



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 12, 2022 | 8 AM

ZOOM INFO: MEETING ID: 834 6581 2309 | PASSWORD: 814774

MEETING LOCATION: TECH FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Nate Durant, Dawn Eubanks, Kimberly Fox (Exude), Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Bobby Poncho (TECH Freire Student), Tanza Pugliese, Melanie Reiser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, Keisha Weeks (TECH Freire Staff), Lilian Wehbe, Joann Wszloek, Andrea Zepp

Meeting start, 8:00 AM

I. Public Comment

- A. There was no public comment.

II. Executive Session

A. Health Insurance Renewal

1. David Bryant proposes a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Health Insurance Renewal for Freire Charter School.
2. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
4. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:03 AM.
5. The Board exits Executive Session at 9:03 AM.

III. Resolutions

A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on September 14, 2022 (*Attachment 1A*)*

1. The board reviews the board minutes from September 14, 2022 board meeting.
2. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

B. Slate of Staff (*Attachment 1B*)*

1. Leigh Botwinik reviews the Slate of Staff with the board
2. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

C. 2022-2023 Textbook Review (*Attachment 1C*)*

1. Kelly Davenport shares the newly updated and state of the art curriculum for both TECH Freire and Freire Charter School. The board is required to view the school's textbooks annually.
2. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, William Brinkman, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Raquel Leach, and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

D. Amended Employment of Relatives & Romantic/Domestic Partners

1. Leigh Botwinik shares this policy is a part of the Employee Ethics Act and PA School Code to dictate the limitations on hiring immediate family members to become, board trustees, and school administrators.
2. Leigh informs she will have a finalized document for the board to read once she confirms more information.

IV. School Report

- A. Student & Staff Update
- B. Heads Report
 1. Freire Middle School
 - a) Andrea Zepp shares that Freire Middle School's enrollment is not where they want it to be, but slowly trending upwards. The school is doing consistent admissions waitlist pulls. Transportation has been the biggest hurdle for new students, specifically in 5th grade. The school is hoping to reach the target of 480 by December.
 - b) Attendance is up at Freire Middle due, in part, to the new incentive programs that emphasize the positives.
 2. Freire Charter High School
 - a) Chris Moore shares that enrollment at Freire High School is in the 490s, with the goal of reaching over 500. Attendance has reached pre-pandemic levels.
 - b) Last week, Freire High School hosted a block party with the students and staff to build community and increase culture within the building. Chris shares this is one of the biggest highlights over the past few years.
- C. October Data Packet (*Attachment 2*)
 1. Lilian Whebe reviews the October Data Packet with the Board, specifically highlighting the suspension and benchmark data for the network.

V. Financials

- A. August 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)
 1. Kelly Davenport notes that enrollment is down at all four campuses and across the school district of Philadelphia. Kelly notes that enrollment has never been this challenging and there has been a reduced response to waitlist pulls.
 2. All schools are projected to have a deficit this year if there is no change to the current budget. The school is strategically looking at pulling ESSER funds to help offset the deficit.
 3. Additionally, Kelly notes that many of the expenses for the school are frontloaded for the beginning of the year which is having an impact on the financial projections. Each campus has significant cash on hand that can help offset the current deficits.
 4. The network will be interviewing two finalists for the open Controller position at Freire Schools next week.
- B. Audit Update
 1. Kelly Davenport notes that there is a draft audit for Freire Charter School, currently in review by David Bryant. To date, there are no findings. The final audit will be shared with the Board at the next board meeting.

VI. Advancement

- A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4*)
 1. Melanie Resier shares there are not many updates since last meeting, however, the network has raised \$67,000 to date towards its goal of \$400,000.
 2. The advancement team will begin drafting the holiday appeal next week, which is the first true fundraising push for the year.
 3. Melanie encourages the Board to submit their pledges before the end of the calendar year.
- B. Political Landscape Report

1. TECH Freire Charter School hosted Senator Martin last week. Melanie thanks Nate Durant and Bobby Ponchoo for their outstanding support during the visit.

VII. Governance

- A. Resignation of Board Member, Bruce Levine (*Attachment 5*)
 1. Olivia Burgess recognizes the resignation of Bruce Levine from both the Freire Charter School Board and the TECH Freire Board of Directors.
- B. Board Clearance Update
 1. Olivia Burgess updates the board on clearances and trainings that are due by June 30, 2022.

Meeting adjourned, 9:58 AM



FREIRE

CHARTER SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 12, 2022 | 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 847 6883 5259 | PASSWORD: 170450

LOCATION: TECH FREIRE (2221 N BROAD ST., PHILADELPHIA PA 19132)

I. Public Comment

II. Executive Session

- a. Health Insurance Renewal*

III. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on September 14, 2022 (*Attachment 1A*)*
- b. Slate of Staff (*Attachment 1B*)*
- c. 2022-2023 Textbook Review (*Attachment 1C*)*
- d. Amended Employment of Relatives & Romantic/Domestic Partners

IV. School Report

- a. Student & Staff Update
- b. Heads Report
- c. October Data Packet (*Attachment 2*)

V. Financials

- a. August 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)
- b. Audit Update

VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4*)
- b. Political Landscape Report

VII. Governance

- a. Resignation of Board Member, Bruce Levine (*Attachment 5*)
- b. Board Clearance Update

**Requires Vote*

Citation of reason for executive session: II.a.ii.: 65 Pa. C.S.A. § 708 (2): *"To hold information, strategy and negotiation sessions related to the negotiation or arbitration of a collective bargaining agreement or, in the absence of a collective bargaining unit, related to labor relations and arbitration."*

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 8:00 AM** at 1026 Market St.

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, equity, and commitment to peace.