



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 10, 2020 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Board Members Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, Lorraine White

Others Present: Elana Adams (TECH Freire Parent), Leigh Botwinik, Thomas Caramanico, Kelly Davenport, Travis Edwards (TECH Freire Staff), Dawn Eubanks, Kait Ginder (Freire High Staff), Roger Klingerman (CSO), Max Matthews, Shonda McCants (TECH Freire Parent), Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Biridiana Rodriguez (CSO), Samaj Schell (Freire High Student), Scott Solomon, Teryn Thomas, Cameron Voss (CSO), Charles Ware, Honeyeh Younesie (TECH Freire Student), Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:06 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. The Board takes a moment to honor George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement, and all those lost to police brutality. Freire Schools is actively planning ways to address both conscious and unconscious racism and white privilege within the network.
- b. Elana Adams and Shonda McCants introduce themselves to the Board. They are both potential parent representatives for the Board of TECH Freire Charter School.

II. COVID Working Group

- a. 2020-21 School Calendar
 - i. Max Matthews shares that the Freire Charter School Board is required to approve the school calendar annually.
 - ii. Lisa Hoffstein makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Emergency Delegation of Authority
 - i. Max Matthews explains that the Emergency Delegation of Authority would delegate the necessary authority to the Heads of School to take any action listed on the resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that all actions are approved by the CEO of Freire Schools Collaborative and the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

III. Executive Session^T

- a. The Board proposes to hold an executive session in the coming weeks to discuss the Head of School evaluations and the school safety report. Olivia Burgess will connect with the Boards later this week to schedule.

IV. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on April 8, 2020
 - i. The Board reviews the minutes from the Board Meeting on April 8, 2020.
 - ii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.

- iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Election of Board Members
 - i. Election of Freire Charter School Board Members & Officers
 - 1. Max Matthews shares the proposed re-election of Freire Charter School Board Members and changes to the current Board Officers. This proposal includes the re-appointment of Paul Archibald as the Member At-Large and Beth Packel as the Treasurer. Additionally, Gerald Escovitz will be resigning from his current role as Board Chair at the end of the current fiscal year. Max proposes the election of David Bryant as the new Chair of the Freire Charter School Board, Nicole Jenkins as the Secretary, and Bruce Lesser as Vice Chair.
 - 2. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve all proposed elections and term renewals. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - 3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - 4. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - ii. Election of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members
 - 1. Max Matthews reviews the proposed changes to the TECH Freire Charter School Board of Directors. The proposed would elect Gerald Escovitz to the Board of Directors for TECH Freire Charter School and renew William Brinkman's board term.
 - 2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Paul Archibald seconds.
 - 3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - 4. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. 2020-21 Board Meeting Schedule
 - i. The Board reviews the proposed Board Meeting Schedule for the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Freire Charter School Charter Contract
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the resolution to authorize execution of Freire Charter School's Charter Contract. The resolution would execute and deliver a Charter with the same non-school-specific terms as the proposed charter provided to TECH Freire Charter School in 2019. The terms in the proposed Charter agreement for Freire Charter School would add additional mandates beyond what is required by law, inherently ceding some of the flexibility and autonomy to which Freire Charter School would otherwise be entitled.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the Freire Charter School Charter Contract. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Resolution to Oppose Changes to Charter Funding Formula
 - i. Max Matthews explains that Governor Wolf has proposed charter school funding cuts that would greatly impact both Freire Charter School and TECH Freire Charter School.
 - ii. The resolution up for approval would strongly oppose and condemn the proposed changes, any accompanying legislation, and urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly to reject the dangerous and destructive cuts being proposed.
 - iii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - v. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Policy 205 -Admissions Policy for 2020-21

- i. The Board agrees that the changes made to the 2020-21 Admissions Policy are covered under the previously approved Emergency Delegation of Authority for the Head of School. The Board does not feel a vote is required for changes made to the current year admissions policy.
- g. Policy 205 -Admissions Policy for 2021-22
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the proposed admissions timeline and process for the 2021-2022 School Year, including the amendment to allow the school to amend any admissions deadline in case of an emergency.
 - ii. Lorraine White makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- h. FY 2021 Budget Approval
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed FY 2021 Budget with the Board of Directors and discuss the impact COVID-19 and distance learning will have on the budget moving forward.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- i. Lease Reimbursement
 - i. Bill Ray shares that the Board of Directors is required to approve the School's annual PDE-418 (Lease Reimbursement) forms. The Lease Reimbursement form for the 2019-2020 school year is not yet available but will be identical to the 2018-2019 form and updated to reflect the rent payments made by the school during the current year.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. Lorraine White seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- j. Amendment to Freire Charter School Bylaws
 - i. The Board reviews the proposed changes to the Freire Charter School Bylaws which would remove the limitation on how many board members can participate in the Executive Committee and allow for multiple board members to be elected as Members At-Large. David Bryant makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - ii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iii. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - iv. In addition, the Board moves to consent to Lisa Hoffstein and Paul Archibald both serving as Members At-Large.
 - v. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 - vi. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - vii. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- k. Freire Middle School Dress Code
 - i. Andrea Zepp, Head of Academic Supports at Freire Charter Middle School, shares that the proposed changes to the dress code expand the approved clothing list to include a grey sweatshirt.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.
 - iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- l. KG Educational Service Agreement
 - i. Max Matthews asks the Board to vote to authorize the Head of School to sign an agreement of up to \$60,000 for the settlement plus any attorney's fees with the approval of either the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Nicole Jenkins, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor.

- iv. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

V. Financials

- a. April 2020 Financial Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the April Financial Report with the Board of Directors. Bill notes that the only significant purchase since the COVID-19 closure were Chromebooks for each student. Freire Charter School is on track to meet all financial ratios.
 - ii. Bill notes that with the large surplus Freire Charter School has because of the COVID-19 closure the school is able to move forward with much needed improvements at both Freire Charter High School and Freire Charter Middle School. These improvements include upgraded WIFI capabilities and new smart boards at each campus and new gym floors for Freire Charter High School.

VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report
 - i. Melanie Reiser, Director of Mission Advancement at Freire Schools, shares that the Advancement Committee recently met and decided to cancel any in-person or online fundraising event for the year.
 - ii. The advancement team focused fundraising efforts on previous donors and a small group of new donors and was able to exceed the fundraising goal of \$400,000 for the year. Freire Charter School has 100% Board giving for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- b. Talking Points
 - i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points for June 2020 with the Board of Directors.

VII. School Report

- a. Senior Update, Samaj Schell
 - i. Samaj Schell, a current senior at Freire Charter High School, shares that he will be attending Indiana University in the Fall, majoring in Communications. Samaj shares that he became very involved in afterschool programs at Freire Charter High School during his freshman year and was able to balance both his grades and involvement in afterschool programs.
 - ii. Samaj shares that he spoke in front of the State Capital building earlier this year during a pro-charter rally and greatly enjoyed the experience.
- b. Staff Update, Kait Ginder
 - i. FCHS College Report
 - 1. Kait Ginder, Director of Academic Affairs at Freire Charter High School, reviews the college report with the Board. Kait notes that there are 95 students graduating in the Class of 2020, with roughly 90% of those students planning to attend college/university.
 - 2. Kait notes there are a high number of students accepted to Temple University this year, with 19 acceptances. This particular class is mindful of the cost of college and the impacts COVID-19 will have on education. Many students are choosing to stay within the state to reduce the overall costs of attending college/university.
 - 3. Kait shares that the Class of 2020 has one of the highest numbers of transfer students who joined Freire after 9th grade.
- c. Heads Report
 - i. June 2020 Data Packet
 - 1. Andrea Zepp shares that Freire Charter Middle School is very proud of the number of students who actively participated in distance learning during Quarter 4. The school was challenged to find new and interesting ways to communicate to families.
 - 2. Leigh Botwinik shares that Freire moved to an asynchronous method of digital learning for the 4th Quarter which allowed students to complete work at times that was most convenient for them. Student attendance was measured by how many students turned in at least one assignment per day. At the end of week 4, Freire Charter High School reached 98% attendance and Freire Charter Middle School reached 92%.
 - 3. Chris Moore shares that students of Freire Charter High School surpassed leadership's expectations with how involved students were in digital learning. Chris believes that the strong relationships between the students and staff at Freire High School created a space for an easy transition to digital learning.
 - ii. The Board discusses the ramifications COVID-19 has had on planning next school year. Kelly Davenport shares that there is a working group of Freire leadership who are planning how to

address opening school in the fall. The group is working on three different scenarios, including a full open, a partial open, and a fully digital opening.

- iii. Class of 2020 Graduation Ceremony
 - 1. Chris Moore shares that Freire Charter High School will host their graduation on Monday, June 15 at Freire Charter High School. Students and families will be monitoring social distancing practices and wear masks while in the building. The graduation will be live streamed on both Instagram and Zoom for all members who are not able to attend.
- iv. Freire School Commitment to Anti-Racist Action
 - 1. Kelly Davenport shares that the entire network will be reading a book around racial justice and she asks the Board to participate in this reading. More information will be shared with the schools, staff, and board members as additional details are planned.
 - 2. Scott Solomon shares that he does not want this anti-racist action statement to be a reaction to the current situation facing our country but rather a sustained movement within the Freire community.

VIII. Governance

- a. Freire Schools Evaluation
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that every year the Board of Directors and Heads of School are asked to complete a survey evaluation of Freire Schools services. This year's participation rate was slightly lower than last year. The sections of the survey mirror the services agreement signed by both Freire Schools and each Freire campus.
 - ii. Overall, Leigh shares that the survey results were overwhelmingly positive and there were a handful of constructive comments that Freire Schools will use to better support the schools, specifically in terms of hiring and technology improvements across the network.
- b. Acknowledgement of Gerald Escovitz Service to the Board
 - i. Melanie reads a statement acknowledging the many years of service Gerald Escovitz has given to Freire Charter School as both a Board Member and the Chair of the Board. Gerald will be stepping down as Board Chair at the end of the fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned 11:18 PM