



### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 13, 2017

#### Minutes

Location: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board Members Present: Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, Lorraine White

Board Members Absent: David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Michael Maholick, Eric Muller

Other: Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Najay Davis (TECH Freire student), Alexis Dennis (Freire Charter teacher), Dawn Eubanks, Matthew Johnson, Max Matthews, Chris Moore, Laura Parise, IsMina Patton (TECH Freire student), Bill Ray, Nafir Royal (Freire Charter student), Dave Shahriari, Scott Solomon, Hillary Sorin, Chris Zagacki

The meeting is called to order at 8:08 AM.

#### I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

#### II. Honoring Anthony Harris

- a. Gerry Escovitz acknowledges the recent passing of a Freire Charter School Board Member, Anthony Harris. Kelly Davenport notes Anthony's hard work and dedication to Freire students and the love he shared for the mission of the Freire Network. The Board of Directors took a moment of silence.
- b. The members of the Board of Directors reach consensus in asking that Build the Future donate \$1000 in the name of the Freire Charter School community to a fund established to support the education of Anthony Harris's youngest son.

#### III. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from October 11, 2017
  - i. The Board of Directors review the minutes from the October 11, 2017, Board Meeting.
  - ii. Bill Brinkman makes a motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Revised Budget Policy
  - i. Bill Ray explains the revised budget policy for Freire Charter School. The main addition to the policy is the inclusion of financial ratios to show if Freire Charter School is meeting or exceeding said ratios.

- ii. Lorraine White makes a motion to approve the Revised Budget Policy. Bruce Lesser seconds.
- iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. FY2017 Audit Report
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the 2017 Audit Report for the Board of Directors noting that the audit has been concluded and there were no findings.
  - ii. Bill Brinkman makes a motion to approve the 2017 Audit Report. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. School District Recoupment Memo
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the School District Recoupment Memo explaining that during the 2016-2017 School Year, the School District of Philadelphia changed the capitation rate to cover actual school expenses instead of budgeted school expenses.
  - ii. The Board of Directors review the options available for Freire Charter School to potentially recover some of the recouped payments by the School District.
  - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve submitting a petition to the Pennsylvania Department of Education to divert payment, pending review of any 2017-18 change to the district's budgeted vs. actual expenses. Paul Archibald seconds.
  - iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Health Insurance Renewal Memo
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the Health Insurance Renewal Memo with the Board of Directors noting changes made from the previous year. Freire Charter School will now require all staff members to cover the final \$1000 of their deductible.
  - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve the Health Insurance Renewal Memo. Bill Brinkman seconds.
  - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Election of Bill Brinkman to the TECH Freire Board of Directors
  - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to elect Bill Brinkman, a current member of the Freire Charter School Board of Directors, to the TECH Freire Board of Directors. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - ii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

#### **IV. School Report**

- a. Student Council Update
  - i. Nafir Royal (11<sup>th</sup>) gives an update on Freire High School's Student Council. He notes that the members of student councils are working on curbing bullying within the student body, including starting an anti-bullying ad campaign. In addition, the Student Council

wants to increase student involvement and club opportunities for students throughout the year.

- b. Staff Member Update
  - i. Alexis Dennis, a member of the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Services team, shares a snapshot of her daily workload with both 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. She notes how helpful and inspiring it is to be able to follow the same group of students for multiple years throughout their time at Freire Charter School. Alexis mentions that she would like to begin taking her students on more trips that align with their interests after high school.
- c. Freire November Data Packet
  - i. Freire Charter High School
    - 1. Chris Moore notes that there are roughly 400 more applicants compared to this time last year. The average daily attendance for Freire Charter High School is resting around 92%, an increase from last year. Chris highlights that the total number of suspensions has significantly decreased due to the implementation of an in-school suspension program.
  - ii. Freire Charter Middle School
    - 1. Chris Zagacki reviews the metrics and effectiveness of the “Yet” cards which allow students to retake assessments which they do not feel they have mastered. Chris also notes the creation of an Attendance Committee at the school level which helps keep track of and raise daily attendance throughout the school. Suspensions are up slightly from this time last year.
  - iii. Leigh Botwinik mentions that the schools have started using the Star Benchmark to measure student success. At this time, there is not enough data to measure results, however, a second Star Benchmark test is to take place in January. Leigh also gives testament to the quality of instruction reflected by the remarkable level of student growth at both Freire Charter Middle and Freire Charter High School measured by the PSSAs and Keystone test results. Freire Charter Middle School ranked the third highest in reading growth throughout the state of PA.

## V. Financials

- a. Freire October 2017 Financial Packet
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the October 2017 financial report, noting that total student enrollment is lower than originally budgeted. Freire Charter School is still projected to meet all financial ratios; however, the budget will need to be conservative for the remainder of the year due to the lower projected surplus.
- b. Banking Update
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- c. TRF Loan Refinance Update
  - i. Beth Packel notes that both loans for Freire Charter Middle and Freire Charter High School mature in July 2018. The appraisal for Freire Charter High School has been completed but there is a stall on the appraisal for Freire Charter Middle School, likely due to the recent development of nearby properties on Market Street. TRF has offered a loan to Freire Charter High School but would like to refinance both schools at the same time. The goal is to have a formal appraisal of Freire Charter Middle by the next board meeting.
- d. Line of Credit
  - i. Kelly Davenport notes that Freire Charter School has been offered an unsecured line of credit for \$500,000. Bruce Lesser recommends asking for a greater line of credit with

more favorable terms. Beth Packel believes that Freire Charter School has a strong enough history and track record to argue for a more favorable line of credit.

## **VI. Advancement**

- a. Advancement Update
  - i. Hillary Sorin updates the Board of Directors on recent meetings with potential major donors, including Comcast, and the current fundraising landscape going into 2018. She highlights some talking points as a way for Board Members to kick off conversations about the success of the Freire Network.
  - ii. Bob Moul and Austin Hendrix have agreed to co-chair the summer fundraising event focused on raising money for technology initiatives throughout the Freire Network.
  - iii. Hillary briefly explains the upcoming Broken Leg Players Winter Showcase at Freire Charter High School and the weekly Calculator Club at Freire Charter Middle School starting in 2018. Hillary asks the Board of Directors for help with recruiting local business leaders in finance and technology to volunteer to be a part of this event.
- b. Advancement Committee
  - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Clint Walker, President of the Freire Wilmington Board of Directors, and Kristin Davidson, President of the Freire Foundation Board of Directors, are co-chairing the advancement committee and will be reaching out to Board Members across the network about joining the committee as well.

## **VII. Board Committees**

- a. Audit Committee
  - i. Gerald Escovitz notes that the audit was previously discussed at the start of the meeting.
- b. Education Committee
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that the education committee recently met and is looking at traveling to other schools to learn more about what successful initiatives are taking place across the country.
- c. 403(b) Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- d. Safety/Property Committee
  - i. The Foundation will be looking into building repair for Freire Charter High School as the holder of the school's lease.

## **VIII. Governance**

- a. Trustee Expectations
  - i. Gerald Escovitz asks the Board of Directors to review the revised Trustee Expectations document and asks the Board Members to reach out to him with any questions or concerns.
- b. Director of Learning
  - i. Gerald Escovitz notes that Build the Future is currently looking to hire a Director of Learning who will be working to propel the educational initiatives across the network.
- c. Build the Future Forum Update
  - i. Kelly Davenport notes the success of the recent Build the Future Fall Forum. Additional small groups will come together until the end of January to further dissect the feedback received during the forum.
- d. Network Governance Update

- i. There is no update at this time.
- e. Alumni Board Member
  - i. Gerald Escovitz shares that he recently met with Aliya Griffin, a Freire alumna, who has expressed interest in joining the Freire Charter School Board of Directors. Aliya Griffin will be meeting with Nicole Jenkins and Kelly Davenport in January before attending the February Board Meeting.

The meeting is adjourned at 11:37 AM.