MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 | 8:30 AM

Meeting ID: 869 6068 0755

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: DAWN EUBANKS, LINDA KILPATRICK, BRUCE LESSER, ANTHONY ROYSTER, NIKKIA WILLIAMS

OTHERS PRESENT: LEIGH BOTWINIK, JAMIE BOYER, ALLURE-MILANI DOUGLASS, NICOLE JENKINS, RAQUEL LEACH, -uKATHLEEN O'CONNELL, MATT RANKIN, CHUCK RUDALAVAGE, KATIE PICK, ALEXIS PRINCE, PAUL RAMIREZ, MELANIE REISER, MYA SMITH REYNOLDS, BEN WAINWRIGHT, MADELINE WECKEL, NATHAN YUFER, ANDREA ZEPP

I. **Public Comment**

II. **Resolutions**

A. Review & Approve Minutes from Board Meetings on June 30, 2026 (*Attachment 2A)**
   1. The board reviews the minutes from June 30, 2026.
   2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Dawn Eubanks seconds.
   3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

B. Confirmation of Nikkia Williams, elected to the TECH Freire Board of Directors as parent representative by Freire Charter School as sole Member, to fill the vacancy created by Doreese Bull (*Attachment 2B*)*
   1. Scott Solomon introduces Nikkia Williams to the board and the board reviews her resume.
   2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
   3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, and Scott Solomon vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

C. Review & Approve Section 127 Educational Assistance Plan (*Attachment 2C)**
   1. Madeline Weckel presents the Section 127 Educational Assistance Plan, which allows the school to provide up to $5250 in tuition assistance to employees without it counting as taxable income.
   2. Dawn Eubanks makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
   3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon and Nikkia Williams vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

D. Review & Approve Network Academic Plan/Schoolwide Plan 2026-2027 (*Attachment 2D*)*
   1. Paul Ramirez presents the Network Academic Plan, which also meets the federal requirements for the Schoolwide Plan. It overviews preliminary academic data from the previous year and strategy for the upcoming year. Paul identifies literacy and ELA as a major priority for the year. Four major strategies include:
      a) We are being specific, detailed and opinionated about what good teaching looks like, including the top core skills that teachers need to help students move academically in their classrooms.
      b) We have also revamped our coaching program and trained our instructional coaches on how to develop these skills in our teachers to improve their practice.
      c) We are implementing a new Math curriculum.
      d) We have created interim assessments in Math and ELA and will implement Data Driven Instruction in conjunction with the administration of these assessments.
   2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
   3. Dawn Eubanks, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Anthony Royster, Scott Solomon and Nikkia Williams vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

III. **Executive & Network Update**

A. Academic Review Meeting
   1. Paul Ramirez invites all board members to attend the Academic Review Meeting which will be scheduled once growth data is released by the state. Paul explains that during this meeting, the

board will have the opportunity to further examine the academic data from the previous year.

B. Health Insurance Renewal
   1. Paul Ramirez shares that we will expect to have updates on health insurance at the end of October and that we are already scheduled to meet as a board on Monday, November 16.

IV. School Report

A. Staff & Student Update
   1. Jamie Boyer introduces Rachel Hunter, who is currently an instructional coach at TECH. Rachel has been at TECH for the last six years as an ELA teacher. Has been around for past curriculum adoptions and is now stepping into the role of instructional coach to support other teachers in their implementation of the curriculum and interim assessments. Rachel shares that she will also be working as an ELA interventionist, working with students in 10th and 11th grade who are within "striking range" of proficiency on the Keystone exam.
   2. Jamie Boyer reintroduces Mya Smith Reynolds, who is currently a senior at TECH. Mya shares that she is excited about her senior year, especially for all the special events like prom and graduation. Mya shares that she is currently taking a dual enrollment course at the Community College of Philadelphia and that she really likes her 12th grade teachers this year.

B. Heads Report
   1. Jamie Boyers shares the priorities for the year:
      a) Strengthening coaching
      b) Math and Literacy intervention for students in striking distance of proficiency.
      c) Continuing to increase dual enrollment. As a benchmark, there are currently 20 students enrolled for this semester. This past summer, we already had two incoming 9th graders take dual enrollment courses before the school year even started.
      d) Continuing to foster a culture of belonging and expanding athletics (including winter track).
      e) Increasing attendance
   2. Jamie also shares that enrollment is currently sitting just below 600. There will be an early waitlist pull this year. Jamie anticipates that enrollment will be just above 600. With that, the team is hoping there won't have to be any waitlist pulls later this year. Jamie notes that TECH is fully hired as of September 1 and expresses excitement about the folks on the team this year.

V. Financials

A. June 2026 Financial Report (*Attachment 6*)
   1. Ben Wainwright presents the TECH Financial report as of June 30, 2026. TECH ended the year with an average enrollment of 521 students, 120 special education students, and a surplus of $842K and $576K more in revenue than anticipated. Ben notes that APS costs were down this year and that TECH is projected to meet 6 of the 7 financial ratios for charter renewal.

B. Audit Update
   1. Nathan Yufer shares that audits are underway and expected to go smoothly.

VI. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (*Attachment 7*)
   1. Melanie Resier presents the advancement report. She notes that it was a challenging fundraising year and invites board members to join the advancement meeting happening later in the month to dive into deeper analysis of the data. She reminds the board that we set an ambitious goal of $675K and came about $272K short of that goal. Some factors that may have contributed to this include the lack of a major fundraising event; board member resignees and previous donors giving at lower levels; and the loss of a major donor.
   2. We had two successful smaller fundraising events and were successful in raising restricted donations through EITC, and received several grants.
   3. We recently sent out our "Meet the Grads" mailer and have entered a heavy grant-writing cycle. Specifically, we are seeking a Longwood grant for a major capital improvement project for Freire Wilmington.

B. Political Landscape
   1. Freire Schools continues to monitor the political climate.

VII. Governance

A. Conflict of Interest Policy
   1. Madeline Weckel reminds board members to sign the Conflict of Interest Policy that will be sent via Dropbox Sign.

B. Annual Board Visitation Day

1. Madeline Weckel invites all board members to attend the Board Visitation at TECH Freire, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 21. Details to follow.

**Requires Vote*

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM** at 2221 N. Broad Street

TECH Freire Charter School provides a college-preparatory learning experience specializing in computer science and entrepreneurship 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.