FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 8, 2026 | 8 AM
MEETING ID: 835 8472 8755
LOCATION: FREIRE CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL (1026 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA)

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Leigh Botwinik, Doreese Bull, Promise Evans, Brian Galetto, Jamilah Gibbs, Londyn Henderson, Chris Moore, Katie Pollard, Tanza Pugliese, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Mya Smith Reynolds, Scott Solomon, Rhianna Stockbridge, Madeline Weckel, Matt Wranovixc, Nathan Yufer, Andrea Zepp

Meeting Start, 8:07 AM

I. Public Comment

A. Matt Wranovixc of Local 274 representing Hospitality Workers, shared concerns related to the working conditions at the Hilton Garden Inn, which is currently owned by Acres Commercial Realty who employs Freire Charter School board member, Linda Kilpatrick, and Freire Schools board members, Eldron Blackwell and David Bryant.

II. Executive Session[T]

A. Kathleen O'Connell makes a motion to enter into executive session at 8:10 AM "To discuss any matter involving the … evaluation of performance …of any specific … current … employee… employed … by the agency;" and "To consult with an attorney or other professional advisor regarding information or strategy in connection with litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed." Bruce Lesser seconds.

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

C. The Freire Charter School board exits Executive Session at 8:29 AM and reconvenes the public meeting.

III. Resolutions

A. Review & Approve Minutes from February 4, 2026 *(Attachment 3A)**

1. The board reviews the minutes from the February 4, 2026 board meeting.
2. Bruce Lesser makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, 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 Teacher Equity Plan *(Attachment 3B)**

1. Katie Pollard explains the summary of the report sharing that rates of experienced, certified, and effective teachers have remained relatively consistent over the past three years. There are no indications that inequity exists in our school in terms of the way we assign teachers to the classes they teach.
2. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

C. Approve Slate of Staff *(Attachment 3C)**

1. Nicole Jenkins makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

D. Review & Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar *(Attachment 3D)**

1. The board reviews the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar.
2. Lisa Hoffstein makes a motion to approve. Linda Kilpatrick seconds.

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

E. Review & Approve 2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule *(Attachment 3E)**

1. The board reviews the proposed 2026-2027 board meeting schedule.
2. Lisa Hoffstein makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
3. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

F. Approve Settlement & Release for TS*

1. Raquel Leach makes a motion to approve. Bruce Lesser seconds.
2. Kiara Allison, Paul Archibald, Lisa Hoffstein, Nicole Jenkins, Linda Kilpatrick, Raquel Leach, Bruce Lesser, and Kathleen O'Connell vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

IV. Financials

A. February 2026 Financial Report *(Attachment 4A)*

1. Nathan Yufer presents the financial report. He reports that as of February 28, 2026, Freire Charter has a surplus of $2.03M and is projected to close the year with a total surplus of $781k. The average enrollment as of February 28, 2026 was 530 students at the High School and 499 at the Middle School, for a total of 1,029.

B. Presentation of Draft Budget for FY 2027 *(Attachment 4B)*

1. Nathan Yufer presents a draft budget for the upcoming school year. He explains that over the next two months he will work with school, network, and board leadership to continue revising the budget before bringing it to the board for final approval at the June board meeting.

V. Network Report

A. Academic Planning

1. Paul Ramirez provides an update on academic planning to address proficiency in math and reading. He shares that two focal points of this work involve revamping the math curriculum across campuses and codifying the core instructional strategies that will drive student outcomes.

VI. School Report

A. Staff & Student Report

1. Andrea Zepp introduces Rhianna Stockbridge, Head of Academics at Freire Charter Middle School. Rhianna provides an overview of the academic initiatives driving growth in reading and math proficiency, including a yearlong literacy professional development for staff focused on gist and vocabulary; targeted intervention for "bubble" students, and the adoption of new curriculum that supports reading comprehension.
2. Andrea Zepp introduces Londyn Henderson, who is an 8th grade student that has attended Freire since 5th grade and earned honor roll for her entire tenure as a Freire Dragon. Londyn shares that she has enjoyed her time at Freire, especially the support she receives from teachers and the multiple opportunities students are provided to achieve mastery. She is very excited to attend Freire Charter High School next year as a freshman.
3. Chris Moore introduces 12th grader Promise Evans. Promise reports that she and other students had a great time on their school sponsored spring break trip to Panama and shares that she has officially decided to study Pre-Med at Houston University.

B. Heads Report

1. Freire Network Dashboard *(Attachment 6)*
   a) Andrea Zepp shares that the middle school leadership team has been proactively holding culture reset assemblies with students to reaffirm our goals and align on our academic and behavioral expectations. We will also hold a parent town hall meeting this evening.
   b) Chris Moore applauds the students and staff who attended the Panama trip, stating that it was the smoothest school sponsored international trip to date. He highlights a decrease in disciplinary incidences, while attendance remains stable. He notes that

quarter 4 is quite busy with trips and events, but the main focus is on spring Keystone testing.

C. Graduation Update

1. Graduation will take place Tuesday, June 16 at 10:00am at The Dell Music Center (2400 Strawberry Mansion Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19132)

VII. Advancement

A. Advancement Report *(Attachment 7)*

1. Melanie Reiser reports that we have launched our spring fundraising push this month with a print appeal tied to the new Freire Schools vision. A digital appeal and active personal solicitation will follow. We will also be holding a couple small board-led friendraiser/fundraisers. The first of these events happened last night at Carpenter's Hall and was a great success.
2. Melanie shares that across the network board giving is currently at 73% and emphasizes the importance of reaching 100%, as we look to make grant requests in the upcoming year.

B. Political Landscape

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

VIII. Governance

A. Annual evaluation of Freire Schools Collaborative and Board self evaluation.

1. Leigh Botwinik explains the annual evaluation process.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:12 AM

**Requires vote*

[T]***Citation of reason for executive session: II.a.ii.: 65 Pa. C.S.A. § 708 (1) "To discuss any matter involving the … evaluation of performance …of any specific … current … employee… employed … by the agency."***

[T]***Citation of reason for executive session: II.a.ii.: 65 Pa. C.S.A. § 708(a) (4):"To consult with an attorney or other professional advisor regarding information or strategy in connection with litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed."***

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.