



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL INFO | Meeting ID: 839 3842 5918 | PASSWORD: 761468

MEETING LOCATION: FREIRE CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL (1026 MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA PA 19107)

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookman, Leigh Botwinik, Dave Bryant, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Steve DeAnglis, Nate Durant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Jisu Jeong (Instructional Coach, TECH Freire), Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Tanza Pugliese, Asia Sharpe (8th Grade, Freire Middle School), Tamia Wilson (11th Grade, TECH Freire), Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:09 AM

I. Public Comment

- A. There is no public comment.

II. Resolutions

- A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 14, 2023 & June 28, 2023 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - a. The board reviews the minutes.
 - b. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - c. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- B. Approve Children's Internet Protection Act Policy (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - a. Leigh Botwinik shares the policy is annually approved and it is to protect students from finding unsafe content and block hacking access into the TECH Freire internet infrastructure and to educate students about Internet safety.
 - b. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve . William Brinkman seconds.
 - c. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Approve Health & Safety Plan 2023-2024 (*Attachment 1C*)*
 - a. Leigh shares the policy is required due to ESSER funds and every six months we are required to review the plan to ensure we are in compliance with guidelines. There are no changes to the plan since the last time it was approved and continues to stay aligned to the CDC recommendations.
 - b. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - c. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- D. Approve Admissions Policy (*Attachment 1D*)*
 - a. Leigh Botwinik shares this policy is approved annually. It includes the new deadline dates along with proposed language surrounding accommodations for families where English is not the first language and a list of acceptable forms of proof of age and proof of residency. Last year we had a lot of questions about the sibling enrollment preference so we enlisted our attorney's help in defining how and when that preference is applied.
 - b. Board asks if we can remove the clause that applicants must live at the same address to qualify for sibling preference and if sibling preference would apply in other circumstances where two children live at the same address for example if two cousins who live with a grandparent?
 - c. Kelly Davenport says that we need to consult with our attorney on these questions.
 - d. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve the policy with a potential change to the sibling preference definition in the first sentence on page 5 to eliminate the need to live at the same address pending advice from the school's attorney and after Leigh shares attorney's response with Board chairs. William Brinkman seconds.
 - e. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

A. Student Update

- a. Tamia Wilson shares she is a Junior at TECH Freire and shares her joy about being accepted by her first choice school. Tamia appreciates the family aspect that TECH Freire provides for her daily. She gives thanks to all her teachers and wishes she could stay at TECH forever. She wants to attend the Community College of PA for the nursing program and hopes to reach a scholarship for the program.
- b. Staff Update
 - i. Jisu Jeong shares her experiences at TECH Freire. She is the instructional coach for the science department and currently at TECH, there is a pilot launch on two types of science curriculum.
- c. Heads Report
 - i. TECH Freire - School Plan (*Attachment 2A*)
 - ii. September Data Packet (*Attachment 2B*)
 1. Nate Durant shares with the board the excitement about the start of the new school year.
 2. Yonder pouches were recently implemented into the school and it has been very successful so far. The immediate change in regard to engagement within the classrooms has really made a difference for both the students and the staff members
 3. The gym project is also a huge highlight for the year, the basketball courts are officially set up and some staff are in the process of finalizing the organization of the downstairs area.
 4. Back to school night is on Thursday September 14th and Nate is excited to host with the staff.
 5. Nate points out that attendance was up last year but there is still a need to improve.
 6. Nate shares last year's Keystone scores, which were up in EIA and dropped two percentage points in Algebra
 - iii. Health Insurance
 1. Kelly shares that the boards will need to meet in October to discuss insurance renewal.

IV. Financials

A. June 2023 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)

- a. Nathan Yufer shares TECH Freire had enrollment challenges throughout the year, so TECH ended the year with averaging enrollment of 426 students that resulted in a total revenue for the year of 9.8 million versus the budget of 10.7
- b. Expenses are at 9.6 million for the year in comparison to 10.6 million budgeted for the year. This is due to the construction project not starting as early as we anticipated. It started around June, so the expenses for FY23 were less than anticipated.
- c. Overall, TECH Freire had a pretty good year financially and ended the year with \$162,000 surplus.

B. Audit Update

- a. Nathan shares the audit is being finalized and will be presented at the next board meeting

V. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4*)

- a. In FY23, we raised \$436,297 in cash and pledges, exceeding the \$400,000 target for unrestricted fundraising and meeting our obligation to all four campuses. Melanie thanks everyone on the board and praises everyone who supported fundraising.
- b. Advancement raised \$119,000 in EITC funds to support career programming in our Philly schools in FY24. Freire Schools also received \$140,000 grants each for Freire Charter School and TECH Freire through the PCCD Mental Health and Physical Security grant program.
- c. The partnership with World Cafe Life helped to secure a grant from William Penn Foundation to bring music education and experiences to the three Philly Freire campuses. This programming kicked off in January and will continue next year.
- d. Bridge to Wisdom Awards Reception will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 5:30pm to 8pm at the Liberty View at the Independence Visitor Center. Freire Schools will be honoring one of our major donors and supporters Charles Widger as well as paying tribute to one of the original school board members, Gerry Escovtiz.

B. Political Landscape Report

- a. 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. Antiracism

a. Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015)

- i. Kelly Davenport shares the new Anti Racism initiative the Freire Schools Network and schools are implementing this year. She welcomes all board members who are interested in the reading to join in.

B. Board Visitation Day

a. TECH Freire – October 12th

- i. Olivia Burgess reminds the board about the annual Board Visitation Day, which will be held on October 12, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:31 AM