



TECH FREIRE

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 10, 2024 | 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 892 6869 7704

LOCATION: ZOOM

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

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Brian Galletto (TECH Freire Staff), Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Kathleen O'Connell, Tanza Pugliese, Melanie Reiser, Ben Wainwright, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start: 8:00 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. No public comment

II. Review & Approve Doreese Bull - Board Parent (Attachment 3A)*

- a. The board reviews the resume of Doreese Bull.
- b. Doreese introduces herself to the board and shares her excitement for being a parent representative.
- c. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
- d. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. Executive Session

- a. Personnel Matter - Review Slate of Staff (Attachment 2A)
- b. Personnel Matter - Review Head of School Evaluation (ND) (Attachment 2B)
 - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:04 AM to discuss two personnel matters involving plans "To discuss any matter involving the ... evaluation of performance ...of any specific ... current ... employee... employed ... by the agency." William Brinkman seconds.
 - ii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - iii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 8:30 AM. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iv. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on February 7th & February 28th (Attachment 3B)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the February 7th & February 28th board meeting.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Review & Approve Teacher Equity Plan (Attachment 3C)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares the Teacher Equity Plan with the board.

- ii. The Teacher Equity Plan is required as part of receiving Title I/Federal educational funds. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the school districts are not disproportionately assigning teachers with less experience or credentials or assigning less effective teachers to schools that qualify for Title 1 funds or have significantly higher portions of low-income students.
- iii. The Teacher Equity plan outlines what Freire Schools is doing as a network to recruit and retain qualified, experienced teachers.
- iv. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
- v. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Review & Approve Amendments to Enrollment Policy (Attachment 3D)*
 - i. Tanza Pugliese shares PDE recently released an updated basic education document surrounding updates on military status, proof of residency submission timeline, and ethnical/racial background acceptance rates at TECH Freire.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. Review & Approve Updated ESSER Health & Safety Plan (Attachment 3E)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that the plan is a requirement of accepting ESSER funds and every six months we are required to review the plan to ensure we are in compliance with guidelines.
 - ii. One update has been made in response to the most recent CDC guidance, which treats COVID like other respiratory viruses. We are proposing to lift the mandatory isolation. Instead, students and staff should return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without medicine and symptoms are improving overall.
 - iii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iv. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- e. Approve Slate of Staff*
 - i. The board reviews the Slate of Staff.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- f. Approve Head of School Evaluation*
 - i. The board reviews the Head of School Evaluation of Nate Durant.
 - ii. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

V. School Report

- a. Freire Network Dashboard (Attachment 4)
 - i. Nate Durant shares that things are going well at TECH Freire. Spring break was a great refresher for the staff and students.
 - ii. With regards to Joy, Nate shared that the flag football team had their first joint game with Freire Charter High School recently and the Track & Field season has begun for TECH Freire athletes. World Cafe Live partnership has been uplifting for the students participating in the program this semester.
 - iii. TECH Freire recently applied for the 21st Century Grant and received the grant.
 - iv. Nate introduces Brian Galetto (Head of Academics) to the board. Brian shares there has been growth in English and math. Data from winter Keystones came in a few weeks ago and there's good progress compared to last year. Holistically his team saw the transition and were pleased with the results. His team is preparing for the spring benchmark testing.
- b. Graduation Update**

- i. Scott Solomon shares TECH Freire graduation will be held on June 11, 2024 at 10am at the Dell Music Center (2400 Strawberry Mansion Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19132).
- ii. Scott encourages the board to support and attend the ceremony

VI. Financials

- a. February 2024 Financial Report (Attachment 5A)
 - i. Nathan Yufer shares the February 2024 Financial Report. TECH Freire anticipates an enrollment average of 480 students for the year, which is less than the 500 we anticipated when the budget was originally passed.
 - ii. However the School District of Philadelphia increased the capitation rate of 22% for general education and 14% for special education which will help offset the lower than expected enrollment numbers.
 - iii. Revenues for the year is expected to be \$11,500,000 which is approximately more than the budget due the increase in capitation rates.
 - iv. Expense expenditures will most likely be under budget for the year. TECH Freire budgeted \$1,700,000 for the basement gym project but anticipated the cost ending up at \$1,400,000.
- b. Review & Approve FY 2023 Draft Financial Audit (Attachment 5B)*
 - i. Nathan Yufer reviews the completed Audit Report for TECH Freire Charter School. As expected there were no significant findings and the auditors deemed TECH Freire a proper client.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Review & Approve FY 2023 Draft Form 990 (Attachment 5C)*
 - i. Nathan reviews the FY 2023 Draft Form 990 with the board.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. Presentation of Draft Budget for FY 2025 (Attachment 5D)
 - i. Nathan Yufer reviews the draft budget with the board and invites any members to reach out to discuss the budget for next year.

VII. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (Attachment 6)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares the network-wide unrestricted target for FY24 is \$650,000. To date, the Advancement team has raised \$501,541 in donations and pledges toward the goal, which leaves \$149,000 left by June 30, 2024.
 - ii. Currently the Advancement team is preparing to print material for the spring fundraising push to ensure they meet the fundraising goal, and that appeal will be followed by personal solicitations from board members and network staff.
 - iii. A new avenue has been implemented for fundraising from proactive individual donors with the capacity to donate \$5,000 annually toward the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit program.
 - iv. Melanie notes Freire Wilmington had a successful ribbon cutting event for the new David W. Singleton Athletic Center. The event was a great opportunity to thank the donors and the organizations that made the gym possible and show the community our Dragon Pride.
 - v. World Cafe Live started back up this semester, with the music programming at our three philly campuses funded by the grant WCL received from the William Penn Foundation.
 - vi. A choir director has been hired to launch a choir at Freire High School in memory of Gerald Escovitz and using funds from his memorial fund.
- 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. Review & Approve Draft Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025 (Attachment 7A)*
 - i. The board reviews the draft meeting schedule for 2024-2025.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. William Brinkman, Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Expulsion Meeting Board Procedure (Attachment 7B)
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that she met with Kiara Allison and Kelly Davenport met to discuss the expulsion procedure. The attachment outlines some clarifications and proposed changes to timeline and process for the Board's role.
- c. Feedback on Potential Board Event
 - i. Will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Annual Evaluation of Freire Network
 - i. Will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:15 AM