

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**October 20, 2014 – 227 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE**

**Minutes**

*Directors Present: John Pierson, Hal Real, Felicia Wenell*

*Directors Absent: Henry Smith, Latisha Bracy*

*Others Present: Kelly Davenport, Bill Porter, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Ann Pagano, Alfred Lance, Christian Willauer, Clint Walker, Jodi O’Ferrall*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. The meeting began with an introduction of all those present.*

- I. **Governance Update and Discussion of New Officers** – The Board was in receipt of a letter of resignation from Board President Gerry Escovitz effective 3 p.m. on October 20, 2014. He had recently been elected Chair of the Freire Charter School Philadelphia and, so, was resigning to focus fully on his work in Philadelphia.

The Vice President noted the presence of a quorum and the meeting commenced.

Hal Real moved that we elect John Pierson as Board President, and Felicia Wenell seconded the motion. The Board was polled, and the motion passed unanimously.

- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Felicia Wenell motioned that the minutes of the meeting be approved as read, and Hal Real seconded this motion. The Board was polled, and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **DE Charter School Law Review** – Jodi O’Ferrall, member of a Delaware charter school Citizen Budget Oversight Committee made a presentation on the make-up, purpose, and function of the Citizen Budget Oversight Committee and fielded questions from those present.
- IV. **Facility Update** – Kelly Davenport provided an update on the proposed facility at 201 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street including the planned two-phase construction and proposed facility financing, which will require an \$800,000 loan and \$750,000 credit enhancement for the landlord. The landlord will not begin improvements until we have proof of 150 student applications by January 31, 2015. Attorney John Benson is negotiating the 15-year lease with five-year renewal.
- V. **FCS Wilmington Update** – Bill Porter provided an update on Freire Charter School Wilmington including that he was reaching out to Teach for America administration and alumni for staffing and that he met with the Rodel Foundation to request financial support. Bill indicated that ab+c trained the 9 youth ambassadors with Marla Blunt Carter, that Two Fish was finishing the graphic design of

the collateral materials, and that middle school visits are in the works. Bill reviewed the Freire Wilmington's "parent enrollment letter" with the Board, which is a pre-opening required submission to DDOE by November 1. Hal Real moved that we adopt the parent enrollment letter, and Felicia Wenell seconded the motion. The Board was polled, and the motion passed unanimously.

- VI. CMO Update** – Kelly updated the Board on Build the Future's progress in establishing itself as an organization, indicating that the goal is still to have the organization up and running by January 1 and that she receiving counsel from a non-profit attorney on the entity's tax and legal structure. She also announced that BtF was working on a new charter application for TECH Freire Charter School in the School District of Philadelphia (application due November 15).
- VII. Fundraising Update** – Ann Pagano presented her development report in writing and orally. She indicated that we exceeded the \$300,000 Longwood Foundation challenge with \$326,152 raised toward the match. Final approval and release of the challenge grant funds is contingent on the Wilmington lease being signed. We were awarded the federal Charter Schools Program Grant in the amount of \$687,000 over three years for start-up and implementation costs. The Pizza By Elizabeths event is on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- VIII. New Board Member Recruitment** – John Pierson indicated that we would be in touch with our three guests about potentially working with Freire Wilmington in the future.
- IX. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at 227 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE.