



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 22, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 868 4986 3281 | PASSWORD: 345560

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Nate Durant, Maxwell Matthews, Melanie Reiser, Bill Ray, Maddie Weckel

8:04 AM, Meeting Start,

I. Public Comment

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

II. Executive Session

- a. Preliminary discussions on site acquisitions for publicly funded leases of real property and capital improvements.
 - i. Mark Stellini makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 9:10 AM. David Singleton seconds.
 - ii. Sheela Dattani makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:25 AM. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, 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. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2021

- a. The board reviews the minutes from the board meeting on February 18, 2021.
- b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
- c. Sheela Dattani, 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.

IV. School Reports

- a. April Data Report
 - i. Madeline Weckel shares that, currently, 181 students are participating in virtual learning, with 250 students registered to be in hybrid learning on April, 26, 2021.
- b. COVID Update
 - i. Adjustments to Health and Safety Plan
 - 1. Max Matthews reviews the updated Health and Safety Plan with the board.
 - 2. Nathan Will makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - 3. Sheela Dattani, 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. Heads Report
 - i. Admissions Update
 - 1. Madeline Weckel shares that the total number of intents for the 2021-2022 school year is tracking slightly behind the number received at this time last year. With the school reopening for hybrid instruction and all members of the admissions team fully vaccinated, Freire will begin offering in-person tours and on-site open houses starting in May.
 - ii. Graduation Update
 - 1. Nate Durant shares that Freire Wilmington will be holding graduation at the Daniel S. Frawley stadium this year on Monday, June 7, 2021.

- iii. College Report
 - 1. Nate Durant thanks the College Counseling Department for their hard work this year. Over 70% of student have applied to a 4-year college or college, with 59% of those students receiving an acceptance letter to at least one college or university.
 - 2. In the next few weeks, the College Counseling Department will help assist students who have yet to complete their FASFA application.
- d. Staff Update
 - i. Madeline Weckel shares that the staff is very eager to teach students in person again. To better prepare the staff, Freire Wilmington held a Professional Development day to reacclimate the staff to the building and review some best practices and techniques for effective hybrid learning.
 - ii. Nathan Moser shares that, compared to last year, there are not as many students passing this year due to student accountability challenges. Teachers are working to adapt to the challenges the pandemic has brought on the students while at home. Nathan explains the staff have made more time for advisory in the morning before class and expanded office hours throughout the day.
 - iii. Nathan explains that all staff have visited the building to see the COVID safety precautions and believes that, even with only 25% of students in the building at one time, all COVID safety precautions are pristine.
- e. Student Update
 - i. Nate Durant shares that the staff recently interviewed Emmanuel Akande (11th Grader) and asked what thoughts or concerns he had regarding returning to the building. Emmanuel stated that he was looking forward to coming back to school and being with his peers and the staff in-person.
 - ii. Emmanuel shares that being quarantined has made him more focused and determined to do his work because of the lack of distractions.
- f. Anti-Racism Update
 - i. Leigh Botwinik explains that a year ago since George Floyd's murder, Freire Schools has taken the initiative to make changes and has partnered with Just Instruction to train network leadership and ensure the Freire Schools network is anti-racist.
 - ii. Starting next year, the Just instruction program will be expanded to other members of the network, including the Freire School Network Office staff.

V. Financials

- a. March 2021 Financial Report
 - i. Bill Ray shares that Freire Wilmington's cash on hand as of March 31, 2021 is \$3,600,000 and Freire Wilmington is currently projected to end the year with approximately \$1,300,000 in cash on hand, which represents a decrease from 61 days to 59 days of cash on hand. This decrease is due to a one-time debt service repayment of \$300,000 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 on hand, debt service coverage, and the annual margin.
 - iii. The \$300,000 loan repayment was a strategic decision by the school leadership which caused the drop in both cash on hand and debt service coverage. When ratios are not met due to one-time strategic decisions, the State allows the school to provide an explanation of the strategic decision in its annual performance framework report.
 - iv. Bill shares that on March 31, 2021 the school received all annual State and Local funding along with a \$260,000 one-time grant funded by the CARES Act.
 - v. Nathan Will makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - vi. Sheela Dattani, 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. CBOC Update
 - i. Bill Ray shares there is nothing to update the board on at this time.

VI. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that Freire Schools has raised \$196,834 in donations and pledges toward the network-wide goal of \$400,000 in unrestricted fundraising. Freire Wilmington, specifically, has raised \$73,330 in donations and pledges toward its \$150,000 target of unrestricted fundraising.

- ii. Melanie shares that spring fundraising will focus largely on personal solicitation of donors and that Freire Wilmington will be hosting another Coffee & Conversation Virtual event on May 19, 2021.
- iii. Melanie shares on February 5, 2021, Freire Schools submitted a grant application to the Delaware Department of Education to fund the second year of the teacher residency program in 2021-2022. Freire Schools received a grant for \$55,000 in partnership with Relay Graduate School of Education to expand residency next year.
- b. Talking Points
 - i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points with the board.

VII. Policies and Agreements

- a. Slate of Staff with Salaries
 - i. Max Matthews reviews the Slate of Staff with Salaries with the board.
 - ii. Sheela Dattani makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, 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. Title I Schoolwide Plan
 - i. Max reviews the Schoolwide Plan noting that board review and approval of the plan is a requirement to receive Title I funds. The plan outlines the school's goals for the current year.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Christian Willauer seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, 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. Teacher Equity Plan
 - i. Max shares that the teacher equity plan is required as part of receiving Title I educational funds. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that school districts are not disproportionately assigning teachers with less experience to schools that qualify for Title 1 funds or have significantly higher portions of low-income students.
 - ii. Each Freire Schools campus is classified as its own district, however, the teacher equity plan outlines what Freire Schools is doing as a network to provide the highest level of education for all students.
 - iii. Max notes that retention of effective teachers is, arguably, one of the most significant aspects of this plan.
 - iv. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - v. Sheela Dattani, 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. 2021-2022 School Calendar
 - i. Max reviews the draft schedule of the upcoming academic year with the board.
 - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, 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.

VIII. Governance

- a. Board Clearances
 - i. Olivia Burgess reminds the board that clearances and trainings are to be completed by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2021.
- b. Evaluations
 - i. Max Matthew requests all board members complete the annual Freire Schools Collaborative evaluation survey based on the experience of working with the Freire Schools Network Office.
- c. Proposed 2021-2022 Board Meeting Calendar
 - i. The board will reconnect sometime next week to accept the proposed dates.

IX. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. There is no update at this time.