



FREIRE

CHARTER WILMINGTON

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 21, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 838 6201 9348 | PASSWORD: 878898

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

Others Present: Olivia Burgess, Valencia Brown (10th Grader), Leigh Botwinik, Nate Durant, Ruble Harris (Assistant Head of School), Max Matthews, Katie Pollard (Assistant Head of School), Darren Rainey (Director of Curriculum & Instruction), Paul Ramirez, (Director of Curriculum & Instruction), Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser

Meeting Start, 8 AM

- I. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment.
- II. Review & Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from Board Meeting on August 10, 2021 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the August 10, 2021, Board Meeting.
 - 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, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - b. Minutes from Board Meeting on September 9, 2021 (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the September 9, 2021, Board Meeting.
 - 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, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - c. Minutes from Board Meeting on September 23, 2021 (*Attachment 1C*)*
 - i. The board reviews the minutes from the September 23, 2021, Board Meeting.
 - 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, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- III. School Report
 - a. Staff Update
 - i. Nathan Moser shares the various after school clubs the students have been holding such as yoga, chess, and Future's First Gaming (FFG). Nathan also gives praise to Ms. Jerrika Flint (Freire Wilmington, Performing Arts Teacher) who has roughly 35 students that show up twice a week after school for marching band.
 - ii. Last week the school was observed by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and over 100 students, out of 500 enrolled, stayed to participate in after-school programs.
 - iii. The basement is almost finished and ready for use, whether it be for dancing, clubs or after school activities.
 - iv. Nathan notes that school staff have taken notice of the openness regarding the need to hire new

staff to cover positions or when a staff member is out sick.

- b. COVID Update
 - i. Nathan states Covid procedures are still going very well, and the students and staff still have a good understanding of the importance of using their mask, the water fountain policy and social distancing.
 - ii. Nate Durant shares data on student and staff vaccinations.
- c. Student Update
 - i. Valencia Brown (10th Grader, Freire Wilmington) shares her experience attending Freire Wilmington. Currently she is a part of an after-school program called WAVE. Her college of choice would be NYU where she hopes to study to become a nurse. She appreciates the grading system and loves how the staff caters to the student's needs and how patient they are with the students. Based on her experience at other schools, Valencia truly appreciates the non-violence policy that Freire Schools offers and how much it helps keep the peace within the school.
 - ii. Valencia notes that the 10th grade students need lockers for their personal belongings and students should be allowed to bring their Chromebook chargers to school because some students forget to charge their Chromebooks the night before.
 - iii. Clint Walker asks Valencia what the one thing is she likes best about Freire Wilmington. Valencia says, "It would have to be the teachers."
- d. Admissions Update/ Heads Report
 - i. Nate Durant shares that Freire Wilmington is fully enrolled with a total of 503 students. With the school fully enrolled, staff are working diligently to meet the needs of each student.
 - ii. Nate praises Ruble Harris (Assistant Head of School, Freire Wilmington) and the Culture Team for paying attention to the students and ensuring they receive all the help they need.
 - iii. Katie Pollard shares the number of struggles students are currently enduring versus those faced during virtual learning. Over the summer, students participated in credit recovery programs that have been brought into the school year to help students stay on track.
 - iv. The college counseling team is working with a select group of seniors to ensure they have all the credits needed to graduate on time. Recently, the college counseling team took a group of students to Chase Bank Arena to attend the HBCU College Fair. At the fair, two students received full rides.
- e. September 2021 Data Packet
 - i. Darren Rainey (Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Freire Wilmington) shares the recent roll out of the new ELA curriculum. Over 100 staff are currently using EngageNY and Illustrative Math. During the third year of using this curriculum, math performance has increased, and student's critical thinking is on display while solving problems in class.
 - ii. The focus of the academic team is to ensure students are on grade level and reading college-level material, especially within the ELA & math curriculums.
- f. Slate of Staff (*Attachment 2B*)*
 - i. The board reviews the slate of staff.
 - 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, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. Financials

- a. September 2021 Financial Report (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - i. Bill Ray shares Freire Wilmington's cash on hand as of September 30, 2021, is \$3,930,000 and is projected to end the year with \$1,610,000 of cash which represents an increase of \$3,000 from June 30, 2021.
 - ii. As of September 30, 2021, Freire Wilmington has received 80% of budgeted state funding which is based off an enrollment of 500 students and 24% of local funding will be collected at the end of December. Bill's team is currently working with Nate Durant to produce the final budget with the finalized enrollment of 503 students.
 - iii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - iv. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. CBOC Update
 - i. No update at this time.
- c. FY 2021 Final Audit Report (*Attachment 3B*)*

- i. Bill shares the audit has been finalized and submitted to the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). On page 51 of the audit report, it is noted that there were no significant deficiencies or material weakness relating to the schools' financial statements or to the major federal award programs. The auditors determined that Freire Wilmington is a low-risk auditee.
- 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, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

V. Advancement

a. Advancement Report (*Attachment 4*)

- i. Melanie Reiser shares that Freire Schools has raised \$80,000 in unrestricted donations and pledges in the first quarter of FY22. This places Freire Schools slightly ahead of funding received this time last year (\$67,587).
- ii. In September, Freire Schools updated all FY21 donors on the start of the school year and shared the schools' goals for the coming year.
- iii. The Back-to-School video gave an in-depth explanation of Freire Schools' continued Commitment to Antiracist Action.
- iv. Freire Schools has begun scheduling virtual meetings with most major donors. The Advancement Team recently submitted two grant requests to the M&T Foundation.
- v. This fiscal year, the Advancement Team is reconfiguring the timeline for board giving. We are asking all board members to submit their FY22 pledges by December 31, 2021, and for donations to be made by June 30, 2022.

VI. Executive Session

- a. Mark Stellini makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:50 AM to discuss Freire Wilmington entering into a new lease and the Head of School evaluations. David Singleton seconds.
- b. Mark Stellini makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:24 AM. David Singleton seconds.
- c. Robert Blanchard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

VII. Governance

a. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members

- i. Olivia Burgess reviews the clearances and trainings needed for each board member.

VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. No update at this time.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:24 AM