



# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 | 8 AM**

**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

**MEETING ID: 872 3017 3232 | PASSWORD: 749788**

**Board Members Present:** Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joseph Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, Lorraine White

**Others Present:** Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Kevin McCoy (TECH Freire Student), Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, Rayna Vinson (Freire Charter School Staff), Jonathan Walker (TECH Freire Staff), Charles Ware, Nakiyah White (Freire Charter School Student), Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start 8:05am

- I. Public Comment
  - a. There is no public comment.
- II. Resolutions
  - a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on August 4, 2020
    - i. The board reviews the minutes from August 4, 2020.
    - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
    - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, and Lorraine White all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
  - b. Approve 2020-21 Title I Schoolwide Plan
    - i. Max Matthews shares the Schoolwide Title 1 School Plan with the board. The board is required to approve this plan annually for Freire Charter School to receive Title 1 funding for the coming year.
    - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
    - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, and Lorraine White all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
  - c. Approve Children's Internet Protection Act Policy
    - i. Max Matthews explains the Children's Internet Protection Act Policy, a requirement by law for receiving Title I funds and the federal technology grant. The policy prevents students from accessing explicit or harmful content through the internet. With learning currently virtual, Freire Schools has taken additional steps to ensure that all student Chromebooks have the proper protections and monitoring software installed.
    - ii. Bruce Lesser asks how will Freire Schools stop students from reaching inappropriate material online. Max shares that all student Chromebooks come with two programs which alert school leadership when students watch/search for inappropriate content.
    - iii. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds
    - iv. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, and Lorraine White all vote in favor.

There are no votes against and no abstentions.

- d. CSO Addendum III – Director of Learning & Innovation
  - i. Bill Ray shares that the proposed CSO Addendum is a one-year addendum to support Paul Ramirez, Freire Schools new Director of Digital Learning and Innovation, with all things technology and instruction related as Freire moves to a virtual learning environment. This position is funded through the CARES Act and is essentially budget neutral for the schools.
  - ii. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, and Lorraine White all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### III. Financials

- a. June 30, 2020 Financial Report (Attachment 3)
  - i. Bill Ray shares that Freire Charter School ended the year with \$2.39 million of cash on hand (57 days cash on hand). The school is required to hold at least 45 days cash on hand, but the cash balance exceeds this by \$500K.
  - ii. Freire Charter School is expected to receive an overall rating of “meets standard” for financial health during the next charter renewal.
  - iii. Bill Ray reviews the June 2020 financial report.
- b. Audit Update
  - i. Bill Ray shares that the audits occurred over the summer. Freire is expected receive draft audit reports by mid-October. Final numbers must be submitted to the Philadelphia Department of Education by October 31, 2020.

### IV. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4A*)
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares that in FY20, Freire Schools raised \$435,000 which is \$35,000 above the fundraising goal for the year. Unrestricted fundraising for last year included 66 new donors.
  - ii. Melanie shares that the Advancement Committee will meet on September 29 to discuss the fundraising plan for the FY21 with respect to the current pandemic. Additionally, the advancement team is working on changing outreach language to be more asset based instead of deficit based, in line with Freire’s commitment to anti-racism work.
- b. Political Landscape Report
  - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the Speaker of the House Mike Turzai retired – causing a shake-up in House leadership and losing the biggest charter champion in the legislature.
  - ii. In August, Freire met with Janelle Lynch, Policy Director to new House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff. The conversation was largely to introduce Freire Schools and explain our COVID response. Freire has offered to provide the brick and mortar charter voice in any upcoming policy issues.
  - iii. From all legislative officials Freire has met with over the summer, it is evident that charter reform and the Governor’s proposed charter special education cuts are not seriously being considered at this time.
  - iv. In a show of solidarity with the city, Freire joined the PHLConnected program to provide free WiFi (via Comcast) for up to two years to our families at greatest need.
- c. Talking Points (*Attachment 4B*)
  - i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points with the board.

### V. School Report

- a. Heads Report
  - i. Chris Moore shares that Freire High School’s attendance has been exceptional since the start of the school year. The schedule was made to make it easy for staff and students to manage virtual learning and the responsibilities of being at home. Chris Moore also shares that his staff has been going above and beyond for the students, even those who are not tech-savvy.
  - ii. Chris Moore shares that he has a team conducting home visits to check in on students who have either been severely absent or are struggling with virtual learning.

- iii. Gerald Escovitz asks if recruitment has been difficult or if they have been losing teachers because of virtual learning. Chris Moore shares that nothing has really changed since COVID-19, everyone is hands on and being diligent.
- iv. Chris Zagacki shares attendance has also been good for Freire Middle School. One challenge for the school has been making sure that students wake up on time. Many students are balancing virtual learning while babysitting their siblings.
- v. August 2020 Data Packet
  - Leigh Botwinik shares that the data packet reviews the average daily attendance for each campus throughout the first three weeks of school.
- b. Staff Update – Rayna Vinson
  - i. Chris Moore asks Rayna Vinson to speak to her experience with working from home.
  - ii. Rayna shares she has been noticing interacting with the student virtually has been harder but very fulfilling and is willing to work with the students more. She has a good relationship with all the students in the school even while being virtual.
  - iii. Bruce Lesser asks if Freire High School is still incorporating therapy into the virtual learning experience. Chris Moore shares that the team still takes the time to support students and provide therapy while teaching students how to advocate for themselves.
- c. Student Update – Nakiyah White
  - i. Nakiyah White, a senior at Freire High School, introduces herself to the board and shares that she is a mentor to other students at Freire.
  - ii. Nakiyah White shares that the teachers truly help all students stay motivated and are in constant contact while school is virtual.

## VI. Governance

- a. Joseph Hargrave Resume, Freire Charter Parent/Prospective Board Member (Attachment6B)\*
  - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to elect Joseph Hargrave to the Freire Charter School Board of Directors. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - ii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, and Lorraine White all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Dior Fields Resume, TECH Freire Charter Parent/Prospective Board Member
  - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to elect Dior Fields to the TECH Freire Charter School Board of Directors. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
  - ii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, Raquel Leach, and Lorraine White all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

## VII. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
  - i. Education Committee Report (*Attachment 7A*)
    - Leigh Botwinik reviews the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CPRE) report with the Board which compared the reopening plans of 106 school.
- b. Audit Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.
- c. 403(b) Committee
  - i. There is no update at the time.
- d. Safety Committee
  - i. There is no update at this time.

10:21 AM, adjourned