



FREIRE

CHARTER WILMINGTON

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 817 0939 6294 | PASSWORD: 248035

Board Members Present: Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, Christian Willauer

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Melanie Reiser, Benjamin Wainwright

Meeting Start at 8:03am

I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from Board Meeting on June 18, 2010
 - i. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
 - ii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. School Report

- a. Admissions Update
 - i. Madeline Weckel shares that Freire Wilmington has exceeded their enrollment predictions for the current school year, noting the school currently has 507 actively enrolled students
- b. Heads Report
 - i. Maddie Weckel shares Freire Wilmington is learning how to balance asynchronous classes with synchronous to keep students engaged but also acknowledge the responsibilities students and teachers have while at home.
 - ii. Clint Walker asks how the students react to the current learning situation. Maddie shares they seem to be excited to see their other classmates and are willing to learn but there is a learning curve with virtual learning.
 - iii. Nathan Moser shares that he has been utilizing the flipped classroom model to provide students with more in-depth learning. Nathan goes on to share that Back to School Night went well. Lastly, Nathan Moser explains that some students lack basic computer literacy skills and notes he has been taking the initiative to explain correct technology etiquette when he can. .
 - iv. Christian Willauer asks do you ever have a situation where students or teachers have trouble working from home. Nathan Moser shares that yes, he has witnessed students struggle with working and learning from home.
 - v. Robert Blanchard asks Nathan Moser what changes he has envisioned or put in place to measure student progress. Nathan Moser shares that his top priority is to make sure students submit assignments for grading. Nathan notes that performance-based tasks are the best way to measure student achievement in a virtual environment.
 - vi. Nate Durant shares that Back to School Night was a success and after-school clubs have been going strong. Nate shares that meal distribution has been successful and many families of Freire

Wilmington are receiving food services. College counselors has been meeting with students since school began and hope to begin virtual college tours soon.

- vii. August 2020 Data Packet
 - 1. The board reviews the August 2020 data packet.

IV. Financials

- a. August 2020 Financial Report (*Attachment 4A*)*
 - i. Ben Wainwright reviews the August 2020 financial report with the board, noting that as of August 31, 2020, the School received approximately 81% of its annual State funding and 0% of its local funding. Ben notes that the School is projected to meet the standard for all financial ratios except for annual margin in FY 2021.
 - ii. Nathan Will makes a motion to approve. Bob Blanchard seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. June 2020 Financial Report
 - i. Ben Wainwright notes that the School ended FY 2020 with a \$372k general fund surplus, exceeding the budgeted surplus by \$298k. The School met all financial ratios.
- c. CSO Addendum II – Director of Learning & Innovation
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that the CSO Addendum for the Director of Learning and Innovation covers Freire Schools’ hiring of Paul Ramirez. Paul has agreed to take over virtual learning and technology for the network. The cost for his position is distributed across the four Freire campuses.
 - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. CBOC Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- e. Audit Update
 - i. No update at this time.

V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the Sonecha Family has committed to giving Freire Wilmington \$50,000 annually for a 5-year period.
 - ii. Melanie shares that in FY20, Freire Schools raised \$435,000 which is \$35,000 above the fundraising goal for the year. Unrestricted fundraising for last year included 66 new donors.
 - iii. Melanie shares that the Advancement Committee will meet on September 29 to discuss the fundraising plan for the FY21 with respect to the current pandemic. Additionally, the advancement team is working on changing outreach language to be more asset based instead of deficit based, in line with Freire’s commitment to anti-racism work.
- b. Talking Points
 - i. Melanie reviews the talking points with the board.

VI. Policies and Agreements

- a. Children’s Internet Protection Act Policy
 - i. Max Matthews explains the Children’s Internet Protection Act Policy, a requirement by law for receiving Title I funds and the federal technology grant. The policy prevents students from accessing explicit or harmful content through the internet. With learning currently virtual, Freire Schools has taken additional steps to ensure that all student Chromebooks have the proper protections and monitoring software installed. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - ii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Amendments to Policy 206 – Attendance and Truancy

- i. Max Matthews shares the Delaware Department of Education requests each school update their attendance policy for the coming school year. Attendance is still equally important to your child's learning and required by law during periods of virtual learning as it is for in-person instruction.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Robert Blanchard seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. **Health and Safety Plan Approval**
- i. Max Matthews shares that the Operations and Compliance team took the summer to develop an updated Health and Safety plan should the school reopen with a hybrid model. This plan also includes information on cleaning and health checkup stations and cleaning supplies and procedures.
 - ii. Sheela Dattani asks that Freire Wilmington supply masks for all students and staff when the school reopens.
 - iii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Christian Willauer seconds.
 - iv. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will and Christian Willauer all vote in favor. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

VII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. Robert Blanchard shares his thanks to Nate Durant for his time working with the community and rectifying the parking problem that was administered by the city.
- b. Clint Walker thanks the Freire Schools team and staff for the hard work and dedication everyone puts into virtual learning and the current school year.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:09am