



Freire

Charter Wilmington

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 15, 2018

Minutes

Directors Present: Trish Blessing, Mia Davenport, Robert Goff, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, Clint Walker, Christian Willauer

Directors Connected by Audio (non-voting): Mark Stellini

Directors Absent: John Kane

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Paul Ramirez, Bill Ray, Julia Regan Fanelli, Savio Stuart, Felicia Wenell

Location: 201 West 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

8:05 AM, meeting called to order.

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

- a. Clint Walker calls the meeting to order and notes the presence of a quorum.

II. Discussion of Parking

- a. Clint Walker notes that Freire Wilmington is currently not in agreement with its landlord as to the school's parking options and needs, and that the Board is working to determine next steps.

III. Review & Approval of Minutes

- a. Bob Goff moves to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 21, 2017. Mia Davenport seconds the motion. All in favor.

IV. School Reports

- a. Student Representative Update
 - i. Savio Stuart presents an update to the Board, noting that the boys' basketball team will play against Freire Philadelphia today, reviewing the successful Dragon Day celebration that was recently held, and explaining that he and several other students are in the beginning stages of dual enrollment in college-level courses.
- b. Staff Member Update
 - i. Nathan Moser shares a brief staff update, reflecting on Dragon Day, dual enrollment, and SAT preparations.
- c. January 2018 Data Packet
 - i. Felicia Wenell reviews up-to-date data on Freire Wilmington, including information on year-to-date attendance and suspensions. Paul Ramirez reviews academic metrics for the school.
 - ii. Felicia and Paul review progress and strategies for admissions for the 2018-19 school year, noting that they are hiring a full-time Admissions Coordinator.
 - iii. Paul Reviews Smarter Balanced proficiency rates disaggregated by subgroup, and notes that Freire Wilmington has a new Director of Student Services this year who has been working on new initiatives to support the continued closing of the achievement gap between students who do and do not receive special education services.

- iv. Felicia reviews the results of the most recent Community Survey, noting that there has been positive growth in students' reported satisfaction since last fall.
- d. Charter Renewal Update
 - i. Felicia Wenell notes that Freire Wilmington's charter renewal process will begin in April, and that the school expects to receive information from the state about the process at that time. Build the Future will support Freire Wilmington in generating all required materials and proceeding through the renewal process.

V. Financials

- a. January 2017 Financial Packet
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the January 2018 financial packet with the Board of Directors. Bill notes that the cash balance is high, as expected, because the last of Freire's state and local funding for the year was received in January. Bill reviews the comparison between the 2017-18 budget and actual for the year to date.
 - ii. Marnie Kelly moves to approve the December 2018 Financial Packet. Christian Willauer seconds. All in favor.
- b. Reelection of Bill Ray to the CBOC
 - i. Bill Ray explains that members of Freire's Citizen Budget Oversight Committee (CBOC) are elected by the Freire Wilmington Board of Directors to two-year terms, and that his own term is due to expire shortly.
 - ii. Christian Willauer moves to reelect Bill Ray to the CBOC. Mia Davenport seconds. All in favor.
- c. CBOC Update
 - i. Bill Ray notes that there will be no CBOC meeting in February, and that there were no concerns or questions posed at the CBOC's January meeting due to the school's strong financial position.

VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Update
 - i. Clint Walker discusses the recent successful cultivation event held at Freire Wilmington.
- b. Advancement Committee
 - i. Leigh Botwinik notes that the Freire network has convened a broad-based Advancement Committee including members of the Boards of all Freire schools as well as the Freire Foundation, focusing on multiple initiatives including the Summer Uptown event to be held at TECH Freire this summer.
 - ii. Clint Walker discusses Freire Wilmington's goal of "Graduation times two," i.e., graduation from both high school and college, as well as Board giving.

VII. Governance

- a. Scheduling Governance Training
 - i. Leigh Botwinik notes that formal governance training for all Board members is required at least every three years. The Board discusses scheduling for an April training session.
- b. Director of Learning
 - i. Leigh Botwinik notes that hiring for a Director of Learning has been put on hold until the summer, when more education-focused candidates are likely to be available.
- c. Build the Future Follow-Up Forum
 - i. Leigh Botwinik notes that the planned Build the Future follow-up forum was a success, and generated some ideas for how Build the Future can best serve the Freire network.

VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. Robert Goff notes a question that had been passed on to him about a street closure that had recently taken place near the school. Felicia Wenell explains that the streets were closed to enable necessary cable repair work, and that neither the school nor the neighborhood were alerted to the closure before it took place.
- b. Robert Goff notes a question that had been passed on to him regarding a possible confrontation between a Freire student and a neighborhood resident. Felicia Wenell notes that there was a Freire student who engaged in a verbal back-and-forth with a neighbor, and that Freire was alerted to this and has carried out appropriate consequences with the student involved. The student's grade-level Dean of Students had been in communication with the neighbor in question; Felicia notes that she will follow up to ensure that that communication is ongoing.
- c. Trish Blessing notes that recently, when two field trips were delayed by traffic and ended up returning to Freire around the same time, the result was that several parents were queued in the street in front of the school waiting to pick up their students. Trish suggests that another location could be used for field trip pick-up in the future to avoid the creation of neighborhood traffic.
- d. Robert Goff notes that the school has done a great job coordinating students' daily morning drop-off to minimize neighborhood traffic.

9:02 AM, meeting adjourned.