



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020 | 8 AM
1026 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

Board Members Present: Kiara Allison, William Brinkman (phone), David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, Lorraine White

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Darrell Collins (phone), Kelly Davenport, Dawn Eubanks, Max Matthews, Chris Moore, Jeremy Ross, Alphonse Pignataro, Bill Ray, Scott Solomon, Teryn Thomas (phone), Charles Ware, Kiesha Weeks

8:01 AM, Meeting Start

1. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

2. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from the Board Meeting on December 11, 2019
 - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Beth Packel seconds.
 - ii. Kiara Allison, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Amendments to Policy 234 – Positive Behavior Support
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the amendments to Policy 234. The proposed amendments are necessary to be in compliance with the upcoming special education audit at Freire Charter School in March.
 - ii. Michael Maholick makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. HVAC Replacement
 - i. Max Matthews explains that Freire Charter High School has received three bids to replace the outdated HVAC system.
 - ii. Lorraine White makes a motion to approve the HVAC replacement and all necessary spending. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, David Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Michael Maholick, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

3. School Reports

a. Heads Report

i. January Data Report

1. Chris Moore shares that Freire Charter High School has finished the third round of benchmark testing. Currently, the school is seeing strong student growth compared to the previous benchmarks.
2. Chris shares that current climate goals for Freire High are to have 90% of students attend 90% of instruction days. Currently, 84% of students are meeting this goal. To date, 96% of students have not been suspended from Freire during the 2019-2020 school year.
3. Kelly Davenport introduces Andrea Zepp to the Board. Kelly notes that Andrea is an extraordinary leader that works alongside Chris Zagacki to keep the middle school running.
4. Andrea shares that Project Go, a middle school attendance initiative, has been implemented and will hopefully increase the overall attendance numbers of the school. Suspensions are lower compared to this time last year.
5. Saturday, February 8, was the first day Saturday School was offered to students. Andrea also shares that Freire Charter Middle School is one of the top four middle schools in Philadelphia according to the SPR. Freire is four points away from earning the title of "Model School".

b. Philadelphia Tribune Article

- i. Kelly Davenport shares a recent article by Johnny Oliver, a veteran teacher at Freire Charter High School, published in the Philadelphia tribune. Johnny Oliver started at Freire 20 years ago when Freire first opened. Johnny has two children who both grew up within and graduated from Freire Charter School.

c. Student Council Update

- i. There is no update at this time.

d. Alumni Update

- i. There is no update at this time.

e. Emotional Supports Team

- i. Jeremy Ross, the Associate Director of Emotional Support Services at Freire Charter High School, gives a presentation to the Board outlining the numerous emotional support offerings at Freire Charter School. Jeremy explains the environment Freire students face both inside and outside of school and how the school has implemented supports for all students.
- ii. Alphonse Pignataro, Director of Emotional Support Services for Freire Charter School, thanks the Board for being available and willing to support the school's counseling and emotional support programs. He notes these programs are pivotal in shaping the lives of Freire students and keeping our youth safe.

4. Financials

a. December 2019 Financial Report

- i. Bill Ray reviews the December 2019 Financial report with the Board of Directors. Bill notes that the schools are on course to end the year with a \$288,000 surplus due to increased special education enrollment at Freire Charter Middle School. Chris Zagacki

is planning how to best spend these additional funds to support the programs at Freire Middle School. Freire Charter Schools is projected to end the year with roughly 44 days cash on hand.

- ii. Bill shares that Freire Charter School has met nearly all charter renewal ratios to safely assume the school will receive a “meets standard” rating during the upcoming charter renewal. This assumption includes the costs of recent technology improvements at both campuses and the proposed costs of Freire High’s upcoming HVAC replacement.
- b. FY 2019 Form 990 – Draft
- i. Bill Ray reviews Freire Charter School’s annual form 990 for fiscal year 2019. Bill notes that there are no major changes compared to last year.

5. Advancement

- a. Scott Solomon reminds the Boards of both Freire Charter School and TECH Freire Charter School to make their annual board donations, in an amount that is meaningful for them, before June 30, 2020. Reaching 100% Board participation is incredibly important in securing outside funding.
- b. Advancement Update
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that every year Freire Schools strives to raise \$400k, divided out to \$100k per campus.
 - ii. Melanie shares that Chuck Widger, the Founder & Executive Chairman at Brinker Capital, has agreed to be the honoree for Bridge to Wisdom this year. The Advancement Committee is beginning work on planning the logistics of Bridge to Wisdom and will share with the Board during the April Board Meeting.
 - iii. Freire has received \$63,000 in EITC funding which supports enrichment and afterschool programs for next school year. Melanie reviews the current grants and other fundraising sources Freire has received so far this year.
- c. Talking Points
 - i. Melanie reviews a list of talking points the Board can use with potential donors and partners when fundraising. These talking points will be updated monthly.
- d. Political Landscape Updates
 - i. The Board discusses the current political landscape facing Freire and the recent proposals coming from Governor Wolf’s Office which would greatly impact Freire and other charters throughout Pennsylvania.
 - ii. Upcoming Events
 - 1. On February 24th, Councilman Darrell Clark is visiting TECH Freire. Freire Schools will ask Councilman Clarke to be this year’s commencement speaker for Freire Charter High School.
 - 2. On March 10th, the Philadelphia Delegation will visit TECH Freire. This includes all the democratic representatives and Senator Sharif Street.

6. Board Committees

- a. Education Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.

- c. 403(b) Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.
- d. Safety Committee
 - i. Max Matthews shares that there is an available seat on Freire's Safety Committee and encourages any interested Board Member to reach out.

7. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interests
 - i. The Board is reminded to complete their annual Statement of Financial Interest and return them to the Freire Schools team before May 2020.
- b. Resignation of Michael Maholick
 - i. Gerald Escovitz thanks Michael Maholick for his service to Freire Charter School and his insightful questions over the years that have push our board further. Michael will be moving over to the Building Hope PA Board which is serving as the landlord for TECH Freire after the recent building purchase.

10:37 AM, Meeting Adjourned