



FREIRE

CHARTER WILMINGTON

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 16, 2021 | 8 AM

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING ID: 872 8189 0951 | PASSWORD: 976288

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Diamond Jackson (12 Grader, FCSW), Tammy Khieu, Robert Mansell, Denise Morgan (12th Grader, FCSW), Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser

Meeting Start: 8:02am

- I. Public Comment
 - a. There is no public comment.
- II. Review & Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from Board Meeting on October 21, 2021 (*Attachment 1A*)*
 - i. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - ii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - b. Minutes from Board Meeting on November 2, 2021 (*Attachment 1B*)*
 - i. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - ii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, 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 his enthusiasm about being back in the school building with the staff and students. One common challenge all staff and students are continuing to experience is getting through the era of COVID-19. COVID had caused a strain for a few individuals, but many are enthusiastic that online has been limited due to the school being fully open again. After school programs are still thriving, along with a few outside school events that have happened this month.
 - ii. Clint Walker notes he has attended the after school program for the drumline team led by Ms. Jerricka Flint (Freire Wilmington, Performing Arts Teacher). Nathan adds that Ms. Jerricka is roughly in charge of 30+ students, for this program which meets twice a week.
 - b. Student Update
 - i. Nathan Moser introduces two Freire Wilmington seniors, Denise Morgan and Diamond Jackson, both of which are Executive Directors for the Student Government Association (SGA) Board, participate in the marching band and are leaders in a multitude of other clubs. During their time as part of SGA, Freire Friends is a group Denise and Diamond started that provides mentorships for students in lower grades which helps upperclassmen toward their service hours for college applications. Since the program started, Denise and Diamond note the behaviors within the 8th and 9th graders have changed drastically due to the relationships formed between the mentees and mentors. Qualifications to be in the program include: no disciplinary incidents, above average grades and qualities that exemplify a good role model for younger students and a willingness to sign a confidentiality form.
 - ii. Denise and Diamond notes that Winter Spirit Week is currently happening at the Freire Wilmington

campus along with SAT-Prep Week. College Week will take place in in May.

- c. Admissions Update
 - i. Nate Durant share admissions for Freire Wilmington is going strong and gives immense praise to Johnny Mills (Director of Creative Initiatives, Freire Schools Network), Katie Pollard (Assistant Head of School, Freire Wilmington) and Aisha Monroe (Admissions Coordinator, Freire Wilmington) for ensuring all open houses run smoothly and enrolling new perspective students in the school.
 - ii. Recently Nate and his team held a presentation at another school and received profound feedback and excitement from the families about what Freire Wilmington has to offer culturally.
- d. Heads Report
 - i. Freire Network Dashboard (*Attachment 2*)
 - Maddie Weckel shares on the dashboard there is no new STAR Benchmark information . Toward the end of January the new data will be formulated and added to the dashboard.
 - Nate share the school is going strong this year and notes the Governor is coming to visit the school on Friday, December 17th to speak to the school community. Nate also notes the Culture Team has been diligent on finding an understanding on student attendance and restorative discipline.

IV. Financials

- a. October 2021 Financial Report (*Attachment 3A*)*
 - i. Bill Ray shares Freire Wilmington's cash on hand as of October 31st is \$3,460,000 which show the schools is projected to end the year with a total of \$1,700,000; representing an increase of approximately \$90,000 from June 30, 2021.
 - ii. For financial ratios and expenses refer to the Revised FY 2022 Budget.
 - iii. All final revenue payments are based on the final certified unit count which is due in December 2021. Federal Grant allocations have all been approved and distributed to the school which ensures grant revenues are collected concurrently with payment.
 - iv. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Mark Stellini seconds.
 - v. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Revised FY 2022 Budget (*Attachment 3B*)*
 - i. Freire Wilmington's final budget nets an annual surplus of \$10,000. Freire Wilmington has sufficient ESSER-II and ARP-ESSER (ESSER-III) grant funds available that can be utilized to cover unbudgeted operating expenses. Freire Wilmington had \$1,050,000 of reserves (which was above what was necessary to meet for summer salary and other short-term obligations) on June 30, 2021, that can be used to address any large, one-time costs, such as an HVAC replacement.
 - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. CBOC Update
 - i. No update at this time.

V. Policies and Agreements

- a. Amended Enrollment Policy (*Attachment 4A*)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik informs the board the enrollment policy is changed to specify the alignment with the Delaware Charter School law.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- b. Amended School Closure Policy (*Attachment 4B*)*
 - i. This amended policy is to ensure alignment with the State Charter School Code. The policy outlines what steps would be executed to make sure we pay for instruction before closure if the school were to shut down.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker,

- Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- c. Adoption of FOIA Open Meetings Policy (*Attachment 4C*)*
 - i. The Freedom of Information Act policy is based around the electronic qualifications for open online board meetings, keeping of minutes, recording votes, and public notices, etc.
 - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - d. Amended Conflict of Interest Policy (*Attachment 4D*)*
 - i. The Conflict of Interest Policy is aligning properly with the 10% financial requirement.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - e. Amended Non-Discrimination Policy (*Attachment 4E*)*
 - i. The Non-Discrimination Policy's main amendment better defines harassment, based on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Educational Amendments of 1972, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1993.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - f. Amended FOIA Open Records Policy (*Attachment 4F*)*
 - i. The FOIA Open Records Policy is amended to align with federal code ensures Freire Wilmington uses federal grants correctly. The redlining is based around Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - g. Annual Charter School Report (*Attachment 4G*)*
 - i. The Delaware Office of Education (DOE) releases an annual report on Freire Wilmington and focuses on 3 sections: Academics, Operations and Finances. The report initially allows the school to give feedback on the ratings received.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - h. Amended and Restated Bylaws (*Attachment 4H*)*
 - i. The amended bylaws have been adjusted in accordance with Article IX, Section 1 of the Bylaws which ensures the board shall make provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation.
 - ii. Nathan Will makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - i. Health and Safety Plan (*Attachment 4I*)*
 - i. Leigh shares the board is required to approve the Health and Safety Plan annually as a requirement for receiving ESSR Federal Grant funding.
 - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
 - iii. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - j. Proposal to Change Mission Statement (*Attachment 4J*)*
 - i. Kelly Davenport shares that Freire Schools is finalizing the application for Freire Newark, a new charter school in Newark, DE that would be a replication of Freire Wilmington.
 - ii. Throughout this process, Freire Schools realized that words within the mission statement seem out-

of-date and some elements of our true mission are not reflected in the current mission statement.

- iii. The proposed change would update the mission statement to the following: *Freire Charter School Wilmington (pronounced "free-AIR-ee") provides a college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of love, community, equity, and commitment to peace.*
- iv. The board discusses the proposed changes, with a consensus that the word 'love' should be further defined and the word 'teamwork' should stay within the mission statement.

VI. Governance

- a. Resignation of Robert Blanchard (*Attachment 5*)
 - i. Clint Walker and the board acknowledge that Robert Blanchard has resigned from the Freire Wilmington Board.
- b. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members
 - i. Freire Charter School Newark Update
 - Olivia Burgess reviews the clearances and trainings needed for each board member for the new school application process and current Freire Wilmington files.

VII. Executive Session*

- a. David Singleton makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 9:00 AM to discuss potential Freire Newark School Campus location. Tara Terry seconds.
- b. David Singleton makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:11 AM. Sheela Dattani seconds.
- c. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

VIII. Freire Charter School Newark Application (*Attachment 6*)*

- a. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Sheela Dattani seconds.
- b. Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, John Kane, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Tara Terry, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IX. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. The board inquires to find a replacement for the Midtown Brandywine Committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:16am