



### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 11, 2018

Location: 103 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 1104, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Board attendees: Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Chris Moore, Eric Muller (via phone), Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, Lorraine White

Board members absent: Nick Fels, Lisa Hoffstein, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, Chris Zagacki

Other attendees: Leigh Botwinik, Tom Caramanico, Josh Cornier, Kelly Davenport, Destiny Edwards (TECH Freire student representative), Dawn Eubanks (via phone), Raquel Leach, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Bill Ray, Nafir Royal (FCHS student representative), Janiese Searles (TECH Freire staff representative), Dave Shahriari, Scott Solomon, Hillary Sorin,

8:07 AM, meeting called to order.

#### I. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

#### II. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from February 14, 2018 Board Meeting
  - i. The Board reviews the minutes from the February 14, 2018 Board Meeting.
  - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the minutes. Paul Archibald seconds the motion.
  - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Eric Muller, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Approve the School Wide Plan
  - i. Max Matthews reviews the updated School Wide Plan.
  - ii. Lorraine White makes a motion to approve the updated School Wide Plan. Paul Archibald seconds the motion.
  - iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Eric Muller, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Slate of Staff and Salaries
  - i. Max Matthews presents the Slate of Staff and Salaries to the Board for mid-year approval. He notes the previous version was approved during the September Board Meeting.
  - ii. Bruce Lesser requests that, moving forward, the Slate of Staff includes salary increases over the past two years and further information on teacher termination.
  - iii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve the Slate of Staff with Salaries. Lorraine White seconds the motion.
  - iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Eric Muller, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. Build the Future CSO Agreement
  - i. Max Matthews reviews the updated CSO agreement and the relationship between Build the Future and Freire Charter School.

- ii. Bill Brinkman makes a motion to approve the updated CSO Agreement. Lorraine White seconds.
- iii. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Eric Muller, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. TRF Loan Refinance Options
  - i. Bill Ray explains that Freire One is in the process of refinancing its loans with TRF. This loan will mature on July 1, 2018. He shares a report with the Board, outlining the different refinance options discussed with TRF and Freire Foundation.
  - ii. The Board discusses the pros and cons of the three options presented.
  - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to grant the authority to the Finance Committee to negotiate and accept any of the options presented to the Board with the Board's preference as Option 3. The Finance Committee is directed to determine any prepayment fees and to shorten the loan term and fees to the lowest possible amount and explore the reduction of the newly proposed interest rates. Further, the Finance Committee is charged with presenting the updated terms to the PRA for approval and to make any modification to those terms which are necessary to obtain PRA's approval. Michael Maholick seconds the motion.
  - iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Eric Muller, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Election of Raquel Leach to the Board of Directors
  - i. Gerald Escovitz introduces Raquel Leach, current parent of a Freire Charter High School student.
  - ii. Raquel Leach recuses herself during the discussion and vote regarding her membership on the Board.
  - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to elect Raquel Leach to the Board of Directors of Freire Charter School. Dave Bryant seconds the motion.
  - iv. Paul Archibald, Bill Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Eric Muller, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

### III. School Reports

- a. Student Council Update
  - i. Nafir Royal, the Student Council Representative from Freire Charter School, shares an update on the current culture among the students at Freire Charter High School. He notes that the students of FCHS participated in the national walkout day on March 16, 2018 and have planned a second student march against gun violence on April 20, 2018.
  - ii. The Board thanks Nafir for all he is doing and congratulates him on his recent appearance in an article on Philly.com focused on gun violence and the effect on students throughout Philadelphia.
  - iii. Scott Solomon, Chair of the TECH Freire Board of Directors, shares that he watched the Freire Middle School Students qualify for the 2018 Penn Relays the previous weekend.
- b. Graduation Update
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that Aalayah Eastmond, a junior at The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Parkland school shooting survivor, has agreed to be Freire's 2018 commencement speaker.
- c. Alumni Association Update
  - i. Kelly Davenport, on behalf of Maurice Roberts, leader of Freire Charter School's Alumni Association (FCSAA), shares that the FCSAA is hosting their Second Annual Alumni Cookout this June. Additionally, through social media, the FCSAA has reached members of every Freire alumni class.
  - ii. Maurice Roberts plans to join the Build the Future Board of Directors over the summer months.

- d. Heads Report and Data Packet
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares data on behalf of Freire Charter Middle School. She notes that school climate continues to be positive, enrollment and attendance are up comparative to last year, and suspensions and attrition are both down.
  - ii. Leigh Botwinik also notes that all Freire Middle students participated in STAR benchmark testing throughout the school year to help predict success on the PSSAs. Overall, students performed well on the benchmark testing and will be taking the PSSAs over the coming weeks.
  - iii. Leigh Botwinik shares that 117 parents responded to Freire Middle's annual parent survey. Overall, parents responded positively and did not identify any significant improvements the school needed to make.
  - iv. Chris Moore notes that student enrollment at Freire Charter High School is up compared to this time last year. Additionally, suspensions and attrition are both down. Chris Moore shares that attendance, although down in March due to inclement weather, is much stronger than last year.
  - v. Leigh Botwinik makes note of the lower high school Benchmark scores and attributes this drop to students being burnt out by frequent standardized testing. Leigh and the heads of Freire and TECH Freire will meet in the coming months to strategize how to best benchmark student test performance while balancing the stress of state mandated standardized testing.
  - vi. Nicole Jenkins would like to see more parent involvement at Freire Charter High School.
- e. Education Committee Report
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares the April 2018 Education Committee report with the Board. The report highlights the nationally measured success of charter schools, Freire's new initiatives to encourage parent involvement, and an update on recent visits to other high performing charter schools.
- f. Charter Renewal Update
  - i. Max Matthews shares that this is the first year the Charter Schools Office has implemented a point-based rating system to measure a charter's success. The Charter Office retroactively applied this new point system to Freire's previous reviews. Both academically and organizationally, Freire meets the standard set by the Charter Schools Office. Financially, Freire is approaching the standard and has room for improvement.
  - ii. Currently, the report is in draft form. Once the official copy is received, Freire will be working on fulfilling the requests of the Charter Schools Office to renew its charter.

#### **IV. Financials**

- a. February 2018 Financial Packet
  - i. Bill Ray reviews Freire Charter School's February 2018 financials.

#### **V. Advancement**

- a. Advancement Update
  - i. Hillary Sorin shares that the students from TECH Freire will be producing a short film along with individuals from Comcast Corporation as a way to promote Summer Uptown.
  - ii. Hillary Sorin shares the new Summer Uptown Website with the Board and notes that Andrew Hamilton, a Partner at Morgan Lewis, has agreed to co-chair the event along with Bob Moul and Austin Hendrix. She highlights the recently distributed Summer Uptown save the date and notes the formal invitation will be sent out in the coming weeks.
- b. Advancement Committee
  - i. Hillary notes that the Advancement Committee recently created a Growth and Progress Report that focuses on the success and growth of the entire Freire Network as one singular entity.

#### **VI. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Audit Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- b. 403(b) Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- c. Safety/Property Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.

**VII. Governance**

- a. Statements of Financial Interests
  - i. The Board is reminded to turn in their Statement of Financial Interests before May 1, 2018 if they have not done so already.
- b. Freire Board Self Evaluation Results
  - i. Gerald Escovitz notes that the Board Self Evaluation was positive, and it seems that the Board has reached some of the goals it was striving for since last year. He notes that the Board will continue to shorten the length of the Board Meetings.
- c. Build the Future Evaluation
  - i. Kelly Davenport informs the Board that they will be receiving a Build the Future annual survey in the coming weeks. The purpose of this survey is to gauge the success and effectiveness of Build the Future in fulfilling the goals received last year and how Build the Future can improve and better serve the schools and the Board.

10:32 AM, meeting adjourned.