



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 6, 2022 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 892 7088 2192 | PASSWORD: 589078

I. Public Comment

II. Resolutions

- a. Executive Session[†]
 - i. Proposal to Purchase Security Devices*
 - ii. Slate of Staff (*Attachment 1A*)*
- b. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on February 9, 2022 (*Attachment 1B*)*
- c. Proposed 2022-2023 Board Schedule (*Attachment 1C*)*

I. School Report

- a. Staff Update
- b. Student Update
- c. Heads Report
 - i. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 2*)
 - ii. Graduation Update

II. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 3A*)
- b. Discussion on Board Involvement in Fundraising
- c. Political Landscape Report
- d. Talking Points (*Attachment 3B*)

III. Financials

- a. February 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)

IV. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interest
- b. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members

V. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
- b. Audit Committee
- c. 403(b) Committee
- d. Safety Committee

**Requires Vote*

[†]Citation of reason for executive session: II.a.i.: 65 Pa. C.S. § 708 (a)(7) "To discuss, plan or review matters and records that are deemed necessary for emergency preparedness, protection of public safety and security of all property in a manner that if disclosed would be reasonably likely to jeopardize or threaten public safety or preparedness or public protection."

[†]Citation of reason for executive session: II.a.ii.: 65 Pa. C.S.A. § 708 (1) "To discuss any matter involving the ... evaluation of performance ... of any specific ... current ... employee... employed ... by the agency."

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 8:00 AM via Zoom Conference Call

Freire Charter School provides a college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, and commitment to peace.



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 6, 2022 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 892 7088 2192 | PASSWORD: 589078

Board Members Present: Kiara Allison, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine

Others Present: Kristen Altman, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Dawn Eubanks, Dior Fields, Candice Fontaine, Chris Moore, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, Charles Ware, Chris Zagacki

Meeting Start, 8:03 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no comment at this time.

II. Resolutions

a. Executive Session[†]

- i. William Brinkman makes a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of security devices and the Slate of Staff. Raquel Leach seconds.
- ii. Kiara Allison, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Bruce Levine vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- iii. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:18 AM.
- iv. The Board exits Executive Session at 8:30 AM.
- v. Proposal to Purchase Security Devices*
 - The board makes a motion to approve the purchasing of wand detectors for temporary use when students arrive at school. This new safety precaution will be revisited in one year.
 - Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - Kiara Allison, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Bruce Levine vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- vi. Slate of Staff (Attachment 1A)*
 - The board reviews the Slate of Staff.
 - Bruce Levine makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - Kiara Allison, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Bruce Levine vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

b. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on February 9, 2022 (Attachment 1B)*

- i. The board reviews the minutes from February 9, 2022, board meeting.
- ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
- iii. Kiara Allison, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Bruce Levine vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

c. Proposed 2022-2023 Board Schedule (Attachment 1C)*

- i. The board reviews the proposed board schedule for the 2022-2023 school year.
- ii. Raquel Leach make a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
- iii. Kiara Allison, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Bruce Levine vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no

I. School Report

a. Staff Update

- i. Chris Moore & Chris Zagacki share the recent challenges around school safety and behavior inside and outside of the school. Many students are still in quarantine mode and are having challenges with readjusting to in-person learning.
- ii. The middle school staff notice the increase of school suspensions and believe that social media may be the cause for the behavioral issues and are working on how to address it.
- iii. Chris Moore shares the recent increase of seeing students on their phones during class, transitioning and in conversations with them. He and his staff are in the process of holding cellphones until the end of the day but are weary of the psychological/emotional effects taking phones away may have on the students.
- iv. Both Chris Moore and Chris Zagacki share their campuses are looking forward to spring break next week and are pushing to close the week out strong.

b. Student Update

- i. No student update at this time.

c. Heads Report

- i. Freire Network Dashboard (Attachment 2)
 - Chris Zagacki & Chris Moore both share commonalities within testing, attendance, and behavioral issues.
- ii. Graduation Update
 - Leigh Botwinik shares the keynote speaker for the Freire High Schools Class of 2022 will be Kiara Allison (Freire Charter School Alumna). Kiara is honored to be Keynote speaker for Freire Charter High School. Further details about graduation will be sent in in the coming weeks.

II. Advancement

a. Advancement Report (Attachment 3A)

- i. Melanie Reiser shares Freire Schools has raised roughly \$226,000 of the \$400,000 FY 2022 goal, running slightly ahead of last year. Melanie attributes some of this increase in funds to the change in the deadline for board members to submit their annual pledge. Freire Schools has raised \$81,000 in EITC funds to-date.
- ii. Melanie introduces recent hires for the Advancement Team, Kristen Altman (Development Coordinator, Freire Schools Network Office) and Candice Fontaine (External Relations Manager, Freire Schools Network Office) to the board.
- iii. The Advancement Committee met on March 9, 2022, to discuss a spring fundraising strategy and concluded they will explore their options such as a coffee and chat for guests to sit and chat with some students.

b. Discussion on Board Involvement in Fundraising

- i. Melanie asks the board whether the Advancement team should set up certain parameters around board giving and fundraising and asks if the members experience any challenges with finding new donors.

c. Political Landscape Report

- i. Melanie shares that Freire Schools is paying close attention to the state's proposed redistricting, Governors' race, and proposed budget cuts.

d. Talking Points (Attachment 3B)

- i. Melanie reviews the talking points with the board.

III. Financials

a. February 2022 Financial Report (Attachment 4)

- i. Bill Ray reviews the February 2022 financial report noting that Freire Charter School has a total of \$2,960,000 of cash on hand, which represents an increase of \$577,000 from June 30, 2021.
- ii. Freire Charter is expected to end the year with approximately \$2,240,000 of cash on hand which reflects a decrease of \$144,000. The decrease may possibly be due to an increase in

ESSER grants to pay for summer program expenses.

- iii. Enrollment for Freire Charter School is averaging 960 students, which is 25 students less than the original budgeted enrollment of 985. Special Education enrollment has increased by a total of 14 students.

IV. Governance

- a. Statement of Financial Interest
 - i. Olivia Burgess informs the board that May 1, 2022, is the new deadline to submit in their 2021 Statement of Financial Interests forms.
- b. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
 - i. Olivia Burgess reminds all board members to complete all outstanding trainings and submit any overdue clearances.

V. Board Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee
 - i. No update at this time.
- b. Audit Committee
 - i. No update at this time.
- c. 403(b) Committee
 - i. No update at this time.
- d. Safety Committee
 - i. No update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:56 AM

***Requires Vote**

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