



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 20, 2018

Minutes

Directors Present: Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Christian Willauer

Directors Absent: Mia Davenport-Chaney, Robert Goff, John Kane

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Felicia Harrington, Johnny Mill, Bill Ray, Paul Ramirez, Figueroa "Brandon" Rivas (Freire Wilmington student), Maurice Roberts, Nathan Will (Vanguard/Leadership Delaware)

Location: 201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

8:05 AM, meeting called to order.

I. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

- a. The Board reviews the minutes from the Board Meeting on October 25, 2018.
- b. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Mia Davenport seconds. All in favor.

III. School Reports

- a. Student Update
 - i. Figueroa "Brandon" Rivas, a current 12th grade student at Freire Wilmington, introduces himself to the board and shares that the senior class is actively applying to colleges and universities throughout Delaware. Brandon recently applied to the University of Delaware and is waiting for a response letter. The senior class is also planning prom and the senior trip.
- b. Staff Member
 - i. Nathan Moser shares that the school feels "real" now that all grades are in the building. Nathan shares that there is a large percentage of first year teachers who have made clear, definable improvements since the start of the school year. Nathan also shares that the students have enjoyed the large number of educational field experiences so far this year. Most recently, the 10th grade class visited the main Villanova campus and left feeling energized and inspired.
- c. Heads Report
 - i. Felicia Wenell shares that today is the last day before the school goes on winter break and there is excitement throughout the building. Felicia shares that the school has completed all steps for their charter renewal and received a recommendation for renewal which the state must approve. The renewal recommendation is expected to pass.
 - ii. Clint Walker shares that Freire Wilmington students were remarkably professional during the recent cultivation event and showcased all Freire Wilmington has to offer.
 - iii. Felicia notes that almost all grades have participated in college field trips. She shares that today is the month-end assembly where students celebrate

one another and their improvements throughout the month. There is a Freire Wilmington basketball game today at home. Currently, the Freire basketball team is undefeated, 3-0.

- iv. Nate Durant, Director of Afterschool Activities, shares that students are showing strong interest in the afterschool clubs offered at Freire Wilmington. Nate notes the high number of new teachers partnering with students to create new, engaging afterschool programs. One club, Creepy Pasta, is focused on sharing horror short stories and is very popular amongst the students. Currently, Freire Wilmington offers 25 afterschool clubs and activities. Nate shares that Freire Wilmington has partnered with Christiana Care to offer a sexual health and development program for students. Nate notes that, although all clubs have a staff advisor, a lot of students are taking the lead in their clubs which creates more relevant and engaging meetings.
- v. November Data Packet
 - 1. Felicia reviews the November Data Packet and the positive year-to-date trend for both attendance and suspensions. Felicia shares that the 9th grade student metrics are on-track.
 - 2. Felicia shares that the admissions season has begun with the goal of reaching a total enrollment of 500 students. The online application system is now open and multiple applications have been received.
 - 3. Clint Walker shares that Freire Wilmington's current charter states an enrollment cap of 560 students, which the school hopes to amend to 500 during the charter renewal.
 - 4. Mark Stellini takes a moment to acknowledge Freire Wilmington and the school leadership for an outstanding job during the extensive charter renewal process.
- vi. Paul Ramirez distributes comparative Smarter Balance test scores for all Delaware schools between 2015-2018. Paul notes that Freire's raw test scores are outpacing state growth in both mathematics and reading. In English Language Arts, Freire grew an average of 26 points compared to the state, which grew by 15. Currently, mathematics is the major area of focus for Freire with students coming in at lower proficiency levels than in other content areas.
- vii. Paul shares that although Freire has the highest percentage of low-income students in the state, they have one of the highest SAT proficiency scores in reading.
- viii. Paul explains that the state of Delaware will now begin rating a school's effectiveness on a bell curve. Schools are separated into one of three categories: Elementary Schools, High Schools, and High Schools Plus, each with their own bell curve. Freire falls within the High Schools Plus category. This category includes a small number of schools, all of which are high performing. Because of this, Freire Wilmington is being held to a higher standard than if they were to be included in the traditional High Schools category.

IV. Financials

- a. November 2018 Financial Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the updated November 2018 Financials. Bill explains that Freire is projected to meet all financial ratios for the year.

- ii. The Board reviews the November 2018 Financial Report. Mark Stellini makes a motion approve. Christian Willauer seconds. All in favor.
- b. Final FY 2019 Budget
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the Final FY 2019 Budget. Bill notes the budget is based off an enrollment of 479 students instead of the original estimate of 500. Bill shares that the lower enrollment has changed the expected revenue and necessary budgetary changes have been made.
 - ii. The Board reviews the Final FY 2019 Budget. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds. All in favor.
- c. 2017-2018 Form 990 Draft
 - i. The Board reviews the draft Form 990 for FY 17-18.
 - ii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds. All in favor.
- d. CBOC Update
 - i. There is no update.

V. Advancement

- a. Kelly Davenport shares that the Advancement Team has been working diligently to raise funds for Freire Wilmington. Recently, the Welfare Foundation pledged to a \$100,000 grant to Freire's upcoming Innovation Lab. This grant is contingent upon Freire raising \$60,000 through their own advancement outreach.
- b. Kelly notes that the Cultivation Event went well with over 700 invitations sent out to individuals across Delaware. The annual appeal letter should reach mailboxes within the coming days.
- c. Kelly notes that Build the Future is applying for a \$3 Million Charter Support Organization grant through the Federal Government to aid in the expansion of the Freire network.
- d. The Advancement Committee is in the process of reviewing potential honorees for the Bridge to Wisdom event. The committee is also planning a 20-year celebration for the Freire Network.
- e. Clint Walker thanks Build the Future for their dedication to Freire Wilmington.

VI. Policies and Agreements

- a. Updated Fiscal Policies
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the fiscal policies and shares that the policies have been individually separated to make it easier to make specific updates in the future.
 - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Marnie Kelly seconds. All in favor.
- b. Updated Homeless Students Policy
 - i. Felicia reviews the refined version of the Homeless Students Policy with clarified language.
 - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Marnie Kelly seconds. All in favor.

VII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. There is no update.

9:02 AM, meeting adjourned.