



**FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL WILMINGTON
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

January 19, 2017 at 8:00 AM
201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Minutes

Directors Present: John Pierson, John Kane, Clint Walker, Christian Willauer, Mia Davenport, Julia Li, Bob Goff, Trish Blessing, Penny Marshall

Directors Absent: Henry Smith, Hal Real

Others Present: Paul Ramirez, Felicia Wenell, Kelly Davenport, Bill Ray, Leigh Botwinik, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Elizabeth Washam, Tom Caramanico

- I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum** – The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM The President observed that the Board had a quorum, and the meeting commenced.
- II. Approval of Minutes** – Bob Goff moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2016 meeting. Julia Li seconded the motion. All in favor.
- III. School Update**
 - a. Paul Ramirez described the school's focus on assessment, with midterm exams approaching and a mid-year Smarter Balanced pre-test to evaluate student progress. With regard to staff development, he noted that recruitment for next year was underway and that teachers were planning trips to observe classrooms in other schools. Felicia Wenell explained a focus on building the school family and creating a sense of belonging and personal development. She also noted that the school had recently submitted a major multi-year grant request to the Delaware Department of Education for enrichment activities through the federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.
 - b. Elizabeth Washam, the staff attendee for the month, introduced herself. She explained that this is her sixth year teaching and that she sees a different level of rigor at Freire than she had observed in prior experience. As an English teacher, she appreciates having resources like new books as well as support from the school administration.
 - c. Leigh Botwinik presented on the School Performance Dashboard, noting an increase in average daily attendance and a decrease in suspensions from the previous school year.
 - d. Paul Ramirez gave the student recruitment and enrollment update, summarizing the school's marketing efforts and progress to date.
- IV. Development** – Leigh Botwinik gave an update on progress toward the annual appeal goal as well as the overall fundraising goal for the fiscal year. She noted that the school had received two new grants and discussed the upcoming donor cultivation event.

V. Financials – Bill Ray presented on the monthly financial statements, explaining he had no concerns. He explained the high receivables figure under the federal CSP grant was due to the fact that the school receives those funds on a reimbursement basis. The school received increased state appropriations due primarily to a higher number of special education students. Due to the school receiving final funding allocations, the Board was asked to approve a revised budget. Clint Walker made a motion to approve the budget. Penny Marshall seconded. All in favor.

VI. Governance

- a. Trish Blessing introduced herself as the parent of an 8th grade student. She is familiar with the Freire network. She wants Freire Wilmington to be the premier high school in Delaware and expressed interest in helping the school to accomplish that. John Kane moves to elect Trish Blessing to the Board as a parent representative. Mia Davenport seconds. Ms. Blessing is elected unanimously. John Pierson and Mia Davenport extend a welcome and thanks to Trish.
- b. John Pierson explained that Thomas Wannop was a prospective member of the Citizens Budget Oversight Committee for the school. Bill Ray noted that he had met with Tom and was confident in his financial background and support of the school. John Kane moved to approve Thomas Wannop's application to join the CBOC. Christian Willauer seconded. All in favor.

VII. Policy Adoption – Max Matthews explained that in order to receive federal telecommunications reimbursement, the school is required to annually approve a policy to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act. The policy is unchanged from the previous year. Christian Willauer moved to approve the policy. Mia Davenport seconded the motion. All in favor.

VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update – Bob Goff explained that the committee currently had no meeting scheduled. He stated that he was unaware of any complaints regarding the school.

IX. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:48 AM

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 8:00 AM at 201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE.