



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**Others Present:** Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Latoya Clark (Freire Wilmington Parent), Kelly Davenport, Evelyn Davies (Freire Wilmington Parent), Ami Irvin, Maxwell Matthews, Katie Pollard (Freire Wilmington Staff, Director of College Counseling), Melanie Reiser, Bill Ray, Teryn Thomas, Maddie Weckel, Lillian Wehbe-Kobeissi

### I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment at this time.

### II. Review and Approval of Minutes

- a. The board reviews the minutes from the board meeting on October 22, 2020.
- b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Robert Blanchard seconds.
- c. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### III. School Report

#### a. 2020-2021 Network Priorities

- i. Lillian Wehbe and Teryn Thomas review the Network Priorities Dashboard with the board and ask that all members review the key domain metrics. The purpose of this dashboard is to provide useful, actionable data to both the school leaders and the board.
- ii. The five key domain metrics on the dashboard include: achievement, progress, attendance, college, and teacher recruitment/retention.
- iii. Lillian Wehbe and Teryn Thomas take time to review each of the domains in-depth.

#### b. Heads Report

- i. Maddie Weckel shares that Freire Wilmington has received final reenrollment numbers and the official 2020–2021-unit count is 501 students along with over 89% retention from the 2019-2020 school year. Maddie also states that the academic advisors have been preparing for Open Houses in the coming year.
- ii. Maddie shares that there have been 18 teachers who participated in the Donor's Choose Initiative which allows teachers to receive funds to help improve the classrooms and making learning exciting for the students.

- c. Staff Update
  - i. Nathan Moser shares how well school leadership has been handling the COVID situation during distance learning. Nathan also shares that school leadership has full trust and security within each other, along with the students during this time.
  - ii. Nathan also shares he recently observed a classroom with Darren Rainy and, with feedback from Darren, feels it has given him insight on how to make his lessons more engaging.
- d. Student Update
  - i. No update at this time.
- e. Admissions Update
  - i. Katie Pollard shares that last week Freire Wilmington students submitted over 145 college and university applications. Katie also shares that 56 students have been accepted into various colleges and universities. The senior class has received a total of 2.5 million dollars for scholarships to date.
- f. Anti-Racism Update
  - i. Kelly Davenport shares that the Freire Schools network has committed to training 40 network leaders and have completed 4 of 12 total trainings with Just Instruction. Kelly notes that the instructional leaders are examining the curriculum and expectations for students to ensure it aligns with the network's anti-racism efforts and the needs of Freire students.

#### IV. Financials

- a. 2019-2020 Form 990
  - i. Bill Ray shares the Form 990 and informs the board that the document will be publicly available on Freire Wilmington's website once approved.
  - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Christian Willauer seconds.
  - iii. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Revised FY 2021 Budget
  - i. Bill Ray shares that Freire Wilmington is 100% enrolled with 501 students, surpassing the preliminary budgeted enrollment of 475. Of the 501 students, 19.8% are in the special education program (slightly less than the 20.4% from the preliminary budget) and the final budget includes a one-time \$300,000 loan repayment on Freire Wilmington's loans with Barclays.
  - ii. The loans mature with a \$900,000 balloon payment in August 2021. Freire Wilmington plans to pay down the loan by \$300,000 as part of the refinance.
  - iii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
  - iv. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. November 2020 Financial Report
  - i. Bill Ray shares Freire Wilmington's cash on hand as of November 30, 2020 is \$3,060,000. Freire Wilmington is projected to end the year with \$1,100,000, which

represents approximately 49 days down from 61 days on June 30, 2020. Freire Wilmington's decrease is due to a one-time \$300,000 debt service repayment as part of the school's loan refinance.

- ii. Bill also states that based on the school's final budget, Freire Wilmington will not meet three of its financial ratios, which includes days with cash in hand, debt service coverage, and the annual margin.
  - iii. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
  - iv. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- d. Barclay's Loans Refinance
- i. Bill Ray shares that Freire Wilmington currently has over \$1,000,000 in loan repayment to Barclay due to the expansion of the school. Bill's team is currently working with Barclay to ensure a one-time full payment of \$300,000 within our 20–25-year contingency plan.
  - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Christian Willauer seconds.
  - iii. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Nathan Will, Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and one abstention.
- e. CBOC Update
- i. Bill Ray introduces Latoya Clark to the board and shares that she will be serving as a new parent representative on the CBOC.

## V. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report
- i. Melanie Reiser shares Freire Schools has raised \$85,650 in donations and pledges toward our \$525,000 network-wide goal for unrestricted fundraising but Freire Wilmington, specifically, has raised \$53,604 in donations and pledges toward its \$150,000 target for unrestricted fundraising.
  - ii. Melanie also shares on December 4<sup>th</sup>, Freire Wilmington virtually hosted its annual Coffee and Conversation event, which is a cultivation event where guests can hear from school leadership and engage in small group conversation with students. Even though virtual, the event still achieved a very strong turnout.
- b. Talking Points
- i. In lieu of talking points this month, Freire Schools is sharing the 'Make Joy Annual Appeal'. A hard copy of this appeal was sent to key donors earlier in December and a digital copy will be circulated within the next two weeks.
  - ii. The Advancement Committee will meet in the new year.

## VI. Policies and Agreements

- a. Approval of New Title IX Policy
- i. Max Matthews introduces Ami Irvin, who will be explaining the New Title IX Policy.
  - ii. Ami Irvin, Operations Coordinator for Freire Schools Network Office shares during the summer the United States Department of Education passed the revised version Title IX regulation based on sexual harassment and discrimination

feedback from schools in the districts. Ami states Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools and applies to both students and staff.

- iii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
  - iv. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Approval of Charter School Annual Report to DOE
- i. Max Matthews shares that the Annual Report to DOE must be submitted to the state for review of Freire Wilmington's overall progress.
  - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
  - iii. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

## **VII. Governance**

- a. Evelyn Davis Resume, Freire Wilmington Parent, Potential Board Member
  - i. The board reviews Evelyn Davis' resume. She is currently seeking a position on the board as a parent representative.
  - ii. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
  - iii. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Latoya Clark Resume, Freire Wilmington Parent, Potential CBOC Member
  - i. The board reviews Latoya Clark's resume. She is currently seeking to become a member of the CBOC.
  - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Robert Blanchard seconds.
  - iii. Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will, and Christian Willauer vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against an

## **VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update**

- a. Robert Blanchard shares the committee is still focused on completing the road work within the community.
- b. At this time, there are no other community concerns to bring to the school.

9:28 AM, Meeting adjourned