



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 11, 2023 | 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 826 5335 3334 | PASSWORD: 314477

LOCATION: FREIRE CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL (1026 MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA PA 19107)

Board Members Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookspan, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Steve DeAnglis, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser

Others Present: Imaira Blackwell (TECH Freire Student), Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Malcolm Eleby (TECH Freire Staff), Dawn Eubanks, Kimberly Fox (Exude), Jamilah Gibbs (TECH Freire Staff), Tiana Jordan (Freire High Student), Chris Moore, Tanza Pugliese, Melanie Reiser, Angely Roman (TECH Freire Student), Scott Solomon, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:03 AM

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Executive Session

- a. School Safety
 - i. William Brinkman makes a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Safety Matter involving a plan 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, by the agency, which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law II.a.i.: 65 Pa. C.S. § 708 (a)(7). Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - ii. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:04 AM.
 - iii. The Board exits the Executive Session at 8:38 AM.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookspan, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Steve DeAnglis, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. Resolutions

- a. Election of New board Member, Kathleen O'Connell (*Attachment 3D*)*
 - i. The board reviews Kathleen O'Connell's resume.
 - ii. Kathleen shares her thanks to the board and looks forward to what is to come.
 - iii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Paul Archibald seconds.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookspan, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Steve DeAnglis, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on September 13, 2023 (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the September 13, 2023 board meeting.
 - ii. Dave Bryant requests an edit to the attendance list, which is to include his name.
 - iii. William Brinkman makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - iv. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookspan, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Steve DeAnglis, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Slate of Staff (*Attachment 3B*)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the Slate of Staff with recent hires and terminations/separations with the board.
 - ii. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.

- iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookspan, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Steve DeAnglis, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. 2023-2024 Textbook Review (*Attachment 3C*)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares the updated curriculum for both TECH Freire and Freire Charter School. The board is required to view the school's textbooks annually.
 - ii. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. William Brinkman seconds.
 - iii. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Phyllis Bookspan, William Brinkman, Dave Bryant, Steve DeAnglis, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach and Bruce Lesser vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. School Report

- a. Student & Staff Update
 - i. Chris Moore introduces Ms. Danielle Samu-el & Tiana Jordan to the board.
 - ii. Ms. Danielle thanks the board for letting her speak today. She shared that last week at FCBS the 12th grade seniors had to complete their service day credit. The experience was joyful, eye opening and pleasing, the students enjoyed the experience and interaction with the staff.
 - iii. Ms. Danielle shares the culture of the school allows everyone to feel supported and understood. The overload most teachers would feel is alleviated due to everyone being willing to support one another.
 - iv. Tiana Jordan was assigned to volunteer with Project Home. Tiana shares that the older people she met with gave her and her classmates advice on how to finish high school and encourage them to be good people of the community.
 - v. Tiana is an alumni of the middle school and she shares her experiences that have helped mature her and shape her to be very appreciative of her teachers and peers.
 - vi. Tiana shares that in the past she has had many teachers and staff members help her through certain experiences in her life and she thanks them for being attentive and helping build a relationship with her.
- b. Heads Report
 - i. October Data Packet (*Attachment 4A*)
 - 1. Andrea Zepp & Chris Moore both speak on the challenges for attendance at their campuses.
 - 2. Freire Middle School discusses the increase in suspensions by 4% comparison to last year and what they are doing to reset culture. Freire High School suspensions has dropped 25% in comparison to last year's data.
- c. Health Insurance Report (*Attachment 4B*)
 - i. Insurance Renewal Board Meeting - October 26, 2023 11am
 - 1. After reviewing the health insurance report, the board requests to reschedule the October 26, 2023 meeting to a date that is within the health renewal window for the coming fiscal year for the vote.
 - 2. Olivia Burgess will connect with the board later today to find a new time.

V. Financials

- a. August 2023 Financial Report (*Attachment 5*)
 - i. Nathan Yufer shares Freire Charter School is anticipated to hold 940 students which is less than the original number of 970.
 - ii. However, the School District of Philadelphia increased the capitation rate 22% for general education and 14% for special education which will offset the lower than expected enrollment.
 - iii. Revenue for the year is expected to be \$22,000,000 which is \$1,200,000 more than the budgeted amount due to the increase in the capitation rate.
 - iv. Expenses are still too early to predict at this time, outside from the Freire Middle School construction project that began over the summer and the Freire High School flood costs which were offset by the insurance company.
 - v. Freire Charter School is projected to meet 6 out of the 7 financial ratios for FY24.
- b. Audit Update
 - i. The final audit will be shared with the Board at the next board meeting.

VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 6*)

- i. Melanie Reiser shares the new proposed goal for the network wide fundraising target, which will be \$500,000 (\$125,000 per campus).
 - ii. Bridge to Wisdom Awards Reception will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 5:30pm to 8pm at the Liberty View at the Independence Visitor Center. Freire Schools will be honoring one of our major donors and supporters Charles Widger as well as paying tribute to one of the original school board members, Gerry Escovtiz.
- b. Political Landscape Report
- i. Freire Schools continues to pay close attention to any proposed charter regulation, budget cuts or proposed changes to the charter school renewal process

Meeting Adjourned, 10:10 AM