



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 15, 2022 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 826 2390 3343 | PASSWORD: 206987

- I. **Public Comment**
- II. **Executive Session[†]**
 - a. Freire Charter School Safety Report (*Attachment 2A*)
 - b. Head of School Evaluation (*Attachment 2B*)
- III. **Resolutions**
 - a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 9, 2022 (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - b. Amended Health & Safety Plan (*Attachment 3B*)*
 - c. FY 2023 Budget Approval (*Attachment 3C*)*
- IV. **School Report**
 - a. Heads Report
 - i. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 4A*)
 - ii. Freire High School College Report (*Attachment 4B*)
- V. **Advancement**
 - a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5A*)
 - b. Political Landscape Report
 - c. Talking Points (*Attachment 5B*)
- VI. **Financials**
 - a. April 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 6*)
- VII. **Governance**
 - a. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
 - b. Board Member Self Evaluation (*Attachment 7A*)
 - c. Evaluation of Freire Schools Collaborative (*Attachment 7B*)
- VIII. **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."

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The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 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.

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Board Members Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Bruce Levine, Beth Packel

Others Present: Kristen Altman, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Dawn Eubanks, Colandus Francis, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Tanza Pugliese, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Scott Solomon, Lilian Wehbe, Joann Wszolek, Molly Lenowitz, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:03 AM

I. Public Comment

II. Executive Session[†]

- a. David Bryant proposes a motion to enter executive session to discuss the Freire Charter School Safety Report and the Head of School Evaluation. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to enter executive session, Beth Packel seconds.
- b. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. The board enters executive session at 8:24 AM.
- d. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to exit executive session, Beth Packel seconds. The board exits executive session at 8:54 AM.
- e. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on June 9, 2022 (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - i. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve. Beth Packel seconds.
 - ii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Amended Health & Safety Plan (*Attachment 3B*)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that the Health & Safety Plan is required to be approved by the board in June before entering the 2022-2023 school year.
 - ii. The amended changes would remove the COVID vaccine requirement to participate in school sponsored sports.
 - iii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Paul Archibald seconds.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. FY 2023 Budget Approval (*Attachment 3C*)*
 - i. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve a previously discussed FY 2023 Budget Approval to reevaluation and approval if there is more than a 5% variance in the assumed capitation rate reflected in the proposed budget when official capitation rates are released.
 - ii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Paul Archibald seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Beth Packel vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. School Report

- a. Heads Report
 - i. Chris Moore shares that graduation was awesome and Kiara Allison, the Keynote speaker and a Freire Alum, did a fantastic job delivering her remarks.
 - ii. Since the board last met, Freire High School has completed all required state tests, student final exams, and several end-of-year trips and activities.
 - iii. Chris notes there are 2 more vacancies to fill to be fully staffed for the 2022-2023 school year. There will be a significant shift in the cell phone policy for next school year.
 - iv. Andrea Zepp shares that this year was very challenging for Freire Middle School, however, the school ended on a positive note. Going into next year, the school is working on balancing the needs of students academically but also personally and emotionally.
 - v. Andrea notes that there has been an increase in staff turnover, however, the school plans to be fully staffed by the end of the month. Admissions is on track to meet all enrollment goals for next year.
 - vi. Next year, Freire Middle will begin school at 7:30 AM. This will align their start time with Freire High School.
 - vii. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 4A*)
 - Lilian Wehbe reviews the Freire Network Dashboard.
 - viii. Freire High School College Report (*Attachment 4B*)
 - Chris Moore highlights that the Class of 2022's matriculation numbers are strong with 90.74% of seniors receiving an acceptance letter from one or more college or university. The Class of 2022 has been awarded a total of \$6,345,672.
 - Hyniff Collins, who studied abroad this year in Macedonia, will be attending the University of Pennsylvania.
 - Chris shares that all 10th and 11th grade students took the ACT during the school day. This allows the students to have a score to work from when they take the ACT again in the Fall.
 - The board discusses the approach of Academic Advisors in ensuring students understand the costs associated with college.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5A*)
 - i. Melanie Reiser notes that as of June 9, 2022, we have raised approximately \$365,000 in donations and pledges toward our \$400,000 networkwide unrestricted fundraising obligation to the schools, leaving approximately \$35,000 left to raise by June 30, 2022.
 - ii. In addition to unrestricted donations, we also received another \$43,000 EITC donation, bringing our EITC donations to \$124,000. These funds support after school and summer programs and makerspace learning at our Philly campuses.
 - iii. Many people honored Gerry Escovitz and his love for and belief in Freire Schools' kids with donations to the Freire Foundation. To date, the fund has received more than \$9k in donations in memory of Gerry.
 - iv. Freire Schools is preparing a summer cultivation mailer that will hit mailboxes in June/July. In the coming weeks, the Advancement Team will continue making personal emails and calls to prior donors who have not yet committed for FY22.
 - v. Board giving/pledged is currently at 83% across the network. Melanie encourages all board members who have not met their pledge to submit their donation before June 30.
- b. Political Landscape Report
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that staff from Freire Schools attended a Charter School Advocacy Day in Harrisburg and met with several legislators. The general sentiment from the day was that cyber charter funding is likely to be reduced but brick-and-mortar schools are not currently on the docket.
- c. Talking Points (*Attachment 5B*)
 - i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points with the board. Following a longitudinal study on student outcomes commissioned by the Philadelphia School Partnership, Freire Middle School has been identified as one of 36 Philadelphia public and public charter (K-8) schools "Beating the Odds" in academic growth.

VI. Financials

- a. April 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 6*)
 - i. Bill Ray notes that Freire Charter Schools is projecting an annual general fund surplus of

\$41,000 for FY 2022. This exceeds the budgeted annual general fund surplus by \$13,000. Freire Charter is projected to end the year with \$2,300,000 of cash on hand, representing an \$85,000 decrease from June 30, 2021.

- ii. Freire Charter is projected to meet its loan covenants and meet a sufficient number of financial ratios to receive an overall rating of "meets standard" for financial health in the next charter renewal term.

VII. Governance

- a. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
 - i. Olivia Burgess thanks the board for completing their trainings and notes the last board training session for this year will take place on June 21, 2022.
- b. Board Member Self Evaluation (Attachment 7A)
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the board's self-evaluation.
- c. Evaluation of Freire Schools Collaborative (Attachment 7B)
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the results of the Freire Schools Collaborative.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- 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. Committee will convene in the fall.
- d. Safety Committee
 - i. There is no update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:03 AM.

**Requires Vote*

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