FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 10 2026 | 8 AM
MEETING ID: 817 5265 0909
LOCATION: TECH FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL (2221 N. BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA PA 19132)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, Kathleen O'Connell

OTHERS PRESENT: Leigh Botwinik, Doreese Bull, Robshebra Cannon, Jacqulyn Davenport, Kelly DeLeon, Brian Galetto, Chris Moore, Katie Pollard, Tanza Pugliese, Paul Ramirez, Zai'Iyannia Rayford, Zakiyyah Rayford, Melanie Reiser, Scott Solomon, Kim Tucker, Madeline Weckel, Olivia Williams, Brittany Young, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:05 AM

I. Public Comment

A. Zai'Iyannia Rayford expresses her desire to walk at graduation despite failing her AP statistics class. She shares that she has passed all classes except for AP Statistics. She requests that she be able to start her summer school work now and walk at graduation.

B. Zakiyyah Rayford (Aunt of Zai'Iyannia) shared that she encouraged her niece to attend this meeting so that she can take accountability and advocate for herself. She expressed concern that multiple high achieving students had such a hard time in the AP course and wishes something had been done sooner to address the issue. She says that Zai'Iyannia will go to summer school and complete her requirements so that she is able to go to college in the fall.

C. Brittany Young (Parent of a high school student) shares her concern regarding her child not being able to walk at graduation due to failing an AP course. She raised issues related to the Add/Drop policy, weighted vs. unweighted GPAs for Honors/AP courses, having a part time nurse, addressing mental health needs of students, and the administration's ability to mitigate issues. She requested that students who failed just one course be permitted to walk at graduation, given that it is a ceremonial experience.

D. Robshebra Cannon (parent of a high school student) shares her concern regarding her child's ineligibility to participate in graduation. She shared that her son has always been top of his class, has always had straight A's, has worked hard for four years, and now he's not allowed to walk at graduation.

E. Jacqulyn Davenport shares that her son is a National Honor Society student who has taken honors classes and college courses at CCP, was part of a STEM program, and has always earned A's. She shared that every student in the AP Stat class is going to college in the fall. She feels that taking away the students' ability to participate in a 2 hour ceremony is unjust. She doesn't understand why there are so many kids in this situation and nothing can be done.

F. Paul Ramirez acknowledged the comments from members of the public and suggested that he or a member of the school leadership team follow up with each parent following the meeting to address concerns.

II. Elections

A. Renewal of Freire Charter School Board Members & Election of Officers *(Attachment 2A)**

1. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve term renewals for Nicole Jenkins, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell. Paul Archibald seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.
3. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve the election of the following officers: Kathleen O'Connell as Chair, Bruce Lesser as Vice Chair, Nicole Jenkins as Co-Secretary, Lisa Hoffstein as Co-Secretary, Linda Kilpatrick as Treasurer. Paul Archibald seconds.

4. Paul Ramirez recognizes Paul Archibald for his service. He is stepping down at the end of the meeting.

B. Renewal of TECH Freire Charter School Board Members *(Attachment 2B)**
1. The board reviews the recommended renewals and election of officers for the TECH Freire Board.
2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Paul Archibald seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

C. Renewal of Freire Schools Collaborative Board Members Appointed by Freire Charter School*
1. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to reappoint Eldron Blackwell, Leonard Poncia, and Paul Ramirez. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

D. Authorization of the Member (Freire Charter School) Representative and Approval of Written Consent*
1. Paul Archibald makes a motion to appoint Kathleen O'Connell as Member representative of Freire Schools Collaborative and to authorize her to execute a written consent appointing the board members voted upon above, in lieu of an annual meeting of the Member. Bruce Lesser seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

III. Resolutions

A. Review & Approve Minutes from April 8, 2026 (*Attachment 3A)**
1. The board reviews the minutes from April 8, 2026.
2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

B. Review & Approve Minutes from April 14, 2026 *(Attachment 3B)**
1. The board reviews the minutes from April 8, 2026.
2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Nicole Jenkins seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

C. Review & Approve Unrestricted & Restricted Donations *(Attachment 3C)**
1. Nathan Yufer presents the Donation Approval form.
2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Paul Archibald seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

D. Review & Approve Employee Handbook *(Attachment 3D)**
1. Leigh Botwinik presents the Employee Handbook.
2. Linda Kilpatrick makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

E. Review & Approve Student & Family Handbooks *(Attachment 3E)**
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

F. Approve Appointment of Andrea Zepp as CEO of Freire Charter School *(Attachment 3F)**
1. Bruce Lesser marks a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

G. Approve Appointment of Katie Pick as Principal of Freire Charter School *(Attachment 3G)**
1. Bruce Lesser marks a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

H. Approve Designation of E-Signature Authority for Katie Pick and Alexis Prince *(Attachment 3H)**
1. Paul Archibald makes a motion to approve. Nicole Jenkins seconds
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

I. Approve Alexis Prince as Check Signer *(Attachment I)**
1. Bruce Lesser marks a motion to approve. Lisa Hoffstein seconds.

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2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

IV. Executive Session[T]

A. Before the vote to enter Executive Session, it was noted that the Executive Session would be limited to confidential student-specific matters regarding application of the graduation ceremony participation policy. It was further noted that the Board would not deliberate regarding any changes to the graduation ceremony participation policy in Executive Session, and that any discussion of potential policy changes would occur in open session at this or a future public meeting.

B. Kathleen O'Connell makes a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:40 AM to "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" while reviewing the Annual Security and Safety Report and 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" to discuss confidential student-specific matters regarding application of the graduation ceremony participation policy. Bruce Lesser seconds.

C. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor. There are no votes against or abstentions.

D. The Freire Charter School Board exits Executive Session at 9:40 AM.

V. School Report

A. Heads Report
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

B. Freire Network Dashboard *(Attachment 5A)*
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

C. College Report *(Attachment 5B)*
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

VI. Financials

A. April 2026 Financial Report *(Attachment 6A)*
1. Nathan Yufer presents the April 2026 Financial Report. The School's current forecast is projecting a surplus of $1M. Some of this surplus will be used to front load FY27 expenses

B. Review FY 2027 Draft Budget *(Attachment 6B)*
1. Nathan Yufer presents the draft budget. The budget is based on an enrollment of 485 students at the High School and 480 students at the Middle School, a salary increase of 3% for staff, an increase of one FTE, and a 20% increase in healthcare costs.

VII. Advancement

A. Advancement Report *(Attachment 7)*
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

B. Political Landscape
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

VIII. Governance

A. Annual Evaluation of Freire Network *(Attachment 8A)*
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

B. Board Member Self Evaluation *(Attachment 8B)*
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

C. Board Training
1. Due to time constraints, this item will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:00 AM