



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 13, 2018

Minutes

Location: 1026 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Board Members Present: Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel

Board Members Absent: Aliya Griffin, Lisa Hoffstein, Bruce Levine, Lorraine White

Other: Leigh Botwinik, Essence Caleb, Kelly Davenport, Myana Dukes (Freire Charter Student), Dawn Eubanks, Nicholas Fels, Alexander George (TECH Freire Student), Kait Ginder, Altovise Jackson (TECH Freire Staff), Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Anthony Royster (Freire Charter School Alumni), Dave Shahriari, Hillary Sorin, Kevin Vaughn Jr. (TECH Freire Student), Chris Zagacki

The meeting is called to order at 7:57 AM.

I. Public Comment

- a. Essence Caleb, an employee of the Charter Schools Office, introduces herself and notes she would be reaching out to the TECH Freire Board in July regarding TECH Freire Charter High School's charter renewal.

II. Executive Session

- a. Bruce Lesser makes a motion for the Board to enter executive session to discuss the Heads of School evaluations and to preserve student confidentiality as required by law. David Bryant seconds.
- b. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, 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 8:03 AM to 8:26 AM.

III. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from the Board Meeting on April 11, 2018
 - i. The Board of Directors review the minutes from the Board Meeting on April 11, 2018.
 - ii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Updated Student Policies for the 2018-19 School Year
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the updates to Freire Charter Middle School and Freire Charter High School's Student Policies. The Board discusses the need for increased computer science courses throughout the schools.
 - ii. Dave Bryant makes a motion to approve the updated Student Policies for the 2018-19 school year. Bruce Lesser seconds.

- iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Updated Freire Employee Handbook
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the updates to Freire Charter School's Employee Handbook.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the updated Employee Handbook. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. 2018-19 School Calendar
 - i. The Board reviews the school calendar for the 2018-19 school year.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the school calendar. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Admissions Policy for the 2019-20 School Year with Participation in Apply Philly Charter
 - i. Max Matthews shares that the admissions policy has been updated to reflect Freire's new involvement in the PSP, Apply Philly Admissions System. Additionally, the new policy has updates to Freire's recruitment practices to mirror changes implemented at the district level.
 - ii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve the updated Admissions Policy. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget
 - i. Bill Ray shares that the Finance Committee recently reviewed the updated Freire Charter School Budget. The proposed budget includes projected capitation rates which will be updated once the School District determines the capitation rates for next school year.
 - ii. Dave Bryant makes a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget. Paul Archibald seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- g. Lease Reimbursement Application
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the Lease Reimbursement Application for Freire Charter School provided by the state which relates to the total number of students in the building as of October 1, 2017.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the Lease Reimbursement Application. Dave Bryant seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- h. Proposed Donations from Freire Foundation
 - i. Bruce Lesser thanks William Brinkman for his contributions to Freire Charter School.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve the donations from Freire Foundation. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- i. Freire Foundation Lease Amendment
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed lease amendment between Freire Foundation and Freire Charter High School to become coterminous with the lease agreement between Freire Foundation and the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the lease amendment. Dave Bryant seconds.

- iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- j. Reelection of Board Members and Officers
 - i. Max Matthews shares that Aliya Griffin and Raquel Leach are up for reelection with their new terms ending in June 2021.
 - ii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to reelect Aliya Griffin and Raquel Leach to Freire Charter School's Board of Directors. Dave Bryant seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - iv. William Brinkman makes a motion to reelect the current Board Officers. Michael Maholick seconds.
 - v. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- k. Board Meeting Schedule for the 2018-19 School Year
 - i. The Board reviews the meeting schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- l. TRF Loan Refinance
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the updated The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) loan refinance agreement proposal. The resolution from TRF authorizes any board member to sign the loan refinance agreement at the time of closing.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the proposed loan refinance agreement with TRF. David Bryant seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- m. Revised Build the Future Bylaws
 - i. Max Matthews notes that, currently, Freire Charter School is the sole member of Build the Future with the right to appoint and remove all Build the Future Board Members. The revised Build the Future Bylaws remove Build the Future as a component unit of Freire Charter School and allow the Board of Freire Charter School to appoint a majority of the Build the Future Board Members.
 - ii. Kelly Davenport notes that the purpose of this proposed separation between Freire Charter School and Build the Future will help to clarify the relationship between the two entities.
 - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the revised Build the Future Bylaws. David Bryant seconds.
 - iv. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- n. LT Educational Services Agreement
 - i. Chris Zagacki reviews the circumstances around the LT Educational Services Agreement.
 - ii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve the educational services agreement. Nicole Jenkins seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- o. RE Educational Services Agreement
 - i. The Board previously discussed the RE Educational Services Agreement in executive session.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the educational services agreement. William Brinkman seconds.

- iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, and Beth Packel 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. Myana Dukes, a current 12th grader at Freire Charter High School, shares she will be attending the University of Virginia in the Fall. Myana shares her many experiences at Freire Charter High School and expresses her love for working in the Writing and Math Centers. When asked about anything she would change at the school, Myana suggests the school provide more clarity around the non-violence policy for future students.
- b. Staff Member Update & College Report
 - i. Kait Ginder, the Director of Academic Affairs at Freire Charter High School, introduces herself to the Board. Kait shares that 95.8% of the current senior class is planning to attend college, with 2.2% of those students attending a trade school. To date, the senior class has earned a total of \$8 million in scholarship funding. This total does not include loan amounts.
 - ii. Kait also notes that the ACT test scores for this particular class have been higher than previous years, attributing these scores to better classroom preparation and after higher school program engagement.
- c. Alumni Update
 - i. Anthony Royster, Freire Charter School 2008 Alumni, shares that he graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with his bachelor's degree and is currently working on his Master of Divinity to become a minister. He is currently working with New York Life Insurance. Anthony also shares that the Alumni Association is currently planning the 2nd Annual Freire Alumni Cookout, with a focus on engaging the current graduating class of seniors.
- d. May 2018 Data Packet
 - i. Chris Zagacki shares that attrition has been down leading up to the end of the school year. Currently, Freire Middle School is waiting to receive their PSSA scores from the district. Chris shares that on June 12, the middle school held their 8th grade promotion ceremony.
 - ii. The middle school is currently in the process of hiring new staff for the upcoming school year. During next school year, Freire Middle will be partnering with TechGirlz and The Clay Studio to provide more dynamic after school programs and field experience for students. Additionally, the school has almost met their fundraising goal for the proposed Literacy Center, to be opened in the Fall.
 - iii. Chris Moore shares that enrollment and attendance at Freire Charter High School are up since this time last year with a lower level of attrition and suspensions. He notes that the high school is currently working on staffing some key positions over the summer months.
 - iv. Chris explains that summer clinic will be held at the end of July and is the first time the high school is able to impress the expectations, both academically and socially, on the new 9th grade students.
 - v. Finally, Chris thanks Paul Archibald for his assistance in fixing a major plumbing issue in the basement annex of Freire Charter High School.
- e. Charter Renewal Update
 - i. Max Matthews shares that Build the Future has received the renewal report and proposed charter agreement from the Charter Schools Office. Freire Charter School was rated as "Approaches", the second highest rating a charter school can receive.
 - ii. Max shares that Freire Charter School will not be signing their Charter Agreement at this time until more favorable terms have been produced by the district.
 - iii. The Board discusses the required health screening for the students at the school level.

V. Financials

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

VI. Advancement

- a. Summer Uptown Update
 - i. Hillary Sorin shares that fundraising is underway for the upcoming fundraiser, Summer Uptown, scheduled for June 18, 2018 at TECH Freire Charter School. The current fundraising goal is \$500,000 with \$30,000 left to raise.

VII. Board Committee Reports

- a. Audit Committee
 - i. Bill Ray shares that the Freire Charter School audits are scheduled for early- to mid-August.
- b. Education Committee
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the June Education Committee report.
- c. 403(b) Committee
 - i. The Board agrees to discuss the new head of the 403(b) Committee over the coming months now that Eric Muller has stepped down from serving on the Board of Directors of Freire Charter School.

VIII. Governance

- a. Results of the Annual Evaluation of Build the Future
 - i. Gerry Escovitz reviews the Build the Future evaluation results, completed by the school annually. Gerry notes that the all schools overwhelmingly rated Build the Future's services positively.
- b. Resignation of Eric Muller
 - i. Gerry Escovitz notes the resignation of Eric Muller from the Board of Directors of Freire Charter School.

10:32 AM, meeting adjourned.