



TECH FREIRE

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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: Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon

Others Present: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Brian Galletto, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Raquel Leach, Chris Moore, Kathleen O'Connell, Tanza Pugliese, Melanie Reiser, Ben Wainwright, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:04 AM

I. Public Comment

a. No public comment

II. Resolutions

- a. Review & Approve Minutes from October 9th & November 13th (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from October 9, 2024 & November 13, 2024 board meeting.
 - ii. Anthony Royster makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
 - iii. Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Review & Approve Audit Report (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - i. Nathan Yufer reviews the TECH Freire Audit Report with the board.
 - ii. TECH Freire net position increased \$1.1 million drive from the start of the year to the end of the year due to the large amount spent on the basement construction
 - iii. Other increases include the general fund \$53,000 surplus which is in good standing,
 - iv. As expected there were no significant findings and auditors deemed TECH Freire a proper client.
 - v. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - vi. Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Review & Approve Amended Bylaws (*Attachment 1C*)*
 - i. Tanza Pugliese shares the Amended TECH Freire Bylaws with the board.
 - ii. 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."
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
 - v. Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. Review & Amend Reporting, Retaliation & Safety Policy #205 (*Attachment 1D*)*
 - i. Tanza Pugliese shares the Amended Reporting, Retaliation & Safety Policy #205 with the board.

- ii. 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.
- iii. Brian Galleto shares TECH Freire currently uses 3 methods of search: bag checks, wand detectors and yonder check which takes 5-7 staff members to administer. The School is considering using PCCD funds to purchase touchless metal detectors to help speed the entry process. Some of the AI driven products that Board members have likely used at sports or music venues are a good option because they are less obtrusive than standard metal detectors.
- iv. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
- v. Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- e. Review & Adopt Security of Computerized Personal Information #506 (*Attachment 1E*)*
 - i. Tanza Pugliese reviews the Security of Computerized Personal Information #506 policy with the board.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. The board suggests adding the words "or internal" before investigation.
 - v. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve with the added verbiage. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
 - vi. Doreese Bull, Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

- a. Staff & Student Report
 - i. No report at this time.
- b. Heads Report
 - i. November Freire Dashboard (*Attachment 2*)
 - ii. Brian Galleto shares attendance at TECH Freire is high and praises Dean of Culture, Jamilah Gibbs for continually being on top of everything and helping to ensure that the number of suspensions at TECH Freire stays low.
 - iii. Brian shares the data metrics in the dashboard are reflecting the cultivation of joy, peace and growth in the school.
 - iv. TECH Freire Student Ambassador, Zyaire Clark is currently taking the Biology Keystones and sends his regards to the board.
 - v. Instant Decision day was last week at TECH Freire, over 15-18 colleges came to the school and some students secured both acceptances and scholarships.
 - vi. The First Annual Lit Fest is next week on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at TECH Freire.
 - vii. This exciting event will feature a Talent Showcase and a Student Art Exhibit, where our students will display their incredible skills and artistic creations.
 - viii. 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.

IV. Financials

- a. October 2024 Financial Report (*Attachment 3*)
 - i. Ben Wainwright shares TECH Freire has a current surplus of \$350,000 with no current large construction projects or any other large capitalized expenses budgeted for FY25.
 - ii. Actual enrollment at TECH Freire was 526 as of October 31, 2024 which is higher than the budgeted average of 490.

- iii. TECH Freire recently started their 21st Century Grant this month and has been awarded \$448,000 which is more than originally budgeted.
- iv. Expenses currently for TECH Freire include:
 - A budget variance of \$22k from the 22-23 school year
 - Budgeting Approve Private School (APS) costs for three students which will drive the forecast to \$300,000 for the year.
 - Student Activities is at 51% of the yearly budget as TECH Freire has started to pay deposits for activities such a prom and the senior trip.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4*)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the FY25 unrestricted fundraising target is set to \$775,000 which is \$150,000 per Freire campus.
 - ii. Currently the Advancement Team has raised \$255,000 in donations and pledges, which leaves \$520,000 to the estimated network-wide goal.
 - iii. FY25 Fundraising progress surrounds the following:
 - 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.
 - A digital appeal for Giving Tuesday, which is the first major touchpoint with donors for the fiscal year, was sent out a few weeks ago.
 - The holiday/end-of-year print appeal is scheduled to hit mailboxes this week.
 - This week, the Advancement Team will also send out a digital appeal focused on individual giving via EITC (for PA-based donors).
 - 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 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
 - 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, 9:30 AM