



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 8, 2025 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL INFO | Meeting ID: 893 5140 2100

MEETING LOCATION: TECH FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL (2221 N. BROAD ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA 19132)

Board Members Present: Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly DeLeon, Promise Evans, Brian Galetto, Nicole Jenkins, Patrick Leka (10th GRADE STUDENT SERVICES / ENGLISH II TEACHER, FCHS), Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Kathleen O'Connell, Tanza Pugliese, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Mya Reynolds, Jaleesa Thomas (9th Grade Academic Advisor, TFCS), Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:04 AM

I. Public Comment

- A. No public comment.

II. Executive Session

- A. Slate of Staff

1. Scott makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:06 AM *"To discuss any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the agency, or former public officer or employee, provided, however, that the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected may request, in writing, that the matter or matters be discussed at an open meeting."* Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
2. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
3. The TECH Freire Charter School board exits Executive Session at 8:12 AM and reconvenes the public meeting.

III. Resolutions

- A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meetings on September 10, 2025 (Attachment 1A)*
 1. The board reviews the minutes from the September 10, 2025 board meeting.
 2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
 3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- B. Approve Slate of Staff (Attachment 1B)*
 1. The board reviews the Slate of Staff.
 2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- C. Review & Approve Schoolwide Plan (Attachment 1C)*
 1. Leigh Botwinik shares this year's School-Wide Plan which outline how Freire Schools will strengthen academic outcomes for all students, with a particular focus on students with disabilities. The plans align with federal Title I and TSI (Targeted Support and Intervention) requirements and builds upon the Network-Wide Academic Plan introduced earlier this year.
 2. Key efforts include enhanced teacher training particularly around special education topics, refined MTSS interventions, a strategy to embed literacy across the curriculum, and increased time for practice problems in math.
 3. The School will provide an update on TSI plan implementation at February board meeting.
 4. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
 5. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

IV. School Report

A. Staff & Student Update

1. Mya Smith-Reynolds shares that the first 6 weeks of school have been upbeat and pleasant.
2. Mya is enrolled in a dual enrollment course at Temple, taking a cinematic arts class where the class watches and then analyzes films. Taking a college level course has helped Mya work on the confidence to participate in discussion.
3. The Peer Mediation program recently held an overnight trip in the Poconos. They held mediation sessions with one another and would act out how to effectively resolve a conflict among students.
4. In her Makerspace class Mya and the students picked a teacher and created a name plate for their classroom door. She explained how the students followed the design process in making the name plates.
5. Ms. Jaleesa Thomas provides an update on the school's dual enrollment programs. Currently, 18 students are participating in dual enrollment: 16 at Temple University and 2 at Community College of Philadelphia (CCP). Jaleesa highlights that dual enrollment offers high school students valuable early exposure to the college environment. Students take classes alongside college peers and learn to navigate new academic and social settings. This experience supports both academic growth and personal development, helping students gain confidence and self-awareness as they transition toward higher education. At Temple, peer mentors are assigned to assist students in their college classes, offering guidance and academic support. Students are enrolled in a variety of courses, including:
 - (1) Bias, Race, and Ethnicity
 - (2) Cinematic Arts
 - (3) Introduction to Communications
 - (4) Business: Creativity and Organizational Innovation
 - (5) African Americans, Law, and Equality
 - (6) Elements of Data Science (noted as one of the more challenging, coding-based courses)

B. Heads Report

1. Brian Galetto shares the school is at full capacity.
2. Attendance has decreased slightly compared to last year's historic high. The team is committed to maintaining momentum and continuing to push forward. Two main factors contributed to the shift:
 - a) Revised Late Policy: Last year, although overall attendance was high, many students were still missing significant portions of instructional time. Tightening the late policy has reduced inflated attendance numbers but increased student punctuality.
 - b) Focus on Grade Levels: 10th and 12th grades currently show the most challenges in attendance. Last year's graduating class had the highest ADA in school history, and staff are working to ensure that seniors clearly understand expectations around retention and graduation.
3. Suspensions are up compared to last year, driven mainly by a big incident that involved many students. However, rejuvenating Peer Mediation has been helpful. Brian witnessed a student using the training she learned at the retreat during a conflict she observed in the cafeteria and Brian feels this will help improve climate in the months to come.
4. A record 70 students are participating in after-school activities this year—one of the largest numbers in school history. Programs include e-sports, cosmetology, Dungeons & Dragons, creative writing, and other enrichment opportunities. Many of these clubs are led by staff members, helping to build camaraderie and connection within the school community.
5. The upcoming College Fair will take place next week. The event, hosted on campus, will welcome college representatives and parents, primarily supporting upperclassmen. Students will have approximately 45 minutes to visit tables, collect materials, and engage with representatives. The fair is open to all students, reinforcing a schoolwide culture of postsecondary planning.

C. October Freire Dashboard (Attachment 2)

1. See Heads Report

D. Health Insurance Update

1. Leigh Botwinik shared that both Freire Charter School and TECH Freire added a Board meeting to the calendar for November 12, 2025 with insurance renewal as the key agenda item.

V. Financials

A. August 2025 Financial Report (Attachment 3)

1. Ben Wainwright shares that TECH Freire has a current surplus of \$140,000.
2. Total revenue for the year projected at \$12,300,000.

B. Audit Update

1. Nathan shares the audit will be finalized soon and presented to the board at the next board meeting.

VI. Advancement**A. Advancement Report (Attachment 4)**

1. Melanie Reiser shares that the unrestricted fundraising target for FY26 is set at \$600,000 which is \$350,000 for the Philadelphia campuses and \$250,000 for Freire Wilmington.
2. To date currently the Advancement Team has raised \$209,920 in donations and pledges toward the goal which leaves approximately \$390,000 left.
3. A few Advancement Team updates:
 - a) The network-wide Advancement Committee is set to meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 to develop a fundraising plan for FY26.
 - b) Recently received a \$9,750 grant from M&T Bank to fund the peer mediation program at the Philadelphia Freire campuses.

B. Political Landscape

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

VII. Governance**A. Annual Board Visitation Day | October 15, 2025 at 9am**

1. Olivia Burgess reminds the board of the upcoming annual board visit day at FCSW on October 15, 2025 at 9am.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:27 AM