



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 11, 2024 | 8 AM

Meeting ID: 842 7064 7508

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

Board Members Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Ashley Lynam, Kathleen O'Connell

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Doreese Bull, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Pam Dougherty, Dawn Eubanks, Brian Galletto, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Kathleen O'Connell, Tanza Pugliese, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon, Ben Wainwright, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:04 AM

I. Public Comment

A. No public comment

II. Executive Session

A. Settlement & Release for A.D. (*Attachment 1*)

1. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:30 Am "To review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations." Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.
3. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:46 AM. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
4. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.

III. Resolutions

A. Settlement & Release for A.D.*

1. The board reviews the Settlement & Release for A.D..
2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.

B. Review & Approve Minutes from October 9th & November 13th (*Attachment 2A*)*

1. The board reviews the minutes from October 9, 2024 & November 13, 2024 board meeting.
2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.

C. Review & Approve Audit Report (*Attachment 2B*)*

1. Nathan Yufer reviews the Freire Charter School Audit Report with the board.
2. As expected there were no significant findings and auditors deemed Freire Charter School a proper client.
3. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.

4. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.
- D. Review & Approve Amended Bylaws - *Freire Charter School & TECH Freire (Attachment 2C)**
 1. Tanza Pugliese shares the Amended Freire Charter School & TECH Freire Bylaws with the board.
 2. The proposed amendment is to change the board composition from two parents to "at least one parent and at least one non-voting student member."
 3. The new charter school law updates that were passed a few months ago specify that charter Boards need one parent. Recruiting parents to serve on the Board has been very difficult so in order to remain compliant with our bylaws we recommend making this change. We will continue efforts to recruit a second parent.
 4. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 5. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.
- E. Review & Amend Reporting, Retaliation & Safety Policy #205 (*Attachment 2D)**
 1. Tanza Pugliese shares the Amended Reporting, Retaliation & Safety Policy #205 with the board.
 2. Main changes are in the Search & Seizure section. Last year the Board voted to purchase metal wand detectors. We propose updating the language of this policy to outline the use of metal detecting technology to conduct searches. We also propose updating the name of the policy to the Safe Schools Policy.
 3. Lisa Hoffstein makes a motion to approve. David Bryant seconds.
 4. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.
- F. Review & Adopt Security of Computerized Personal Information #506 (*Attachment 2E)**
 1. Tanza Pugliese reviews the Security of Computerized Personal Information #506 policy with the board.
 2. The School is committed to the security of the school's computerized data and to addressing the risk of a breach of the school's systems involving the possible disclosure of personal information.
 3. This policy addresses the manner in which the school will respond to unauthorized access and acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security and confidentiality of personal information.
 4. The board suggests adding the words "or internal" before investigation.
 5. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
 6. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, David Bryant, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Ashley Lynam, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are votes against and no abstentions.

IV. School Report

- A. Staff & Student Report
 1. Andrea introduces Lyric Jackson, 7th grade Student Ambassador. She thanks the board for being able to present.
 2. Lyric shares that participating in the student ambassador program has built her sense of community and ease in speaking about the school. She shares that the program is similar to student council and you learn how to influence other students in the school.
- B. Heads Report
 1. Freire Charter School Student Ambassador, Promise Evans, is currently taking Winter Keystones and sends her regards to the board.
 2. Chris Moore shares attendance is below this time last year. Suspensions are down despite enrollment being up 30 new students, which is a positive trend.
 3. Chris notes the school is fully staffed and how joyful everyone is to be on holiday break soon.
 4. Chris shares some of the challenges students have faced this year and how the school is working to support them.
 5. Andrea Zepp shares attendance has dropped despite a lot of effort at parent and student communication.
 6. Andrea Zepp shares that students are wrapping up the winter benchmarks. Prelim data looks like there has been growth in Reading and the school is on a positive trend for PSSAs. Math proficiency is stagnant but fewer students scoring Below Basic.
 7. November Freire Dashboard (*Attachment 3*)

- a) Leigh Botwink shares state assessment data that has been added to the dashboard that shows the 23-24 proficiency rates alongside comps from the District and State.

V. Financials

A. October 2024 Financial Report (*Attachment 4*)

1. Ben Wainwright shares Freire Charter School has a current surplus of \$300,000 with one current large construction project surrounding repair on the elevators and the science lab.
2. Average enrollment at the middle school is 478 students and the high school is 517 students for a total of 995.
3. Revenue wise, Freire Charter School's budgeted revenue for the year is \$20.8M. This is considerably less than the 23-24 school year because the ESSER federal grant ended on 9/30/24. In the 23-24 school year Freire Charter School recorded \$3.2M in ESSER revenue and will only have \$900k in the 24-25 school year.
4. Expenses currently for Freire Charter School include:
 - a) Budgeting Approve Private School (APS) costs for three students which will drive the forecast to \$300,000 for the year.
 - b) Special Education Transportation hired a new transportation company for the remainder of the year. This was done to save on special education costs. This program is budgeted at \$900,000 for FY25 and will be monitored.

VI. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 5*)

1. Melanie Reiser shares that the FY25 unrestricted fundraising target is set to \$775,000 which is \$150,000 per Freire campus.
2. Currently the Advancement Team has raised \$255,000 in donations and pledges, which leaves \$520,000 to the estimated network-wide goal.
3. FY25 Fundraising progress surrounds the following:
 - a) Planning for Bridge to Wisdom is focused, currently on selecting a site and finalizing the date. The Advancement Committee Meeting will be held early January and will also be forming a planning committee of staff and Board member volunteers to make the event a success.
 - b) A digital appeal of Giving Tuesday, which is the first major touchpoint with donors for the fiscal year, was sent out a few weeks ago.
 - c) The holiday/end-of-year print appeal is scheduled to hit mailboxes this week.
 - d) This week, the Advancement Team will also send out a digital appeal focused on individual giving via EITC (for PA-based donors).
 - e) Both Freire Charter School and TECH Freire secured additional PCCD Physical Security and Mental Health Grants – \$70,000 each. At Freire Charter this will offset nursing costs in FYs 25 and 26 at both campuses and fund a security camera upgrade at the Middle School. At TECH, this grant will allow us to install state of the art metal detectors to enhance student and staff safety.

B. Political Landscape

1. Freire Schools continues to pay close attention to any proposed charter regulation, budget cuts or proposed changes to the charter school renewal process.

VII. Governance

A. Reflection on Visit to Freire High School - November 12, 2024

B. Reflection on Visit to Freire High School - December 2, 2024

1. Kathleen O'Connell reflects on the past two visits to Freire Charter High School on November 12, 2024 & December 2, 2024.
2. Kathleen shares it was an informative two day visit, where board members received a chance to talk with students during the school day.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:30 AM