



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 13, 2017

Location: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board attendees: Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Chris Moore, Eric Muller, Beth Packel, Chris Zagacki,

Board members absent: Nick Fels, Bruce Levine, Michael Maholick. Lorraine White

Other attendees: Leigh Botwinik, Tom Caramanico, Kelly Davenport, Maggie Day (Freire Middle School staff representative), Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Bill Ray, Julia Regan Fanelli, Jalen Scott (Freire High School student representative), Hillary Sorin, Gianni Williams (Freire High School student representative)

8:02 AM, meeting called to order.

I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

II. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from June 14, 2017 Board Meeting
 - i. The Board reviews the minutes from the June 14, 2017 Board Meeting.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the minutes. Eric Muller seconds the motion.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Slate of Staff
 - i. Max Matthews reviews an up-to-date Slate of Staff for Freire Charter School, noting that Freire's charter specifies that the Board of Directors must vote to approve employee hires, terminations, and salaries as the means of fulfilling its responsibilities under the school code.
 - ii. The Board recognizes that there are no conflicts of interest present on the Slate of Staff.
 - iii. Eric Muller makes a motion to approve the Slate of Staff. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. FCMS and FCHS Student Handbooks
 - i. The Board reviews the student handbooks for Freire Middle School and Freire High School for the 2017-18 school year.
 - ii. Max Matthews notes that most of the substantial changes to the handbooks were previously approved at the Board's June meeting, but that some additional changes are now proposed.
 - iii. Bill Brinkman makes a motion to approve both revised Student Handbooks. Paul Archibald seconds the motion.

- iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Educational Services Agreement
 - i. The Board reviews a proposed Educational Services Agreement. Chris Zagacki reviews the circumstances leading up to this agreement.
 - ii. Bill Brinkman makes a motion to approve the Educational Services Agreement. Bruce Lesser seconds the motion.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Re-Approve 2016-17 Lease Reimbursement
 - i. Bill Ray reviews Freire Charter School's 2016-17 lease reimbursement form to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He notes that the amounts listed on the form were previously approved at the June Board Meeting, but that the form could not be accepted by the DOE unless the Board approved the form after July 1st, when the official 2016-17 form was released.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the 2016-17 lease reimbursement form. Lorraine White seconds the motion.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. CIPA Internet Safety Policy
 - i. The Board reviews the proposed CIPA Internet Safety Policy for the 2017-18 school year. Max Matthews explains the purpose of CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) to the Board along with the methods the school uses to protect students while online.
 - ii. Lisa Hoffstein makes a motion to approve the proposed policy. Nicole Jenkins seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- g. EL Policy and Program Guide
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the revised English Learner Policy, to which the Board approved revisions at its meeting in June as the ESL/Bilingual Policy. The purpose of revisions proposed at this time is to align the policy with new guidelines released by the state over the summer.
 - ii. Bill Brinkman makes a motion to approve the policy. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- h. 2017-2018 Admissions Policy
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the updated Admissions Policy for students entering Fall 2018.
 - ii. The Board proceeds to approve the document, but removing the phrase "in the best way feasible" from the backfill enrollment practice section.
 - iii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve with proposed Board changes. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

III. School Report

- a. Student Council Update
 - i. Gianni Williams and Jalen Scott discuss the changes to Freire Charter High School's Student Council and some of the Council's plans for the school year, as well as curriculum changes that have been made for the 2017-18 school year in response to Student Council's research and advocacy in 2016-17.
- b. Staff Member Update
 - i. Maggie Day, an Academic Advisor at Freire Charter Middle School, introduces herself. Chris Zagacki recognizes Maggie for her dedication to keeping students in her grade from being retained. The Board honors Maggie for her work with the 6th grade class during the 2016-2017 school year.
- c. Freire Charter High School Update
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares an update about the changing leadership structure of Freire Charter High School. She introduces Chris Moore, the new Co-Head of School for Academic Supports.
 - ii. Chris Moore further introduces himself to the Board and briefly touches on his history and experience with Freire Charter School over the past few years.
- d. Freire Charter Middle School Update
 - i. Chris Zagacki reviews both the 2017-2018 Academic Plan and September Data Packet for Freire Charter Middle School. He notes the rise in student performance both within the school and on standardized testing over the course of the last school year.
 - ii. Chris further explains the academic and school-wide goals for the 2017-2018 school year and how the school plans to meet those goals.
- e. Charter Renewal Update
 - i. Kelly Davenport updates the Board on the status of the charter renewal process for Freire Charter School.
 - ii. Kelly formally invites the Board Members to attend Board Visitation Day at both Freire Charter High School and Middle School in the coming weeks.

IV. Financials

- a. June 2017 Financial Packet
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the end-of-year financial report for the 2016-2017 year.
- b. TRF Loan Refinance Update
 - i. Beth Packel updates the Board on the status of Freire Charter School's TRF loan and current refinancing efforts.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Packet
 - i. Gerry Escovitz introduces Hillary Sorin, the new Director of Advancement at Build the Future.
 - ii. Hillary shares a brief overview of the goals for the Advancement Office over the coming years and what she has been working on over the summer months while the Board was in recess.

VI. Board Committee Reports

- a. 403(b) Committee
 - i. Eric Muller gives a brief overview of the recent committee meeting held to address some changing investment opportunities for Freire staff members. The committee will be looking into these opportunities throughout the end of the year.

- b. Audit Committee
 - i. Bill Ray updates the Board on the status of the annual audit, noting that, at this time, the auditors have not identified any findings.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Excellent Schools Visit
 - 1. Lisa Hoffstein updates the board on a recent visit to the Washington, DC Charter School Board with some other members of the education committee.
 - ii. Research and Parent Involvement
 - 1. Leigh Botwinik informs the Board that an update on educational research and parent involvement will be provided at the October Board Meeting.
- d. Safety/Property Committee
 - i. Eric Muller notes that no safety-related incidents have been reported since the last Board meeting.

VII. Executive Session

- a. Bruce Lesser makes a motion for the Board to enter executive session to discuss ongoing litigation. Beth Packel seconds.
- b. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Anthony Harris, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Eric Muller, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. The Board holds executive session from 10:04 AM to 10:22 AM.

10:22 AM, meeting adjourned.