representative.
  - c. Joann Wzsolek makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - d. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, Kathleen Visco, Joan Wzsolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- B. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on December 14, 2022 (*Attachment 2A*)\*
  - a. The board reviews the board minutes from December 14, 2022 board meeting.
  - b. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Joann Wzsolek seconds.
  - c. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, Kathleen Visco, Joann Wzsolek votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Review & Approve Secondary Employment Policy (*Attachment 2B*)\*
  - a. Leigh Botwinik presents a proposed new policy in which administrative staff holding leadership positions (Heads and Director level) would need to obtain approval from their supervisor before engaging in secondary employment. Criteria for approving secondary employment are that the second job does not have an adverse effect on their primary employment at Freire and that it does not create a conflict of interest with the primary employment.
  - b. The Board asks that the staff research whether additional criteria should be added in determining whether to approve secondary employment, identify a written mechanism for disclosing secondary employment, and consider whether the conflict of interest policy is sufficient for meeting the goals.
  - c. There is no vote at this time.
- D. Review & Approve Amended Family Involvement Policy (*Attachment 2C*)\*
  - a. Tanza Pugliese shares the Amended Family Involvement Policy with the board.
  - b. TECH Freire Charter School is fully committed to finding meaningful and mutually enriching ways for parents to participate in our school to serve as partners in improving the quality of teaching and learning for all of our students and at every level. The School reviews the policy annually with families to solicit feedback annually. The proposed changes to the policy are meant to better align with current practices and continuing to ensure compliance with Federal Programs requirements.
  - c. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - d. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, Kathleen Visco, Joan Wzsolek votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- E. Review & Approve Health & Safety Plan (*Attachment 2D*)\*
  - a. Leigh Botwinik shares the Health & Safety Plan with the board.
  - b. Leigh shares this it is a requirement of the ESSER funding to review COVID protocols every six months. No changes to current protocols are being proposed.
  - c. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - d. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, Kathleen Visco, Joan Wzsolek votes in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### III. School Report

- A. Staff Update & Student Update

- a. Nate Durant introduces Brian Galetto to the board for the staff report.
  - b. Brian Galetto (Head of Academics, TECH Freire) shares his appreciation for being able to present to the board today.
  - c. Brian shares the staff was excited about midterms and how they went. Deeper Learning Rubric (DLR) feedback is another factor the staff are taking into consideration at this time, to gauge what needs to be kept or disregarded for future use, also identifying gaps within the learning process.
  - d. STAR Benchmark data was below the staff's expectations. After analyzing the data, the staff identified a need to improve the strategy for make-up test days.
  - e. TECH Freire is currently at full capacity for staff this year.
- B. Heads Report
- a. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 3*)
    - i. Nate Durant shares at TECH Freire, Black History Month has commenced and a few local musicians came to speak to the students. Nate also thanks Randall Ball (Business Coordinator, Freire Schools Network), Malcolm Eleby (Head of Culture, TECH Freire) and James Evans for setting that event up at the Theatre of Living Arts for the students to meet and listen to a famous rapper. Nate also shares that Paint Night is approaching and over 70 families and students have signed up for the event.
    - ii. Attendance at TECH Freire has been a challenge this year. Recently, there has been some improvement but still needs attention to ensure the upward trend continues. The Attendance team at TECH Freire is working hard to ensure communication with students and parents about attendance issues.
    - iii. Parent Teacher conferences recently were held at TECH Freire and the turnout was high.
    - iv. TECH Freire's Boys Basketball team has made the playoffs and Nate applauds James Evans (Health & Wellness/Athletic Director, TECH Freire) for his coaching skills and patience with the team.

#### IV. Financials

- A. December 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)
  - a. Nathan Yufer reviews the December 2022 Financial report with the board.
  - b. Nathan states that due to low enrollment at TECH, revenue is lower than expected. ESSER funding has covered some operating costs, however.
  - c. Supplies are currently over budget due to furniture purchases from the beginning of the year.
  - d. TECH Freire also plans to build a state of the art gym in the basement of the building and ESSER funds will be used toward that project as well.
  - e. TECH Freire intends to increase its revenues in FY 2024 through higher enrollment
- B. 403(b) Investment Update
  - a. Kelly Davenport shares Freire Schools found better performing investment options, including a socially responsible fund, for our staff to invest in.

#### V. Advancement

- A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5*)
  - a. Melanie Reiser shares the Advancement Report with the board.
  - b. Melanie shares that the network has raised \$204,480 to date towards its goal of \$400,000.
  - c. Melanie shares, since Freire Wilmington has surpassed their FY pledge and donation limit, the Advancement Team is asking all board members to pledge and give as soon as possible.
  - d. On January 6, 2023, plans for spring fundraising were discussed and event planning will be finalized soon.
  - e. The grant funded, music program collaboration with World Cafe Live commences next week at all three Philadelphia Freire campuses this month.
- B. 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
  - a. Olivia Burgess updates the board members on clearance and trainings that are due by June 30, 2023.
- C. Statement of Financial Interest 2022
  - a. Olivia Burgess informs the board the deadline to submit the 2022 Statement of Financial interest forms is due February 28, 2023.

#### VII. Board Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee
  - a. There is no report at this time.
- B. Audit Committee
  - a. There is no report at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:45 AM