



# TECH FREIRE

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JUNE 14, 2023 | 8 AM**

**MEETING ID: 890 4779 1250 | PASSWORD: 887407**

**LOCATION: 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, Phyllis Bookman, Leigh Botwinik, Jamie Boyer (Head of Operations, TECH Freire), Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Steve DeAnglis, Nate Durant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Matt Kong, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Lauren Plaxa (Director of College Counseling, Freire High School), Lilian Wehbe, Ellie Wengert (11th Grade Academic Advisor, TECH Freire), Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

**Meeting Start: 8:00 AM**

### I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

### II. Minutes

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on April 12, 2023 & May 31, 2023 (*Attachment 2*)\*
  - i. The board reviews the minutes.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### III. Elections

- a. Recommend renewal of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members & Elect Officers (*Attachment 3*)\*
  - i. The board reviews the list of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members including members whose terms are up for renewal and proposed officers.
  - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### IV. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve 2023-2024 School Calendar (*Attachment 4A*)\*
  - i. The board reviews the proposed calendar for the 2023-2024 school calendar.
  - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Review & Approve FY 2024 Budget (*Attachment 4B*)\*
  - i. Nathan Yufer reviews the FY 2024 Budget with the board.
  - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Review & Approve Lease Reimbursement (*Attachment 4C*)\*
  - i. Nathan Yufer shares the board is required to annually approve the School's PDE-418 Lease Reimbursement Forms. The 2022-2023 PDE-418 form is not yet available, but the Board is presented with the approved 2021-2022 Lease Reimbursement Forms and the lease payments made in 2022-2023.
  - ii. Nathan asks the board to approve the 2022-2023 Lease Reimbursement Forms, identical to the 2021-2022 forms, reflecting the rent payments made in 2022-2023.

- iii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
    - iv. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
  - d. Review & Approve Donation (*Attachment 4D*)\*
    - i. Nathan shares that the Freire Foundation has donated \$64,933.26 to TECH Freire Charter School for makers club (EITC approved program).
    - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Joann Wszolek seconds.
    - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
  - e. Review & Approve Employee Handbook (*Attachment 4E*)\*
    - i. Matt Kong reviews the Employee Handbook with the board. Aside from the staff attendance policy just passed, no significant changes are proposed.
    - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
    - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
  - f. Review & Approve 2023-2024 Student & Family Handbook (*Attachment 4F*)\*
    - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the 2023-2024 Student Family Handbook with the board. Aside from minor updates to organizational information and staff contact information, the school is proposing an update to the cell phone policy, to purchase and use pouches that prevent students from accessing their cell phone during class. The school leaders believe this will lead to increased classroom engagement and also increased social connections between students.
    - ii. Willam Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
    - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
  - g. Review & Approve Joint Contract for David Ginsberg (*Attachment 4G*)\*
    - i. Kelly Davenport shares David Ginsburg proposes to help instructional leaders and teachers at Freire Charter Middle School (FCMS), Freire Charter High School (FCHS), and Tech Freire Charter School (TFCS) implement problem-based learning effectively in mathematics classes GECC shall provide any/all of the following support services between July 1, 2023 and January 20, 2024, with corresponding fees effective through January 20, 2024.
    - ii. Willam Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
    - iii. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon, and Joann Wszolek vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

## V. School Report

- a. Staff Update
  - i. *See V.d.i.*
- b. Heads Report
  - i. Nate Durant shares that TECH's academic year has come to close and TECH Freire held the Class of 2023 graduation ceremony.
  - ii. Summer program will commence in the last week of June along with summer school classes.
  - iii. Nate praises his Deans, Academic heads, and culture team for their hard work and achievement in increasing the performance and attendance data at the campus for all grades.
  - iv. Keystone Stone results will be distributed in July and TECH Freire's numbers on the dashboard show in comparison to last year's numbers are at roughly the same place.
  - v. Attendance is up and Nate is thankful to his staff for their efforts.
- c. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 5A*)
  - i. *See V.b.i.*
- d. College Report (*Attachment 5B*)
  - i. Ellie Wengert shares the college report with the board.

- ii. Ellie notes 95 (100%) of seniors have applied to at least one 2-year or 4-year college. Seniors from the Class of 2023 have received an acceptance letter from one or more colleges/universities they applied to.
- iii. To date, the TECH Freire seniors have been awarded a total of \$4,873,898 in scholarships and financial aid.
- e. Code of Conduct Meeting Request
  - i. Kelly Davenport proposes to hold a special board meeting on June 28, 2023 at 8 AM for both PA Freire boards and the Freire Wilmington campus.

## **VI. Financials**

- a. May 2023 Financial Report (*Attachment 6*)
  - i. Nathan Yufer reviews the May 2023 Financial Report with the board.
  - ii. Nathan shares enrollment as of May 31, 2023 was 425 at TECH Freire (490 budgeted). This lower than expected enrollment resulted in a reduction in revenue of \$400,000.
  - iii. For the 11 months ending May 31, 2023 TECH Freire Charter School is operating at a surplus of \$324,000. Freire Charter School is projecting a surplus of \$250,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

## **VII. Advancement**

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 7*)
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares the Advancement Team had a strong fundraising year. The Advancement Team raised over \$420,000 network-wide in unrestricted donations and pledges for FY 2023 toward the unrestricted target of \$400,000. Each campus has reached their individual fundraising goal of \$100,00 per campus.
  - ii. Spring Appeal letters were sent out in May and will be followed up by a digital campaign. A “meet the grads” style campaign is in the works which will go out soon to kick off the FY 2024 fundraising.
  - iii. The Advancement Team is planning to reignite the annual Bridge to Wisdom gala sometime in the fall. Freire Foundation board member Sarah Lincoln has been collaborating with the Advancement Team by helping research venues.
  - iv. Board giving across the Freire Network has met its 100% goal, including the TECH Freire Charter School board.
- b. Political Landscape Report
  - i. Freire Schools continues to pay close attention to any proposed charter regulation, budget cuts or proposed changes to the charter school renewal process.

## **VIII. Governance**

- a. Board Clearance & Trainings Update
  - i. Olivia Burgess updates the board on completing clearances and governance tasks.
- b. Annual Evaluation of Freire Network (*Attachment 8A*)
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares the results of the annual results for the Evaluation of Freire School Network Office.
  - ii. Strengths noted include Fundraising, Finding creative solutions to issues at the school or requests from the board, Keeping a focus on the future and Policy and legal work. Leigh and Kelly will be meeting with Heads of School to discuss opportunities for improvement within HR and compliance.
- c. Board Member Self Evaluation (*Attachment 8B*)
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares the results of the annual Board Member Self Evaluation.
  - ii. Strengths noted included fundraising, commitment and dedication. Topics for the board to focus on in the next 1-3 years included enrollment, the teacher shortage, finances after federal funding declines, continuing our antiracism efforts, and the political landscape.

## **VII. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Education Committee
  - i. No update.

- b. Audit Committee
  - i. No update.

**Meeting Adjourned, 10:15 AM**