

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 13, 2023 | 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 886 1247 4333

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

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Imaira Blackwell (TECH Freire Student), Phyllis Bookspan, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Steve DeAnglis, Nate Durant, Brian Galletto (TECH Freire Staff), Jamillah Gibbs, (TECH Freire Staff Staff), Aliza Levenson (Freire Charter Staff), Chris Moore, Tanza Pugliese, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Angely Roman (TECH Freire Student), Ali Walker (Potential Board Member), Lilian Wehbe, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8 AM

I. Public Comment

- A. Liza Meiris (TECH Freire Staff) shares her experience with the recently approved health insurance plan. She says that the new cost structure negatively influences the people who need insurance most.
- B. She asks if she can be a teacher representative on the board or if the board would place a teacher on the board to help with decisions that affect the staff.

II. Resolutions

- A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meetings on October 11th & November 13th (*Attachment 2A*)*
 1. The board reviews the minutes from the October 11th & November 13th board meeting.
 2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 3. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- B. Review & Approve CMO Fee Increase (*Attachment 2B*)*
 1. Kelly Davenport shares that there have been discussions of increasing the CMO fee from 10% to 11.5% in order to expand the supports the network office provides to the schools
 2. This fee increase reflects two things. 1) Over the past few years, the FSC has increased the services that we provide without a corresponding increase to the fee 2) We also see a need for increased/additional services, particularly in the areas of instruction and curriculum, IT, and operations and compliance. Both are included in Exhibit B of the Business Services Agreement.
 3. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 4. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Review & Approve Business Services Agreement (*Attachment 2D*)
 1. Leigh Botwinik shares that in conjunction with the fee increase, we are presenting an updated Business Service Agreement to start 1/1/2024. This document is the contract between the schools and the FSC. The most recent version was signed in 2021. The attachment in the board packet has been redlined to show proposed changes. Many of the changes are minor updates to outdated terms or cosmetic updates to formatting and typos. The fee increase is included, and the list of services provided has also been updated in conjunction with the fee increase discussion.
 2. Leigh reviews Exhibit B.
 3. William Brinkman makes a motion authorizing Board Chair Scott Solomon to finalize the BSA with the FSC Board Chair and to sign. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 4. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- D. Review & Approve Traveling Code of Conduct (*Attachment 2C*)*
 1. Leigh Botwinik shares the Travelers Code of Conduct with the board.
 2. The document emphasizes that international travel requires a significant amount of personal

responsibility and independent decision making from travelers and it notes how to maximize the health and safety of all travelers. Attachment 2A

3. While many of the behaviors listed here would already be covered by our regular code of conduct, the consequence listed at the top of page 2 is specific to international travel. It says "Any infraction or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in the traveler's immediate dismissal from the tour and immediate return to the United States at the expense of the traveler and/or their family." So as a result, we think it's worth the Board considering adopting a special code of conduct for international travel.
4. Kiara recommends adding a note that the regular code of conduct also applies while traveling.
5. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve with the additional note regarding the regular code of conduct. William Brinkman seconds.
6. William Brinkman, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

A. Staff & Student Report

1. Nate introduces Hasan Lopez to the board.
2. Hasan shares the upcoming events being held at the school.
3. He is looking forward to graduation and hopes to attend an HBCU in the fall.
4. He shares the basketball team won their recent game and looks forward to the next one.

B. Heads Report

1. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 3*)
 - a) Nate Durant shares that spirit week is commencing and sports are in full swing.
 - b) Keystone wave one just finished and is looking forward to the data from the tests
 - c) Lilian Wehbe reviews PVAAS data from 22-23. There is significant evidence that the school exceeded the growth standard in Biology and Literature but did not meet the standard in Algebra. Among lowest performing students, the school met or exceeded the growth standard across all subjects. Among students with IEPs, the school met or exceeded the growth standard across all subjects.

C. Safety Report

1. Leigh Botwinik shares that every school has a safety committee comprised of the Head of School, several staff members who lead safety and operations, and two Network staff. She also acknowledges Joann Wszolek from the Board for attending these meetings.
2. Some key initiatives the safety committee have been working on are implementing revamped emergency procedures including the "Run Hide Fight" approach to lockdowns as well as training and new software to support the CSTAG approach to threat assessment. Also TECH has begun working with the PPD based on the contract the Board voted on previously to have a police officer outside the building at dismissal.

IV. Financials

A. October 2023 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)

1. Nathan shares revenue is expected to reach \$116,000,000 which is approximately \$700,000 more than the budget due to the increase in capitation rates. TECH is ensuring they maintain and average enrollment numbers by 470 students which would set the end of year surplus at \$500,000.
2. Current expenses will be under budget for the year especially due to the recent completion of the basement gym which was budgeted at 1,700,000 but ended up being 1,400,000.
3. Other services spending is ahead of schedule but is driven by a large bill for approved private schools. The bill covers the entire school year so spending should reduce for the remainder of the year.
4. TECH Freire is projected to meet 7 out of 7 financial ratios for the fiscal year.

V. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5*)

1. Melanie Reiser shares that to date the Advancement team has raised \$389,464 in donations and pledges toward that goal, leaving \$261,000 to raise.
2. Melanie thanks the board for their help and attendance at the recent Bridge to Wisdom event on November 15, 2023 which was held at the Independence Visitor Center. The event was a big success especially since Freire Schools honored longtime major donor Charles Widger with tribute to Gerry Escovitz by renaming the award the Dr. Gerald Escovitz Bridge to Wisdom Award.

B. Political Landscape Report

1. Freire Schools continues to pay close attention to any proposed charter regulation, budget cuts or proposed changes to the charter school renewal process

Meeting Adjourned, 9:48 AM