



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 10, 2025 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL INFO | Meeting ID: 878 7603 3211

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

Board Members Present: Dorese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Bruce Lesser, Linda Kilpatrick, Scott Solomon

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Leigh Botwinik, Promise Evans (12th Grade Student at Freire Charter High School), Brian Galetto, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Lilian Wehbe Kobeissi, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Kathleen O'Connell, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Nathan Yufer, Ben Wainwright, Madeline, Weckel, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:05 AM

I. Public Comment

- A. No public comment.

II. Resolutions

- A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on November 12, 2025 (Attachment 2A)*
 - 1. The board reviews the minutes from the November 12, 2025 board meeting.
 - 2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - 3. Dorese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- B. Review & Approve Audit Report (Attachment 2B)*
 - 1. The board reviews the Audit Report.
 - 2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
 - 3. Dorese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

III. School Report

- A. Staff & Student Report
 - 1. Chris Moore introduces Promise Evans to the board.
 - 2. Promise shares that she has submitted all of her college applications and is now applying for additional scholarships. She is also working on her Senior Project and looks forward to the Freire Panama trip happening this Spring.
 - 3. Promise shared that overall the school year has been great, though the commute has been unpredictable due to Septa.
- B. Heads Report
 - 1. Brian Galetto reports that students are currently participating in state testing, which is digital this year, and so far participation has been strong.
 - 2. He is proud of the TECH community for how they showed up for one another during the first quarter of the school year during which a beloved student and classmate passed away. He expressed thanks to the Emotional Supports teams from Freire High School and Freire Middle school for providing additional counseling to students and staff.
 - 3. Brian reports that attendance remains stable, in line with attendance rates from this time last school year.
 - 4. In terms of recent and upcoming events, the school hosted a college fair and an instant decision day, with over 30 colleges represented, and the boys basketball team will travel to Wilmington for a Freire vs. Freire showdown on Friday, December 19.
 - 5. In terms of academics, the leadership team is continuing to focus on Literacy and is providing support to teachers around intellectual preparation and designing appropriate scaffolds and modifications.
- C. November Freire Dashboard (Attachment 3)
 - 1. Lilian explained the 2025 PVAAS (Growth) Summary: PVAAS outcomes can help us interrogate the effectiveness of our instructional strategies. Results offer insight into strengths and identify areas for improvement. More explicitly, PVAAS helps us answer questions like: is there a pattern of



growth across content areas? Are all students being served adequately and equitably?

2. Freire campuses in Philadelphia are evaluated on growth in our Annual Charter Evaluation (ACE). Schools earn full credit for overall and lowest performing Average Growth Indexes (AGIs) at or above -1, the minimum score reflecting evidence that the school met the growth standard, and no credit for AGIs below -1, which indicates that there was evidence that the school did not meet the growth standard.
3. TECH will earn full credit for all students in Algebra; it will not earn credit in Biology or in Literature (where students did not meet the standard for growth).
4. TECH will earn full credit for lowest performing students across all content areas.
5. Although we're not evaluated on growth for students with IEPs, it's important to note that students with IEPs met or exceeded the growth standard in Algebra and Biology but were below the standard in Literature.
6. In 2025, TECH ranked at the 45th percentile among Philadelphia charter schools in Algebra and in the 19th percentile in Literature.

IV. Financials

A. October 2025 Financial Report (Attachment 4)

1. Ben Wainwright reports that TECH Freire has a surplus of \$843K and is projected to end the year with a total surplus of \$790K.
2. Budgeted revenue for the year is expected to be \$12.3M. We will be monitoring expenses all year and will make adjustments as needed.
3. Pennsylvania has now passed a state budget, allowing all federal grant payments to resume. The School was previously informed that 21st Century Grant Payments were on hold pending the passage of the budget. With the budget approved, these payments will now be paid out.

V. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (Attachment 5)

1. Melanie Reiser shares that the network-wide unrestricted fundraising target for FY26 is \$675k – \$125k per Philadelphia campus and \$300k for Freire Wilmington. To date, we have raised \$241,300 in donations and pledges toward that goal, leaving us approximately \$434k to raise by June 30th.
2. The Freire Schools holiday appeal will be hitting mailboxes the week of 12/8.
3. The network-wide Advancement Committee met on October 14th to develop a fundraising plan for FY26. The committee decided not to host a Bridge to Wisdom fundraising event this year, but potentially one in fall 2026. Focus instead will be on smaller Board-led fundraising/friendraising events this winter and spring, plus increased grant writing, a second print appeal in the spring, and active personal solicitation of donors.
4. In addition to our unrestricted fundraising, we have received \$91k in smaller restricted gifts to fund an 8th grade academy (FCSW), EITC funding for the Experienceship program, peer mediation training (all three high schools), and athletic uniforms and truancy home visits at FCSW.
5. We are awaiting more information from the State, but it looks like Freire Charter and TECH Freire will be eligible for additional school safety grant funding this year as part of the new PA budget.
6. Board giving for FY26 is currently at 23%.
7. Melanie requests board presence at the upcoming Student Ambassador Training for those interested and available.

B. Political Landscape

1. Melanie notes that 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. Statement of Financial Interest

1. Leigh Botwinik shares that board members can expect to receive outreach from Freire Schools in January regarding Statements of Financial Interest. The deadline is typically in early March.

B. Updating of Files Next Year

1. Leigh shares that some board members may also be required to complete Governance training.

Meeting Adjourned, 8:47 AM