



Freire

Charter Wilmington

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 24, 2019 | 8:00 AM

201 W. 14th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19801

Directors Present: Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Christian Willauer

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Paul Ramirez, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Maurice Roberts

8:01 AM, Meeting start

I. Public Comment

II. Resolutions

- a. Minutes from Board Meeting on June 20, 2019
 - i. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2019 Board Meeting. Christian Willauer seconds.
 - ii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. Mark Stellini abstains. There are no votes against. The motion passes.
- b. Minutes from Board Meeting on September 19, 2019
 - i. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2019 Board meeting. Marnie Kelly seconds.
 - ii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Slate of Staff with Salaries
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the Slate of Staff with Salaries. Paul Ramirez notes that there are some small changes needed to the years of experience for certain staff members.
 - ii. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve the Slate of Staff with Salaries with the necessary changes to the years of experience. Christian Willauer seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

III. School Reports

- a. Head Report
 - i. Admissions Update
 1. Paul Ramirez reviews the current admissions numbers for Freire Wilmington. During Unit Count, Freire reported 488 students, the goal was 475.
 - ii. Staff/Faculty Update

1. Clint Walker notes that Nathan Moser, the current Freire Wilmington staff member serving on the Board, will not be presenting a staff member update this month because of his upcoming wedding.
- iii. October Dashboard
 1. Leigh Botwinik reveals the new dashboard to the Board and shares that the revamped design aligns with the network-wide priorities and tracks the goal for each priority. The new dashboard highlights Achievement, Progress, Climate, College, and Teacher Recruitment & Development.
 2. Leigh reviews the current proficiency targets for STAR Benchmark testing in both Math and ELA (Reading). Paul Ramirez notes that the proficiency targets on the dashboard reflect the student body, where new Freire Wilmington students are coming into the school multiple grade levels behind.
 3. As of September 2019, Freire Wilmington's schoolwide attendance was at 82% of students attending 90% or more of instructional days. Currently, 96% of students have not been suspended.
- iv. Paul Ramirez notes that the priorities for Freire this year have been admissions, building operations, and instruction. Building operations are now shared between the 3 new assistant heads of school: Ruble Harris, Nate Durant, Julia Li. Paul reviews the remaining changes to school leadership including in both Academics, Special Education, and College Counseling.
- v. Paul shares that Freire Wilmington has multiple new teachers this year. Currently, there are 10 teachers who are both new to Freire and in their first or second year of teaching. Paul believes these teachers are fundamentally strong in their innate talent but need additional coaching and development to become highly effective teachers. There are 5 instructional coaches on staff supporting new and returning teachers.
- vi. Building Update
 1. Freire Wilmington received a large grant to build out an innovation center and computer lab. Paul invites the board to tour the computer lab after the board meeting.

IV. Financials

- a. October 2019 Financial Statement
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the October 2019 financials. Bill notes that Freire has \$2.8 million of cash on hand which will allow Freire Wilmington to operate for the coming months. Bill notes the majority of Freire Wilmington's funds are received up front at the start of the school year, with additional state and local funding received after January.
 - ii. Paul notes Freire is looking to hire a math teacher and potentially one additional full-time teacher.
 - iii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve the October 2019 Financial Statement. Mark Stellini seconds.

- iv. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. FY 2019 Audit Report
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the FY 2019 Audit Report. Bill shares that there was one audit finding this year, which was a minor technicality, in relation to late federal reporting. The impact of this finding is minimal and will be corrected moving forward.
 - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to accept the FY 2019 Audit Report. Marnie Kelly seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. CBOC Update
 - i. New CBOC Member
 - 1. Bill Ray shares there is one new community member, Amber Gagliola. who is interested in joining the CBOC.
 - 2. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Christian Willauer seconds.
 - 3. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Update
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the recent Freire Schools rebrand has gone live and has been well received by shareholders throughout the network.
 - ii. Melanie shares that the advancement team is currently looking for an honoree for the Bridge to Wisdom Event.
 - iii. Cultivation Event – Tuesday, November 19
 - 1. Clint Walker asks every Board Member to invite a minimum of 5 friends to the upcoming Wilmington Cultivation Event. Melanie will resend the event invite to all Board Members.
 - iv. Melanie shares a few ideas for Wilmington focused advancement efforts, including Student Q&As at local Law Offices, a spring speed networking event, and a large-scale cocktail party/fundraising in Fall 2020.
 - v. Melanie shares that the advancement team recently submitted a grant to the DE Department of Education to implement a year long teacher residency program. This program would allow Freire Wilmington to bring in 3 teacher residents who are currently pursuing their graduate degree through Relay.

VI. Policies and Agreements

- a. CSO Fee Addendum to the Director of Teaching and Learning
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the addendum to the Director of Teacher and Learning position, Teryn Thomas. This position was never factored into the original CSO agreement between Freire Schools and Freire Wilmington. Initially, Freire Schools covered Freire Wilmington's portion of the costs while the

school was working to reach full enrollment. Now that the school is fully enrolled, Freire Schools is requesting that Freire Wilmington cover 25% of the cost of the Director of Teaching and Learning position.

- ii. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
- iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Christian Willauer vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

VII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. Robert Blanchard updates the Board on feedback from the neighborhood. There are some local concerns about students having lunch in the park next to Freire Wilmington.
 - b. Robert recommends a monthly e-newsletter for the community to explain events and initiatives happening at Freire Wilmington – including, students leaving for lunch, early dismissals, etc.
- VIII.** Clint Walker thanks Paul Ramirez and Freire Wilmington for the recent Board Immersion Day and the opportunity to see the school in action.

8:54 AM, meeting adjourned.