



MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 864 7664 2211 | PASSWORD: 775593

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Rayna Vinson, Scott Solomon, Anthony Royster, Dawn Eubanks, Kait Ginder, Melanie Reiser, Chris Moore, Chris Zagacki, Lynn McGinley, Heather Schafer, Charles Ware, Bill Ray, Kelly Davenport, Teryn Vinson, Shonda McCants, Max Matthews, Teryn Thomas, Ben Moore

Meeting Start, 8:02 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Executive Session

- a. The Board votes to go into Executive Session to discuss the Head of School evaluation and the School Safety Report at 8:07 AM. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
- b. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. The Board exits Executive Session at 8:39 AM.

III. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on April 14, 2021
 - i. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
 - ii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Election of Board Members
 - i. Election of Freire Charter School Board Members & Officers
 - The Board reviews the list of Freire Charter School Board Members & Officers. Dave Bryant asks for a motion to renew board terms for Freire One Board Members and reinstate officers as listed. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - ii. Election of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members
 - The Board reviews the list of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve the renewal of board terms for TECH Freire as listed. William Brinkman seconds.
 - Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz,

Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

- c. Policy 205 – Admissions Policy for 2022-23
 - i. The Board reviews Policy 205 – Admissions Policy for 2022-23.
 - ii. Gerald Escovitz makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. FY 2022 Budget Approval
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the FY 2022 Budget noting that there are 14 new full-time staff members estimated for next year. This increases the number of staff members paid through ESSER 2 and ESSER 3 grants to 16. The ESSER funds are available through 2024, after which time, the schools will need to evaluate how to cover the personnel costs of these FTEs.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- e. Lease Reimbursement
 - i. Bill Ray shares that the Board is required to annually approve the School’s PDE-418 Lease Reimbursement Forms. The 2020-21 PDE-418 form is not yet available, but the Board is presented with the approved 2019-20 Lease Reimbursement Forms and the lease payments made in 2020-21.
 - ii. Bill asks the Board to approve the 2020-21 Lease Reimbursement Forms, identical to the 2019-20 forms, reflecting the rent payments made in 2020-21.
 - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. Interim Non-Violence Policy
 - i. Kelly Davenport introduces Rayna Vinson and Lynn McGinley to the Board, two culture leaders from across the network. Rayna and Lynn are working with a cross-campus committee to reevaluate and update the network’s Non-Violence/Commitment to Peace Policy to create a more anti-racist and equitable network of schools.
 - ii. Lynn shares that, having been a dean for 10 years with Freire, there have been times where the policy was difficult and uncomfortable because of the permanent nature of the policy for momentary decisions made by the students. Lynn notes the new policy will work to front-load resources for students to help them address conflict without resorting to physical violence.
 - iii. Kelly notes that the interim policy will help students deescalate conflicts before they turn violent, allowing for more restorative practices and student resources.
 - iv. Rayna notes that this policy change will help students come together as a stronger community and prepare them for life outside of Freire.
 - v. Kiara Allison shares that she would like to see a greater connection between the Non-Violence Policy and trauma informed policy. Kiara notes that when the original policy was drafted, we did not know as much about trauma or how it effects an individual’s behavior.
 - vi. The Board discusses the proposed changes to the Non-Violence/Commitment to Peace Policy and how it will affect the school, culture, and lives of the students.
 - vii. The Board will postpone voting on the Interim Non-Violence Policy. The Board agrees to meet on Tuesday, June 29 at 8:00 AM to further discuss the proposed policy changes.
- g. Proposed Donation-EITC
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the proposed EITC donation from the Freire Foundation to Freire Charter School. The proposed donation, of \$53,400, funds the actual FY 2021 expenses for two EITC

- approved programs: Play on Philly and Robotics.
- ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Beth Packel seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- h. 2021-22 School Calendar Approval
- i. The board reviews the proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- i. Freire Charter School Amendment to Academic & Business Services Agreement
- i. Kelly Davenport shares that the Network Office is proposing an increase in Freire Schools' fee to the schools. The new fee would be an increase from the current rate of 9.5% (8% fee with the addition of staff-specific contracts) to a 10% fee. An increase of 0.5%. This increase is built into the current FY 2022 budget proposal.
 - ii. Bill Ray shares that the Network Office estimates a significant drop in capitation rates in Philadelphia while the school district uses their ESSER funds. Because ESSER funds cannot be included in the network office fee percentage, the decrease in the capitation rate will impact the Network Office disproportionately compared to the schools.
 - iii. Bruce Lesser proposes a motion to approve a modification to the Academic & Business Services Agreement, increasing the percentage paid to the Network Office to 10% for a term coterminous with the respective school's charter agreement. This modification also authorizes the Chair of the respective Board to sign, approve and execute such agreements with a mechanism to limit the amount paid to the Network Office in the instance that the school district's capitation rate increases to exceed, in excess, the amount paid to the Network Office through the approved Academic & Business Services Agreement.
 - iv. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dave Bryant seconds.
 - v. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- j. Updated Health and Safety Plan
- i. Max Matthews shares that the ESSER III funding requires that Health and Safety Plans contain additional provisions related to learning acceleration and pandemic response. Additionally, the new plan notes that the Health and Safety Plan will be adjusted as new guidance comes out pertaining to pandemic response and individual safety.
 - ii. Beth Packel makes a motion to approve. Gerald Escovitz seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- k. Freire Middle School Student Policy Changes
- i. Max Matthews reviews the two policy changes for Freire Middle School. The first policy change pertains to the student's dress code, allowing students to wear any Freire-branded gear instead of a uniform purchased from Kramer's.
 - ii. The second policy adjustment will help meet students where they are academically and reevaluate the requirements for student promotion and retention. This policy has been used in practice but never officially outlined within a board-approved school policy.
 - iii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the changes as proposed with the addition of permitting head coverings in the dress code policy. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Gerald Escovitz, Joe Hargrave, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel, and Lorraine White vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

The motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:36 AM