



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 12, 2018

Minutes

Location: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board Members Present: Paul Archibald (via phone), William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, Lorraine White

Other: Najay Anderson (TECH Freire Student), Ella Anderson, Hilda Bacon, Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Nideeya Eaddy (Freire High Student), Dawn Eubanks, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Maurice Roberts, Anthony Royster (via phone), Dan Saleki, Dave Shahriari, Devan Smith, Scott Solomon, Steve Swizer, Chris Zagacki

The meeting is called to order at 8:05 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment

II. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from October 10, 2018
 - i. The Board of Directors review the minutes from October 10, 2018.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the minutes. Lorraine White seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. FY2018 Audit Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the final audit report. There are no major differences to prior audits other than the pension liability, which is down from previous years because of the percentage of staff currently enrolled in PSERS. Bill notes that Freire has met all financial ratios except for the Current Ratio because of the recent TRF loan refinance which is considered a short-term liability.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve the minutes. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - iv. Kelly Davenport takes a moment to thank Bill Ray and all the Board Members for their hard work and involvement in the audit process.
- c. Form 990
 - i. Bill Ray reviews Form 990 noting that the numbers are identical to the audit report. Bill notes that the Form 990 has already been reviewed by numerous Board Members for accuracy.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Lorraine White seconds.

- iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan
 - i. Max Matthews explains that the state of Pennsylvania has begun to review the Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plans for schools throughout the state. The updated plan includes a more detailed list of responsibilities to be conducted in the case of an emergency. Additionally, the plan outlines the required drills the school must conduct during the year.
 - ii. Lorraine White makes a motion to approve. Michael Maholick seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

III. School Report

- a. Heads Report
 - i. November Data Packet
 - 1. Chris Zagacki explains that attendance is nearly identical compared to last year, with a slight decrease in November due to widespread student illness. Suspensions are down compared to last year with the percentage of students with 0 suspensions rising to 97%. Chris notes the increased number of admissions applications and attributes this increase to the new Apply Philly Charter online application system. Chris reviews the recently published PSSA data with the Board.
 - 2. Chris Moore shares that student enrollment has risen compared to this time last year with an increased number of applications for the new school year (also attributed to the use of the new Apply Philly Charter online application). Average daily attendance has increased compared to last year. There was a slight decrease in attendance during November due to an unexpected snow day. Overall, suspensions have risen compared to last year but Chris believes each of those instances were a significant break from the school's code of conduct. Even with increased suspensions, the percentage of students with 0 suspensions is 95%.
 - 3. Leigh Botwinik reviews the STAR Benchmark data with the Board of Directors, noting that there has been steady growth in both reading and math. The next round of middle school STAR benchmarking will be in February.
- b. Staff Member Update
 - i. Devan Smith, the Health and Wellness teacher and Teacher Mentor at Freire Charter High School, shares that she is excited about the number of students who are becoming more involved in their school. Devan notes that a group of students recently reached out to school leadership to propose a talent show and winter dance. Both events are student-led and will take place in the coming weeks.
 - ii. Devan shares the effectiveness the new Safe Space is having on students throughout the building. In the Safe Space, students are able to express their frustrations and grievances and meet with a counselor. The space has been incredibly well received and has helped mitigate numerous issues that, otherwise, could have escalated.
- c. Student Update
 - i. Nideeya Eaddy, a current 10th grader, originally transferred to Freire from Parkway West. Nideeya shares that she received First Honors in Quarter 1 and is also on the Dean's List. Nideeya is a cheerleader and her team recently won accolades at a state level cheer competition.

- d. Alumni Update
 - i. No alumni update at this time.
- e. Middle School Playground Update
 - i. Chris Zagacki shares that construction on the playground will begin in January with a potential 6-week turn around. The playground space will include a play area, arcade, art studio, board game room, and a mindfulness space.

IV. Financials

- a. October 2018 Financial Dashboard
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the October Financial Dashboard for Freire Charter School. Bill notes that the school is still waiting to receive their lease reimbursement from the Department of Education. The delay is due to a change in the state's payment system. Freire currently meets all financial ratios except the Current Ratio due to a recent loan refinancing.
 - ii. Kelly Davenport charges Bill Ray and the Heads of School to create a plan to create more competitive compensation for teachers. Freire should make teaching a first-choice profession again. Kelly requests that a plan be presented to the Board Chairs in the spring.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Update
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire conducted a Giving Tuesday push via email and which was well received. The database has grown considerably over the past few months, now reaching over 5000 individuals. The Advancement Committee recently met and is in the process of selecting the Bridge to Wisdom honoree.

VI. Board Committees

- i. Education Committee
 - 1. Board Survey Report
 - a. Leigh Botwinik reviews the Education Committee Board Survey, noting that, on average, the Board reads 2 out of 3 of the reports and finds them informative. The Board discusses additional topics the education committee should research including career success of the Freire Alumni and the possibility of a Freire primary school.
- ii. Audit Committee
 - 1. No update at this time.
- iii. 403(b) Committee
 - 1. No update at this time.
- iv. Safety/Property Committee
 - 1. Max Matthews shares that Freire is looking for a board representative for the Safety/Property Committee. If any Board Member is interested, they are encouraged to reach out to Max.

VII. Governance

- a. Resignation of Aliya Griffin
 - i. Gerald Escovitz notes that Aliya Griffin recently resigned from the Board of Directors.

The meeting is adjourned at 10:05 AM