



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 20, 2022 @ 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 832 2766 2051 | PASSWORD: 914906

LOCATION: FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL WILMINGTON | 201 W. 14TH ST., WILMINGTON DE 19801

Board Members Present: Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Robert Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Nathan Will

Others Present: Kristen Altman, Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, William Penn (12th Grade Student), Melanie Reiser, Shinelle Superville, Tanza Pugliese, Maddie Weckel

Meeting start, 8:00 AM

I. Public Comment

A. There is no public comment.

II. Governance

A. New Board Member, Lissa Brutus (*Att. 2A*)*

1. The board reviews the resume of Lissa Brutus.
2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Keisha Cohen seconds.
3. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Robert Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

B. New Board Member, David Tuminaro (*Att. 2B*)*

1. The board reviews the resume of David Tuminaro.
2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Keisha Cohen seconds.
3. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Robert Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

C. Clearances & Trainings for Board Members

1. Olivia Burgess welcomes the two new board members.
2. Olivia reminds the board that all clearances and trainings are to be completed by June 30, 2023.

D. Education Committee

1. Clint Walker extends an invitation to the board for volunteers to sit on the education committee.
2. Board member Jilian Mackenzie is Chair of the committee and will be collaborating with Danielle Hardy (Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Freire Wilmington Staff) to check on the progress of students.

III. Review & Approval of Minutes, September 22, 2022 (*Att. 3*)*

- A. The board reviews the minutes from September 22, 2022 board meeting.
- B. David Singleton made a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
- C. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Robert Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. School Report

A. Staff & Student Update

1. Maddie Weckel introduces Willam Penn (12th Grader). William shares his recent experience with preparing for college and staying on top of his academics. William shares the college application process has been smooth since the deadlines were earlier in the year.
 2. Swarthmore College is his number one choice along with Drexel University.
 3. Nathan Moser asks about the transition from hybrid to in-person learning. William shares it was challenging due to having classes early in the morning and having a job.
 4. Nathan Moser notes the end of the first marking period is coming and the staff are looking forward to seeing student performance over the quarter.
 5. Maddie Weckel notes that state lead testing showed that a sink in the kitchen was below the EPA limit, however, it reached a threshold that calls for active monitoring. This sink was not a drinking source and was not used for cooking, however, out of an abundance of caution, the school has stopped using it altogether until further testing is done.
 6. Leigh Botwinik shares that the school brought in an independent vendor last week to test all water sources in the building. A preliminary response from the company shows that all water sources tested under the lead limit, and the results will be shared with families and the board, in addition to the full report being posted to the school's website.
- B. Heads Report
1. Admissions Update
 - Maddie Weckel shares the official head count is 450 students for the year and, although lower than anticipated, the Admissions team will continue to work hard on recruiting new students.
 2. October Data Packet (*Att. 4A*)
 - Maddie shares that attendance is currently a challenge. The attendance team has been executing a plan to increase notifications to families about attendance.
 - Quarter 1 benchmark testing just passed and quarter 2 testing will take place in December. Once data is received, the numbers will be compared to Q1 and presented to the board.
 - Joy & Growth are the two themes the school is focused on this year. Last week, the staff dressed in their college gear to get the students pumped for college week. Next week is spirit week and the school is decorating the building for each themed day.
 - The culture of the school has changed in regard to behavioral problems in comparison to three years ago. This is due to the students getting readjusted to in-person learning.
- C. School Building Purchase Update
1. David Singleton updates the board on the recent purchase of the gym. The schematics are complete and the team is close to choosing a general contractor for the project. Currently, Freire Schools is supporting Freire Wilmington in raising money to fund the construction work necessary to complete the gym facility.
 2. David thanks Melaine & Kristen for working hard on fundraising along with the Sonecha family for donating to the project.
 3. Freire Wilmington leadership continues to meet with the neighbors in Midtown Brandywine to ensure suggestions are heard and considered.
 4. Construction is scheduled to begin by Quarter 1 of next year and should be finished by December 2023.
- D. Slate of Staff (*Att. 4B*)*
1. The board reviews the Slate of Staff.
 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 3. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Robert Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

V. Financials

- A. August 2022 Financial Report (*Att. 5A*)*
 - 1. Shinelle Superville shares the August 2022 Financial Report with the board.
 - 2. Freire Wilmington currently has \$4,500,000 of cash-on-hand. Freire Wilmington is projected to end the year with \$436,000 of cash on hand.
 - 3. The 80% state funding is based on the 450 students currently enrolled. All revenues are based on the final September headcount which brings it to 35.42%.
 - 4. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Sheela Dattani seconds.
 - 5. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Robert Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- B. CBOC Update
 - 1. Kelly Davenport shares that the CBOC is looking for a parent representative.
 - 2. Olivia Burgess prompts the board to send suggestions.
- C. FY 2022 Final Audit Report (*Att. 5B*)*
 - 1. Kelly Davenport shares that John Kane reported at the last board meeting that the audit had been finalized and, since then, no findings or issues have been found. The auditors determined Freire Wilmington is a low-risk auditee.
 - 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - 3. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Rober Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

VI. Advancement

- A. Advancement Report (*Att. 6*)
 - 1. Melanie Reiser shares that the Advancement team has raised a total of \$82,302 network-wide in unrestricted donations and pledges toward the \$400,000 goal.
 - 2. The Advancement team is planning to host a Coffee & Conversation event at Freire Wilmington on November 2, 2022 at 8AM. Melanie urges the board to spread the word about the event to ensure attendance in support of the fundraising goal of the gym expansion.
 - 3. Freire Wilmington recently received the competitive 21st Century Community Learning Center grant which totaled \$368,000 for up to five years.
 - 4. Clint Walker urges the board to give their FY2023 board pledge at their earliest convenience but before the December 31 deadline.

VII. Policies and Agreements

- A. Approve Freire Wilmington Employee Handbook (*Att. 7*)*
 - 1. Leigh Botwink shares the Freire Wilmington Employee Handbook with the board.
 - 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - 3. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen, Rober Mansell, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- A. Kate Bayard shares the committee is happy to continue building a relationship with the Freire Wilmington campus. Midtown Brandywine residents were pleased to see the turn out from the recent school-sponsored block party.

Meeting Adjourned, 8:56 AM