



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2020 | 8 AM
201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19108

Board Members Present: Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara, Terry, Clint Walker, Nathan Will

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Ruble Harris, Julia Li, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Bill Ray

8:02 AM, Meeting Start

- I. Public Comment
 - a. There is no public comment.
- II. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from Board Meeting on December 19, 2019
 - i. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
 - ii. All in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- III. School Reports
 - a. Head Report
 - i. Wilmington Dashboard
 1. Julia Li reviews the percentage of 8th graders projected to score advanced or proficient on the upcoming SATs. The SAT is scheduled for March 4, 2020 and the Smarter Balance testing is scheduled for late April.
 2. Julia notes that attendance numbers are slightly lower compared to this time last year. School leadership suspects this is related to the earlier start time of the school day. The school is implementing new initiatives to encourage seniors to attend school on time.
 3. Robert Blanchard asks, other than buses, why did the school choose to start the school day earlier knowing students perform better with a later start time. Kelly Davenport notes that the earlier start time is due to a lack of available buses in the city of Wilmington.
 4. Nate Durant shares that the increased number of teacher observations have begun to positively impact the student body. The students are showing more engagement and teachers are growing. Recently all school staff participated in a diversity training during professional development.
 5. To date there have been 173 college acceptances with 68% of seniors receiving at least one acceptance letter. The senior class has raised roughly \$3 million in scholarship and aid funds.
 6. Nathan Will asks how students who graduated last year are doing in the first semester of college. Leigh Botwinik shares that the school does not current

have that data available but will provide a more thorough update to the board on college performance during the April board meeting.

7. Ruble Harris shares that the percentage of students with zero out of school suspensions is up compared to last year. One reason for this increase is related to the new addition of Saturday school suspension. This allows students to complete their suspension over the weekend instead of valuable in-class instruction time.
8. Ruble shares that he will be leading a HBCU College Tour with students, traveling from Delaware to Georgia and back. There is palpable excitement withing the student body around this trip.

b. Admissions Update

- i. Julia Li shares that Freire Wilmington has received 184 applications and 23 intents to date. Both numbers are up from this time last year. There are six scheduled open houses throughout the rest of February and through March.

c. Staff Member Update

- i. Nathan Moser shares that field trips are a major motivator for students. The school recently went on a school-wide trip to see the movie *Just Mercy*. Students will also be going to New York and DC in the coming weeks.
- ii. Nathan shares that *Just Mercy* was an intense experience for staff and students. The staff participated in a professional development day shortly after the film and spent over four hours discussing race relationship within the Freire community. The experience was eye-opening for all and was an important conversation the school will continue to explore with both staff and students.
- iii. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire Wilmington dreams to be a place where that which is not spoken in society can be spoken and that provides the greatest level of service for all students and staff members.
- iv. Sheela Dattani asks Nathan if the curriculum includes relevant texts and literature that will resonate with the student body. Nathan assures her it does.

IV. Financials

a. January 2020 Financial Dashboard

- i. Bill Ray reviews the January Dashboard and notes the school has enough money on hand to get through the end of the school year.
- ii. Bill reviews recent expenses with the board and notes that the school is tracking with the projected budget through the end of the year.
- iii. Freire Wilmington is on pace to meet all financial rations. The Department of Education has proposed changes to the financial rations that would make meeting all rations more challenging. Numerous schools throughout Delaware met in Dover to discuss these changes and how they would impact the schools.
- iv. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve the financials. John Kane seconds.
- v. All in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

b. FY 2019 Form 990 – Draft

- i. Bill Ray reviews the Form 990 for the 2018-2019 year. Bill notes there have been no significant changes compared to last year.
- ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
- iii. All in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

c. CBOC Update

- i. Bill Ray shares that there is no update at this time.

V. Advancement

a. Advancement Update

- i. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire Wilmington is eligible to apply for a new Longwood Grant. Melanie Reiser is working diligently to prepare and submit that grant before the March 1 deadline.
 - ii. Kelly shares that Freire Wilmington recently received a \$50,000 donation from a single family. To date, Freire Wilmington has raised 86% of the funding needed for the year. Kelly charges the board to give their annual contributions sooner rather than later.
 - iii. Currently, Freire Schools is working to plan a Bridge to Wisdom event for mis-May honoring Chuck Widger, the Founder and Executive Chairman of Brinker Capital. Clint Walker notes that Freire Schools will be looking into planning a Delaware-specific fundraising event in October. Clint encourages any board member interested to join the planning committee for this event.
 - b. Talking Points
 - i. Kelly Davenport reviews the talking points which highlight the incredible things happening within the Freire Network. This information will be updated and shared with the board monthly.
- VI. Policies and Agreements
 - a. Resolution Authorizing Change of Registered Agent
 - i. Max Matthews shares the board is required to update the registered agent with the State of Delaware. Currently the registered agent is listed as a board member who no longer serves. Max proposes changing the agent to Freire Charter Wilmington.
 - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - iii. All in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- VII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update
 - a. Robert Blanchard shares that Kelly Davenport, Paul Ramirez, and himself recently met with the Chair of the Midtown Brandywine Committee. The meeting was productive. The committee is most concerned with the student pick-up/drop-off location taking place in front of the school, blocking traffic to the rest of the neighborhood.
 - b. School leadership is currently working on a solution to this issue. Kelly Davenport thanks Robert for setting up the meeting.
- VIII. Governance
 - a. Tara Terry, Freire Wilmington Parent
 - i. Clint Walker introduces Tara Terry to the Board of Directors and shares that she would be a remarkable addition to the Board of Directors.
 - ii. John Kane makes a motion to appoint Tara Terry to the board. David Singleton seconds
 - iii. All in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

8:49 AM, Meeting Adjourned