



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 11, 2019

Minutes

Location: 2221 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132

Board Members Present: Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Beth Packel

Other: Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Dawn Eubanks (phone), Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Maurice Roberts, Anthony Royster (phone), Vincent Thomas, Teryn Thomas, Charles Ware, Chris Zagacki

The meeting is called to order at 8:10 AM.

I. Resolutions

- a. Review and Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 12, 2019
 - i. The Board reviews the minutes from the Board Meeting on June 12, 2019.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the minutes. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. 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 on the internet while at school.
 - ii. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve the Children's Internet Protection Act Policy. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. CSO Addendum to the Academic and Business Service Agreement, Director of Teaching and Learning
 - i. Bill Ray explains the CSO Addendum to the Director of Teaching and Learning wherein Build the Future provides additional services for Freire Charter School. Each campus is responsible for 25% of the cost of these services, as documented in the agreement. The addendum will renew annually unless terminated by either party prior to the start of each fiscal year.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve the CSO Addendum to the Director of Teaching and Learning. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. CSO Addendum to the Academic and Business Service Agreement, Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement
 - i. Bill Ray explains the CSO Addendum to the Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement wherein Build the Future provides services for Freire Charter School. Both Freire High School and TECH Freire High School are responsible for 50% of the cost of these services, as documented in the agreement.

- ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the CSO Addendum to the Director of Teaching and Learning. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Minutes from the Special Board Meeting on August 12, 2019
 - i. The Board reviews the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on August 12, 2019.
 - ii. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve the minutes. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Levine, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. DH Educational Services Agreement
 - i. Max Matthews asks the Board to ratify the previously agreed upon terms of the Educational Services Agreement for DH. This agreement was not complete in time for the previous June Board Meeting.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve the terms of the DH Education Services Agreement. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

II. Executive Session

- a. Raquel Leach makes a motion to enter Executive Session. Beth Packel seconds.
- b. Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:20 AM to discuss potential litigation.
- d. The Board exits Executive Session at 9:10 AM.

III. School Report

- a. Heads Report
 - i. FCHS 2018-19 Keystone Report
 - 1. Chris Moore reviews the 2018-19 Keystone Report with the Board. Freire Charter High School's Keystone scores went down in Literature, Biology, and Algebra since last year. Special Education student's performance went up since last year. Chris shares that the focus of last year was to build a sense of community and trust among the students, staff, and leadership. Chris feels that the positive trends in attendance, attrition, and suspension numbers show the schools culture moving in the right direction.
 - 2. Chris Moore shares that the academic priorities of last year focused on becoming a captivating place for students. He believes the focus on captivation took away time the teachers needed to focus on content and rigorous curriculum. Freire Charter High School also moved away from frequent testing for students to help curb the testing fatigue the student body was feeling.
 - ii. 2019-2020 School Plan
 - 1. To help combat some of the performance issues highlighted by the keystone scores, Freire Charter High School has restructured the class schedule for students to closer align with the courses taken at Freire Charter Middle School. The math curriculum has been overhauled and a new ELA course has been implemented to help students reach higher reading levels.
 - 2. The Board discusses possible avenues the school can take to improve the school's lower test scores.

- iii. FCMS 2018-19 PSSA Report
 - 1. Chris Zagacki shares the 2018-19 PSSA scores with the Board. Both ELA and Science increased compared to last year and Math went down 1 percentage point. For ELA and Science, Freire Charter Middle School is significantly above the state average. The school is working to move their math proficiency higher than the state average.
 - 2. Last year, Freire Charter Middle School gave 31 students the high school Algebra Keystone. Of those students, 26 score proficient or advanced, 5 scored basic.
- iv. FCMS Class of 2019 HS Selections
 - 1. This agenda item was not addressed during the Board Meeting.
- v. 2019-2020 School Plan “Drippin’ Fire”
 - 1. Chris Zagacki shares the school plan for the coming year, titled “Drippin’ Fire”. Chris shares the computer lab has been converted into a science lab.
 - 2. The Mayor will come out to Freire Charter Middle School next week to tour the school and have a Q&A with the students.

IV. Financials

- a. June 2019 Financial Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the June 2019 financial report. The focus right now is ensuring that Freire Charter School has a high enough enrollment count to meet revenue needs.
 - ii. Freire Charter School has met all financial ratios for the previous school year and ended the year with a surplus of over \$430,000.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Update
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the network will be launching the Build the Future/Foundation rebrand next week. The advancement team is working on planning an annual fundraiser and has tapped the Daniels Family to receive the Bridge to Wisdom Award.
 - ii. The advancement team is working on finding ways to expand the donor base for Freire Schools.
 - iii. Rebranding Update
 - 1. The rebrand will help tie the schools together to the Freire Foundation and the network office. The rebrand will make Freire Schools, formerly Build the Future, the main outward facing entity of the network. All schools will retain their individual identity.
 - 2. Melanie elaborates on the changes that will come because of the rebrand, including an updated website, social media pages, and other materials. The rebrand will launch on September 19, 2019, Paulo Freire’s birthday.

VI. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
 - i. Charter School Performance in PA 2019
 - 1. Gerald Escovitz reviews the Charter School Performance report.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. There were no audit findings, issues, or concerns. A draft of the financial statements will come out in the coming weeks and be presented during the December Board Meeting.
- c. 403(b) Committee
 - i. No update at this time.
- d. Safety Committee
 - i. No update at this time. Max Matthews asks the Board if anyone would like to join the safety committee as the representative.

VII. Governance

- a. 2019-2020 Board Schedule
- b. Board Contact Sheet
- c. Board Immersion Days 2019
 - i. Maurice Roberts invites the Board to attend the Board Immersion Days scheduled for later this fall. A detailed schedule will be sent to the Board in the coming weeks.
 - 1. Freire Charter Middle School – Wednesday, October 16
 - 2. Freire Charter High School – Wednesday, October 23

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.