



# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FEBRUARY 4, 2026 | 8 AM**

**MEETING ID: 898 1692 3854**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Scott Solomon**

**OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Archibald, Jabree Belcher, Leigh Botwinik, Kelly DeLeon, Dawn Eubanks, James Evans, Promise Evans, Brian Galetto, Kelsey Gavigan, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Kathleen O'Connell, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Mya Smith Reynolds, Scott Solomon, Ben Wainwright, Madeline Weckel, Nathan Yufer**

## **I. Public Comment**

- A.** No public comment.

## **II. Resolutions**

- A.** Review & Approve Minutes from December 10, 2025 (*Attachment 2A*)\*

1. The board reviews the minutes from the December 10, 2025 board meeting.
2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
3. 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 FY25 Draft 990 (*Attachment 2B*)\*

1. The board reviews the FY25 Draft 990.
2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser and Scott Solomon vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

## **III. Network Update**

- A.** Freire Schools Vision (*Attachment 3*)

1. Paul Ramirez updates the board on the vision process. He shares that he has met with over 100 stakeholders from across the Freire Schools network including students, staff members, parents, and board members to elicit feedback and discussion. Last month, board leadership approved the final version of the vision which includes the following components: College Preparatory Learning, Professional Prep, Culture of Belonging, and Thriving with AI.
2. Paul shares that in the coming months we will form focus groups for each component of the vision to set goals, strategies, and initiatives.

## **IV. School Report**

- A.** Staff & Student Report

1. Student Mya Smith Reynolds shares her experience taking dual enrollment classes through both Temple University and the Community College of Philadelphia. She also shares updates on National Honor Society (NHS) initiatives, including their recent creation of a food pantry. Each week, NHS members monitor inventory and assemble lunches that go into the pantry. Mya reports that she is a cheerleader and that her favorite classes are Physics and Spanish.
2. Staff members Mr. Jabree Belcher and Mr. James Evans share updates on TECH's athletic programs. Their efforts this year, including hosting multiple sports physical events and



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mandatory study halls, have led to increased compliance and eligibility. They are also planning to hold a Sports Banquet in the spring to celebrate student athletes.

### B. Heads Report

1. Brian Galetto reports that TECH currently has the highest enrollment in the school's history and that withdrawals are down. He notes that attendance is up compared to this time last year and attributes these successes to their efforts in cultivating a strong culture of belonging. Brian notes a slight decrease in benchmark scores but identifies the growth of SPED students as a bright point. Brian shares that there are several upcoming events aimed at celebrating student achievement, fostering college prep, and connecting with families and community members.
2. January Freire Dashboard (*Attachment 4*)
  - a) Schoolwide Plan/TSI Improvement Plan Progress Update
    - (0) Kelsey Gavigan reports on our progress related to the TSI designation. The first glow has been the establishment of network wide infrastructure—the first thing we did was build sustainable systems that support our special education students. We've also established data tracking and progress monitoring related to culture, attendance and academics. Next we're focusing on cross campus coherence. On the dashboard, you can see attendance for special education students has increased across all campuses. This shows that the systems and routines we put in place to ensure students can access their education, including providing transportation, are helping students. You'll also see the proactive supports we've put in place around climate are having positive impacts as our students with zero out of school suspensions has increased. This shows we are reducing exclusionary discipline across the board. Further, we are working on strengthening our family partnerships.

### C. Admissions Update

1. Leigh Botwinik shares that today is the lottery and students will be notified about acceptances on Friday. During the next board meeting, we'll have more to share related to early trends.

## V. Financials

### A. December 2025 Financial Report (*Attachment 5*)

1. Ben Wainwright reports that as of December 31, 2025, TECH Freire has a surplus of \$1.1M and is projected to end the year with a total surplus of \$682K. Actual enrollment stands at 519, with the average enrollment at 559, exceeding the budgeted average yearly enrollment of 500. TECH's forecasted revenue for the year is expected to be 12.4M, which is \$120k more than originally budgeted. Ben makes three notes related to expenses:
  - a) The "Professional Services" category is currently forecasted to exceed the budget by \$38k. This variance is primarily due to the additional instructional services with external vendors, including occupational therapy, paraprofessionals, behavior technicians, and instructional assistants. The forecast has been updated to reflect these expenses.
  - a) The "Other Services" category is currently forecasted to exceed the budget by \$105k. Our Student Transportation budget item was under budgeted due to an increase in rates, number of routes, and number of trips. The forecast has been updated to reflect these expenses.



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b) The Facility Services category is currently forecasted to exceed the budget by \$56k. This variance is primarily due to various projects that were not budgeted. Such as a repair to the basement HVAC system, a repair to the elevator, and a 5 year internal inspection to the fire sprinkler system. The forecast has been updated to reflect these expenses.

2. Bruce Lesser notes the decline in benchmark scores and reminds the board of their responsibility to ensure the school's spending is in line with advancing student outcomes.

### VI. Advancement

#### A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 6*)

1. Melanie Reiser reports that the network-wide unrestricted fundraising target for FY26 is \$675k – \$125k per Philadelphia campus and \$300k for Freire Wilmington. As a network, we have raised \$296k, leaving us \$379k to raise to meet our fundraising target. This spring, we'll hold board member-led fundraisers. Currently Freire Charter is at 100% board giving.

#### 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.

### VII. Governance

#### A. Statement of Financial Interests 2025

1. Madeline Weckel reminds board members about the process for Statements of Financial Interests and requests that they submit the forms by Friday, February 27.

*\*Requires Vote*

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 8:00 AM** at 1026 Market St.

*TECH Freire provides a college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, equity, and commitment to peace.*