



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 17, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 891 7990 5051 | PASSWORD: 967375

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

Others Present: Olivia Burgess, Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Ruble Harris (Assistant Head of Students), Ron Lomax-Bey (Dean of Students), Katie Pollard (Assistant Head of School), Maxwell Matthews, Ben Moore (Dean of Students, FCHS), Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Maddie Weckel

- I. Public Comment
 - a. There is no public comment.
- II. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, April 22, 2021 (Attachment 2)*
 - a. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Robert Blanchard seconds.
 - b. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- III. School Reports
 - a. June 2021 Data Report (Attachment 3A)
 - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the data packet with the board.
 - b. COVID Update
 - i. Updated Health and Safety Plan (Attachment 3B)*
 - Max Matthews shares that this plan is an updated version of the previously approved plan from the April Board Meeting.
 - Nathan Moser asked about the mask regulation for the summer and for when school starts back up again in fall. Max ensures the board that the school will continue to honor the mask mandate throughout the summer and into the new school year.
 - Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - c. Heads Report
 - i. Maddie Weckel provides an update on current enrollment projections, attendance, star benchmarking, and post middle/high school plans.
 - ii. Maddie continues to share that Freire Wilmington has chosen a new standard aligned ELA curriculum which is called Unbound Education. Grades 8-11 will use this curriculum during the coming school year.
 - iii. Maddie notes that the recent vaccine event went very well and was a true community event for those in the neighborhood. Over 40 people, including staff, families, students, and members of the community received the COVID vaccine.
 - iv. Admissions Update

- Maddie shares that both Katie Pollard and Johnny Mills have been doing great work hosting in-person school tours, open houses, and engaging with families to ensure strong enrollment at the start of next school year.
- v. Graduation Update
 - Katie Pollard notes that graduation was held last week and shares that the students and families enjoyed the unique venue and fireworks display.
 - vi. College Report (Attachment 3C)
 - Katie shares that the seniors have been awarded a total of \$4,678,309 in scholarships and financial aid.
 - Graduates of note include Hannah Gregson who was awarded over \$638,000 in scholarships and grants from 5 institutions, along with De'vona Holiday who was accepted to the Clara I. Adams Honors College (CIAHC) at Morgan State University.
- d. Staff Update
 - i. Nathan Moser shares that he received the chance to see all staff before the school year closed out and was very happy to see everyone in a group show up in the lunchroom since the pandemic.
 - ii. Nathan shares that he does feel slightly hesitant about having all students back in the building next year but is reassured with all the health safety check points/materials within the building.
 - iii. Summer programming will be for 7 weeks in total, and over 20 different education clubs will be holding classes for all students.
 - e. Anti-Racism Update
 - i. Anti-Racism Overview (Attachment 3D)
 - Max Matthews shares that during the collaboration with Rethic (formerly known as Just Instruction) over 40 leadership staff were given the opportunity to be trained and challenged on topics such as race, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
 - ii. Freire Summer Work (Attachment 3E)
 - Kelly Davenport shares that during the summer, over 250 staff members will be doing anti-racism homework. Kelly invites the board to participate in learning with the staff during the summer, even though it is not a requirement.
- IV. Financials
- a. Financial Report (Attachment 4A)*
 - i. Bill Ray shares that Freire Wilmington's cash on hand as of May 31, 2021 is \$2,500,00 and Freire Wilmington is currently projected to end the year with approximately \$1,440,000 in cash on hand, which represents 67 days with cash on hand. Freire Wilmington is projecting an annual surplus of \$86,000, which exceeds the budgeted surplus by \$38,000.
 - ii. As of May 31, 2021, Freire Wilmington received all its annual state and local funding. Final state and local revenues exceeded the budget by \$61,000. Federal revenues include \$260,000 of one-time grant funds received from the CARES act. These funds are being used to fund two FTE, Chromebooks, cameras and microphones, and other safety supplies.
 - iii. Total salaries are projected to be \$90,000 below budget. This is primarily due to having less stipends for extra duties not needed during remote learning, such as morning monitors, dismissal, etc. Alternative placement is projected to be \$72,000 below budget. This is primarily due to transportation costs which were significantly below budget due to remote learning.
 - iv. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - v. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - b. FY 2022 Preliminary Budget (Attachment 4B)*
 - i. Bill shares Freire Wilmington's preliminary budget for FY 2022 nets a general funding surplus of \$68,000 (after debt service payments and capital purchases.) Freire Wilmington is projected to meet all financial ratios except for "Days Cash on Hand", which is budgeted to drop from 67 days to 64. However, the school is projected to generate positive cash flow in

- FY 2022 and is expected to receive an overall rating of "Meets Standard".
- ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
- iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- c. Barclay Refinance (Attachment 4C)*
 - i. Bill Ray shares the remaining balance of the Barclay's Loan is \$630,000. The board approves each of the loan documents, and forms presented currently as of the date.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. ESSR Funds (Attachment 4D)
 - i. Bill Ray shares that the ESSR funds were utilized for COVID purchases, such as Chromebooks, classroom curriculum, classroom supplies, and health and safety materials.
- e. CBOC Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- V. Advancement
 - a. Advancement Report (Attachment 5A)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that Freire Schools has raised over \$378,361 in unrestricted funds, leaving \$21,639 remaining to be raised towards the annual goal of \$400,000 by June 30, 2021. Freire Wilmington, specifically, has raised \$99,782 in donations and pledges toward its \$150,00 target for unrestricted fundraising.
 - ii. The spring fundraising push included personal solicitations to donors and a virtual campaign around the start of in-person learning.
 - b. Talking Points (Attachment 5B)
 - i. Melanie Reiser reviews the talking points with the board.
- VI. Policies and Agreements
 - a. Interim Nonviolence Policy (Attachment 6A)*
 - i. Kelly Davenport introduces two cultural leaders from each of our schools to explain the newly proposed Interim Non-Violence Policy.
 - ii. Ron Lomax-Bey, Dean of Students at Freire Wilmington, shares that the policy is to teach the students how to understand unwanted behaviors/actions in our schools and to help loosen disciplinary action.
 - iii. Ruble Harris, Assistant Head of School, assures the board that this policy will help with small interventions. Students and families will learn about this policy change during orientation and through a letter sent home to families.
 - iv. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - v. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - b. 2021-22 School Calendar (Attachment 6B)*
 - i. The board reviews the 2021-2022 School Calendar.
 - ii. Sheela Dattani makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
 - c. FCSW Amendment to Academic & Business Services Agreement with Freire Schools*
 - i. Bill Ray reviews the Academic & Business Services Agreement between Freire Wilmington and Freire Schools.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Robert Blanchard seconds.
 - iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- VII. Governance
 - a. Election of Board Members & Officers (Attachment 7A)*

- i. Max Matthews shares that the board of directors has the obligation of electing officers annually. The proposed motion is to re-elect David Singleton as Executive Committee Member at Large, John Kane to be re-elected as Treasure, Clint Walker to be re-elected as President and Sheela Dattani to be elected as Vice President.
- ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
- iii. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Tara Terry, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. Freire Schools Annual Performance Evaluation (Attachment 7B)
 - i. Leigh Botwinik thanks the board for completing the annual Freire Schools Performance Evaluation and notes that the overwhelming feedback focused on ensuring the IT team prepared to discover, implement, and maintain the technology needs of our students.
 - ii. The board would like to see more support provided to all staff across the Freire Schools network, being a shoulder to lean on if in need of guidance.
- c. Board Clearances & Trainings
 - i. Olivia Burgess notifies the board that the deadline for all clearances will be on June 30, 2021.

VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

Clint Walker notes that the local community appreciated the recent vaccine event and the service it provided to the area.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:00 AM