FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 30 2026 | 8:30 AM
MEETING ID: 893 4922 5691
LOCATION: TECH FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL (2221 N. BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA PA 19132)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, Kathleen O'Connell, Chuck Rudalavage

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawn Eubanks, Brian Galetto, Chris Moore, Melanie Reiser, Scott Solomon, Yousseff Tannous, Ben Wainwright, Madeline Weckel, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

I. **Public Comment**
II. **Resolutions**
- **A.** Review & Approve Minutes from June 10, 2026 (Attachment 2A)*
  1. The board reviews the minutes from June 10, 2026.
  2. Bruce makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
  3. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- **B.** Review & Approve Amended Graduation Policy (Attachment 2B)*
  1. Leigh Botwinik presents the Amended Graduation Policy.
  2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
  3. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- **C.** Review & Approve Student & Family Handbooks *(Attachment 2C)**
  1. Leigh Botwinik presents the Student & Family Handbook. She highlights updates to the format and attendance policy.
  2. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
  3. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- **D.** Review & Approve FY 2027 Budget *(Attachment 2D)**
  1. Nathan Yufer presents the FY27 Budget. The budget is based on an enrollment of 900 students. The School anticipates an annual general fund surplus of $1.88M for FY 2027. This is driven by the school budgeting for a 11% increase in per-pupil revenue from the School District of Philadelphia. Nathan notes that the Middle School has a lease coming to an end in a few years, at which point the school may need substantial cash on hand.
  2. Bruce Lesser suggests the formation of a committee to explore real estate options for the Middle School.
  3. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Raquel Leach seconds.
  4. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- **E.** Review & Approve Financial Policies *(Attachment 2E)**
  1. Nathan Yufer presents the Financial Policies/internal controls manual.
  2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
  3. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- **F.** Appoint Audit Committee*
  1. The board discusses the audit committee.
  2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to appoint Linda Kilpatrick and Kathleen O'Connell to the audit committee.
  3. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

G. Consideration & Election of Chuck Rudalavage to Freire Charter School Board *(Attachment 2G)**
1. Kathleen O'Connell introduces Chuck Rudalavage to the board. Chuck shares his background.
2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to elect Chuck Rudalavage to the Freire Charter School Board. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

III. School Report

A. Heads Report
1. Chris Moore reflects on the 2025-2026 school year. He notes that enrollment has been a strong point, and attendance continues to improve as well. Overall, metrics continue to grow from Covid. He is proud of the FCHS community and optimistic about the future of the school under the new leadership team.
2. Andrea Zepp also reflects on the 2025-2026 school year. She highlights enrollment as a bright spot, as well as the decrease in suspensions. She speaks to the plan to improve attendance over the next year and is excited to bring on a new dean. She notes that having nine staff members on leave throughout the year was challenging, but that she was impressed by how the middle school team supported each other through the staffing disruptions.

B. Freire Network Dashboard *(Attachment 3B)*
1. See above.

C. College Report *(Attachment 3C)*
1. Leigh Botwinik presents the College Report. 95%of seniors have applied and been accepted to at least one 2-year or 4-year college. Students have received acceptances from one or more of the 81of colleges and technical schools listed on the report.

IV. Advancement

A. Advancement Report *(Attachment 4)*
1. Melanie Reiser presents the Advancement Report. To date, $378K in unrestricted donations has been raised and we are expecting an additional $30K gift. Overall, we are $267K short of our fundraising goal, which is about $60K less than what we netted last year. Melanie notes that the advancement team will be reflecting upon trends from this year and planning accordingly for the upcoming year. She also notes that while the annual fundraising goal was not met, EITC giving is up $31K over last year and other donors have shown interest in this option. We have also received more restricted gifts specifically for our Freire Forward Experienceship programming.

V. Governance

A. Annual Evaluation of Freire Network *(Attachment 5A)*
1. Leigh Botwinik presents the Annual Evaluation Results of FSC. She notes that Heads provided feedback around creating FAQs for the implementation of various non-academic policies.

B. Board Member Self Evaluation *(Attachment 5B)*
1. Leigh Botwinik presents the Board Member Self Evaluation, noting that responses were largely positive, with one area of growth noted around board development and recruitment.

C. Public Comment Protocol & Guidelines *(Attachment 5C)*
1. Leigh Botwinik presents the Public Comment Protocol & Guidelines. The board reviews the document.

D. Resignation of Paul Archibald *(Attachment 5D)*
1. The board acknowledges the resignation of Paul Archibald.

E. Board Training
1. Madeline Weckel reminds board members about required governance training.

**Requires Vote*

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 8:30 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.