



### **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

February 21, 2019

#### **Minutes**

*Directors Present: Marnie Kelly (Via video conference), Nathan Moser, Clint Walker, Christian Willauer*

*Others Present: Bob Blanchard, Leigh Botwinik, Kristiana Cheaye (Freire Wilmington Student), Kelly Davenport, Felicia Harrington, Johnny Mills, Bill Ray, Paul Ramirez, Maurice Roberts, David Singleton*

*Location: 201 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801*

*8:02 AM, meeting called to order.*

#### **I. Public Comment**

- a. Clint Walker takes a moment to introduce David Singleton and Bob Blanchard to the Board of Directors.

#### **II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

- a. The Board reviews the minutes from the Board Meeting on December 20, 2018.
- b. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds. All in favor.

#### **III. School Reports**

- a. Student Update
  - i. Kristiana Cheaye, a current 10<sup>th</sup> Grade student at Freire Wilmington, shares that she enjoys the student-to-teacher relationships at Freire. She shares that the students appreciate the school listening and responding to their points of view when making policy changes. For example, student input was a major factor in the recently updated dress code policy. Kristiana notes that one area of improvement for the school would be through access to technology, i.e. iPads and additional computers.
  - ii. Kelly Davenport asks Kristiana why she chose to attend Freire Wilmington. Kristiana shares that Freire feels like family and is a school where everyone supports each other.
- b. Staff Member
  - i. Nathan Moser shares that school leadership is working diligently to connect all teachers and create stronger relationships between students and staff. Nathan echo's Kristiana's concern about needing more access to technology and shares that the new Technology Center opened earlier this week. Staff is currently planning engaging lessons that utilize the new technology space.
  - ii. Nathan shares that the school has numerous field trip opportunities lined up for students over the coming months. Recently, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students visited the Mutter Museum, University of Pennsylvania, and the Constitution Center.

- iii. Nathan notes that students are preparing to take the SAT in March. Some 11<sup>th</sup> grade students have already taken the SAT and are hoping to increase their scores.
- c. Heads Report
  - i. February Data Packet
    - 1. Felicia Harrington shares that school attendance mirrors last year with a brief downward trend in December. Suspensions are down year-over-year and the academic on-track metrics are similar to this time last year. Afterschool programming is working on celebrating Black History Month with a celebration of African-American culture next Thursday. Afterschool programming is also noticing an increase in students attending afterschool academic centers.
  - ii. Felicia shares that admissions season is underway and they anticipate the majority of applications to come in during the February-March window.
  - iii. Felicia shares that Freire Wilmington's first graduating class is diligently applying to colleges, universities, and scholarship opportunities. As of February, 98% of the senior class has applied to at least one 2- or 4-year college, with 92% applying to at least one 4-year college. The senior class has earned just over \$2 million in scholarships and financial aid, with more to come in over the coming months.
  - iv. Clint Walker takes a moment to praise the school for celebrating student accomplishment and college acceptance. He informs the board of the college acceptance wall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor that showcases all seniors and which schools they have been accepted.
  - v. Paul Ramirez informs the Board that Freire Wilmington's Charter was recently renewed for a 5-year term. Paul recognizes the Build the Future team for their support during the renewal process.
  - vi. Paul shares that during Freire Wilmington's first 5 years, the school was focused on the formation and foundation of the school. During the next 5 years, the school is going to shift its focus to student engagement and retention of strong teachers.
  - vii. Leigh Botwinik notes that the school recently conducted a Panorama student survey. Panorama allows Freire to compare their survey results to other urban schools nationally. Freire Wilmington scored very high on student's sense of safety but have room for improvement regarding student engagement.
- d. CSP Grant Update
  - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Build the Future recently submitted a grant application to the Department of Education. This grant would provide seed funding for Freire Wilmington to open a second campus, serving grades K-7. If awarded, the process of expansion would take a few years to complete and is contingent upon the state of Delaware awarding Freire a second charter.
  - ii. Clint Walker shares that he believes, for students to receive the strongest education possible, they need to start at Freire at a young age. He notes that currently, students attending Freire Wilmington, enter a few grade levels behind. Offering a K-12 Freire education could help solve this issue.
- e. Felicia Harrington shares that today is the final basketball game of Freire Wilmington's Basketball Season. She invites all Board Members to attend.

#### **IV. Financials**

- a. January 2019 Financial Packet
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the January 2019 Financial Dashboard. He shares that all revenues have been received for the year, with the exception of any new donations. Food service revenues are projecting underbudget. Bill shares that Freire Wilmington is currently in the process of renewing their line of credit with Barclays bank. The school has met all financial ratios except the enrollment ratio, which is currently resting at 85%.
  - ii. Currently, there are no outstanding budgetary concerns.
  - iii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve the January 2019 Financial Dashboard. Marnie Kelly seconds. All in favor.
- b. CBOC Update
  - i. Bill Ray shares that the CBOC recently had a parent resign and the school is looking to find a new parent representative. Once a parent representative is selected, they will attend a board meeting and formally be voted onto the CBOC.

#### **V. Advancement**

- a. Advancement Update
  - i. Fundraising Report
    - 1. Bill Ray reviews the current fundraising levels for the network. Bill highlights the donations received and pledges verses what was budgeted for the year. Freire Wilmington budgeted for \$100,000 in unrestricted donations, with the school currently earning just under \$19,000 in unrestricted funds. Bill shares that, although there is still substantial money to be raised, the majority of fundraising comes in during the spring.
  - ii. Kelly Davenport notes that, as a charter school, Freire has a higher debt-service ratio than other non-profits. The higher unrestricted donations that have been budgeted are to help the school meet that ratio.
  - iii. Kelly shares that the database has grown significantly over the past year with the advancement office focusing on relationship building through direct mailing. Recently, the Advancement Committee selected Bridget and William Daniels as the 2019 Bridge to Wisdom honorees. The Daniels were the owners of the largest black owned cable company until Comcast purchased the company a few years ago.

#### **VI. Policies and Agreements**

- a. Nomination of Nathan Will to the Board of Directors
  - i. Clint Walker shares that Nathan Will is a potential Board Member who is very interested in the work Freire Wilmington is doing and supporting the Freire Schools.
  - ii. Clint Walker makes motion to appoint Nathan Will to the Board of Directors. Christian Willauer seconds. All in favor.
- b. Authorization of Build the Future to Select a New Insurance Broker
  - i. Max Matthews shares that the current insurance broker has undergone company-wide changes over the past few months. Build the Future is looking for a new insurance broker with a deeper understanding of non-profit law and charter school policy. The Operations Team at Build the Future has interviewed multiple insurance brokers over the past few weeks with Exude and Lamb coming out as the frontrunners. Max asks the Board

- to approve Build the Future to hire a new insurance broker once a decision is made.
    - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Marnie Kelly seconds. All in favor.
  - c. Policy 105 – Closure Procedure
    - i. Max Matthews reviews Policy 105 and explains that having a school closure policy is required through the CSP grant and is considered best practice for any charter school and support organization.
    - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds. All in favor.
  - d. Policy 244 – Student Speech Policy
    - i. Max Matthews reviews Policy 244 and the statute in the state of Delaware that covers student graduation speeches. This policy reaffirms that Freire Wilmington will not regulate the content of student speeches, thus, infringing on the student’s 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights. The policy also awards students the right to holding a period of silence during a speech.
    - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds. All in favor.
  - e. Line of Credit Renewal
    - i. Clint Walker recuses himself from the Line of Credit renewal vote and discussion.
    - ii. Bill Ray explains that Barclays has asked the school to reduce their line of credit since no credit has ever been borrowed. Bill negotiated the line of credit with the bank, which is set to expire on May 31, 2019. Although the school has no immediate need for a line of credit, it is wise to keep the line available incase of any significant changes to state legislation or revenues.
    - iii. Christian Willauer shares that, with Clint Walker recused, there are not enough Board Members present to reach a quorum. The Board will ask John Kane to review the agreement with Barclays and conduct a formal vote during the April Board Meeting.
  - f. Employee Policy Changes
    - i. Max Matthews shares that the state recently passed a new law on Paid Sick Leave. The state has not released the guidelines for this new policy. Once more details are released, they will be presented to the Board.

**VII. Governance**

- a. Resignation of Robert Goff
  - i. Clint Walker shares that Robert Goff recently resigned from Freire Wilmington’s Board of Directors. Robert Goff was a valued member of the Board. Clint thanks Robert for his work with Freire Wilmington.
- b. Clint Walker shares that the Board is interviewing numerous potential new Board Members to create more diversity and variety on the Board.

**VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update**

- a. Bob Blanchard shares that the Midtown Brandywine Committee is currently discussing some community concerns not related to Freire Wilmington.

*9:00 AM, meeting adjourned.*