



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2020 | 8 AM

Via Zoom

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Paul Ramirez, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Madeline Weckel

8:02 AM, Meeting Start

- I. Public Comment
 - a. There is no public comment.
- II. Our Response to COVID-19
 - a. Student Chromebooks and Hotspots
 - i. Paul Ramirez shares that his team is working diligently to come up with innovative ways to move instruction online. The Freire Network has moved to a one-to-one program where all students have a Chromebook and can participate in distance learning.
 - b. Freire Instructional Guide
 - i. Madeline Weckel shares that Freire Wilmington has moved into the second phase of their instructional plan. This phase allows students to finish Quarter 3 by making up any missed assignments. Beginning in May, Freire Wilmington will begin Quarter 4 and move to a more standard school day schedule through google classroom.
 - c. Emotional Supports
 - i. Nate Durant shares that the school counselors have been active with students in providing the same resources that were available when school was open. Nate and Nathan Moser have been working to ensure that after school programs are still open for students online, including academic centers, yoga, and numerous art related programs.
 - d. Special Education
 - i. Paul Ramirez shares that Freire Wilmington is paying particular attention to ensuring the school is meeting all standards and requirements for special education and ELL students.
- III. COVID-19 Budget Reforecast & Financials
 - a. Bill Ray shares that Freire Wilmington is saving a large amount of money due to the school closure caused by the pandemic. The school's recent Chromebook purchase has been partially paid for through the 21st Century Supplemental Grant and the remaining costs are covered through the school's operating budget. Freire Wilmington will end the year with a large surplus which will be used to help offset potential budgetary changes in the years to come.
 - b. Preliminary Discussion on Plan to Reduce Expenses

- i. The Board discusses ways the school can respond if there is a continued shutdown to make sure the school is financially secure if faced with a worst-case scenario. No budget reductions are currently needed before the end of the fiscal year.
 - c. Line of Credit Renewal
 - i. Bill Ray shares that around this time last year Freire Wilmington renewed their line of credit with Barclays Bank. There is no need to renew this LOC for the current year, but Barclays will be looking for a formal resolution from the Board for last year's renewal.
 - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Margarete Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. Clint Walker abstains. There are no votes against. The motion passes.
 - d. Restricted Donation – Director of Emotional Supports
 - i. Bill Ray shares that this restricted donation, to help cover the cost of Freire Wilmington's Director of Emotional Supports position, has already been approved by the Freire Foundation Board and is pending approval of the Freire Wilmington Board.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Margarete Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - e. Restricted Donation – Innovation Lab/Collaborative Learning Space
 - i. Bill Ray shares that this restricted donation, to help cover the cost of the Innovation Lab Learning Space, has already been approved by the Freire Foundation Board and is pending approval of the Freire Wilmington Board.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Margarete Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- IV. Advancement During COVID-19
 - a. Melanie Reiser shares that as of April 16, 2020, the Freire Network has raised \$302,000 in both received donations and pledges towards the network goal of \$400,000 in unrestricted fundraising. The Advancement Committee will meet later today to discuss new fundraising strategies for the coming months.
 - b. Melanie shares that Freire Schools withdrew their Longwood Foundation grant as the organization shifted their priorities to focus on COVID-19 response and support.
 - c. Currently, the advancement team is planning an alternative to Bridge to Wisdom which will be held next spring.
- V. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from Board Meeting on February 20, 2020.
 - i. The Board reviews the minutes from February 20, 2020.
 - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Christian Willauer seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Margarete Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- VI. School Reports
 - a. Head Report
 - i. Senior Class Update

1. Maddie Weckel shares that 62% of current seniors have been accepted to a college or university. To date, the 2020 senior class has been awarded over \$5 million in scholarship and financial aid funds.
 - ii. SATs
 1. The release of Freire Wilmington's SAT scores has been delayed until May 27.
 - iii. Paul Ramirez shares that hiring has been taking place throughout the stay at home order. Selena Castro from the network office is leading the charge for hiring and doing a fantastic job. Paul notes that many candidates are sharing that Freire Wilmington is the only school they have received an interview request from during the lockdown.
- b. Admissions Update
- i. Paul Ramirez shares that enrollment is a top priority and concern for Freire Wilmington. The school has been working diligently to keep enrollment on track and create a virtual open house that interested families can engage with online.
- c. Staff Member Update
- i. Nathan Moser talks about his experience of being a teacher during COVID-19. It has been challenging for him but rewarding. Google Classroom has been a useful and initiative system and staff have begun to acclimate to the online learning environment.
 - ii. Nathan also shares that there are 7 online clubs that students can participate in weekly.
- d. The Board discusses the logistical challenges of moving all instruction online. Paul Ramirez shares that a new Tech Steering Committee has been formed to discuss how each Freire campus will move forward with technology integration and digital learning in the coming years.
- VII. Policies and Agreements
- a. Slate of Staff
- i. Max Matthews shares that the Board is formally charged with making staffing decisions for the school. The attachment summarizes the personnel changes that have taken place over the previous year.
 - ii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve. Mia Davenport seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Margarete Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Emergency Delegation of Authority
- i. Max Matthews explains that the emergency delegate of authority allows Paul Ramirez and the other leadership of Freire Wilmington to take emergency action when needed. These actions will be approved by Kelly Davenport, Clint Walker, and Marnie Kelly so that no decisions can be made unilaterally within the school. Some examples of how this authority will be used relate to student grading standards, amended internal control policies, and disciplinary action.
 - ii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Margarete Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update
- a. There is no update at this time.
- IX. The Board takes a moment to express appreciation for the teachers, leadership, and staff for all their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The school has continued to move forward with supporting students and families throughout this crisis. The Board agrees that Freire Wilmington is in a far better place than other schools in the region because of the incredible work of the Freire team.

9:15 AM, Meeting Adjourned