



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 15, 2022 @ 8 AM

ZOOM: MEETING ID: 864 1003 5321 | PASSWORD: 254663

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

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

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Zachery Cohen (Parent of Elon Cohen), Deepak Rana (12th Grade Student), Melanie Reiser, Maddie Weckel, Lilian Wehbe, Nathan Yufer

Meeting Start, 8:03 AM

- I. Public Comment
 - a. There is no public comment.
- II. Review & Approval of Minutes, October 20, 2022 (Att. 2)*
 - a. The board reviews the board minutes from October 20, 2022 board meeting.
 - b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - c. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, 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.
- III. Resolution
 - a. Approval for Construction to Commence & Approval of Loan (Att. 3)*
 - i. David Singleton notes that since Freire Wilmington assumed ownership of 205 W. 14th Street and are in the process of renovating the location for the Athletic Center, the board of directors must approve the commencement of construction.
 - ii. The Board of Directors specifically authorizes the school to commit to construction agreements for the project at such time as the board chair and board secretary certify that sufficient funds are available to fully cover the estimated cost of the project.
 - iii. The Board of Directors note that Freire Wilmington expects that the project will be financed by a combination of philanthropy and financing, but reserves its approval of the debt portion until specific terms have been negotiated.
 - iv. The Board of Directors also wishes to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the Longwood Foundation for receiving a grant of \$1,375,000, and to the Welfare Foundation for a grant of \$150,000 that will partially fund this project, and to the other donors who have made generous gifts to the project.
 - v. Approval of a Loan is not applicable due to specifications not being received from the bank.
 - vi. Nathan Moser makes a motion to approve. Lissa Brutus seconds.
 - vii. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, 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
- IV. Governance
 - a. Clearances & Trainings Update
 - i. Olivia Burgess informs the board about completing clearances and governance tasks.
- V. School Report
 - a. Staff Update
 - i. Nathan Moser shares the recent data from the recent parent teacher conferences Freire Wilmington held before the thanksgiving break and notes the attendance turn out was strong for both in person and online participants.

- ii. Nathan also shares since Freire Wilmington is in its second quarter, the recent focus has been securing field trips for the students. The staff are in the process of completing and finalizing the process.
 - iii. The 12th Grade class went to the Franklin Institute on December 13, 2022 and the 11th grade students are in the process of planning their Washington DC trip.
 - iv. Nathan emphasizes the staff and students are looking forward to the holiday break but are preparing for midterms when school reopens.
- b. Student Update
- i. Nathan Moser introduces Deepak Rena (12th grader) to the board. Deepak is a National Honor Society member and a youth philanthropy board member for the Delaware Community Foundation.
 - ii. Deepak attended Gauger-Cobbs Middle School for two years, then transferred to Freire for 8th grade after enjoying the open houses.
 - iii. Deepak originally had nine institutions as options for post secondary learning but condescended it down to the University of Delaware for two years then transfer to University of Pennsylvania in order to receive a degree in business and technology with a minor in finance.
 - iv. He shares his appreciation for the school being small and close, which feels like family. He appreciates the staff being involved in his academics and pushing him to be better.
 - v. Depack shares the technology at Freire Wilmington is helpful but could be upgraded, especially with things becoming more internet based.
- c. Heads Report
- i. Admissions Update
 - Currently Freire Wilmington is trending close to where they were last year for admissions. A new DE process has families first registering within the district they currently live in before enrolling in a choice option. The majority of families are already registered within their districts but for families new to the area or new to public schooling, there is a concern that it could slow down the enrollment process. We will keep a close eye during this transition period.
 - The Admissions team have been making moves recently towards securing more students for the Freire Wilmignton campus. In early December, an open house will commence along with one being scheduled for once the holiday break is over.
 - ii. Freire Network Dashboard (Att. 5)
 - Maddie Weckel shares Freire Wilmington is making significant progress toward attendance. Maddie praises Katie Pollard and Kevin Lair for all the hard work they are continuing to do. Currently the attendance team are working closely with the academic advisors to ensure the communication transfer to families are smooth and concise which in turn has led to an increase in understanding the importance of showing up for school.
 - Round two of Star Benchmark testing in math and reading will commence next week before the holiday break. Maddie shares when the board meets again in February to have growth data to share.
 - 55% of seniors at Freire Wilmington have applied to a college or university of their choice and 25% students have already received acceptance letters from the colleges and universities.
 - Freire Wilmington recently solidified a partnership with Delaware State University for students to take dual enrollment courses next semester.
 - Maddie Weckel shares board member Sheela Dattani helped Freire Wilmington secure the opportunity to receive health clinic services for both staff, students and their families.

VI. Financials

- a. October 2022 Financial Report (Att. 6A)*
 - i. Nathan Yufer introduces himself to the board and shares the October 2022 Financial Report.

- ii. Nathan shares Freire Wilmington currently has \$5,100,000 of cash on hand. Freire Wilmington is projected to end the year with \$1,600,000 of cash on hand which does not represent an increase from June 30, 2022.
 - iii. As of October 31, 2022, Freire Wilmington has received 80% of the budgeted state funding, which is based on the current enrollment of 450 students and not 500. The school also received both local funding totaling at 30% and the additional \$30,000 in revenue for school safety and security was gifted by the Child Safety Awareness Grant.
 - iv. ESSER funding distribution will be discussed for the next 60 days, to plan how to cover certain payments once the funding is gone in 2025.
 - v. Expenses for Freire Wilmington are trending over budget which is due to the gymnasium project, legal fees, facility maintenance, instructional technology and software, professional fees, rent on the current building location and the installation of the new HVAC system.
 - vi. Freire Wilmington is projected to meet all of the financial performance ratios as of October 31, 2022.
 - vii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - viii. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, 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
- b. Revised FY 2023 Budget (Att. 6B)*
- i. Nathan Yufer reviews the Revised FY 2023 Budget with the board.
 - ii. Nathan notes Shinelle Superville (Accounting Supervisor, Freire School Network) met with Maddie Weckel to go over the budget back in November. The revised budget accounts for low enrollment numbers and shows what expenses can be reduced.
 - iii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - iv. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, 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
- c. CBOC Update
- i. Nathan Yufer shares that the CBOC board meetings are providing substantial information.
- d. Update on Building Purchase/Athletic Center (Att. 6C)
- i. David Singleton shares the update on the current gym project for Freire Wilmington with the board.
 - ii. The architectural design is almost complete and all schematics are finalized. GGA Construction will be partnering with Freire Wilmington to complete the project.
 - iii. The cost for the project, originally ranged from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 and is now projected to be closer to \$5,000,000.
 - iv. Next week a detailed schedule will be created for the upcoming basketball game dates to share with staff and families.
 - v. Melanie Reiser, shares that \$1,700,000 has been raised toward this project and leaves \$700,000 to raised in order to reach our goal amount.
 - vi. Midtown Brandywine and Freire Wilmington have met two times to discuss concerns about the project. One concern brought up by the Midtown Brandywine Committee is the possible shortage for parking and traffic.

VII. Advancement

- a. Advancement Report (Att. 7A)
 - i. Melanie Reiser shares that the Advancement Team has raised a total of \$125,934 in network wide donations for both unrestricted donations and pledges, which approximately leaves \$274,000 toward the goal.
 - ii. Freire Wilmington has received \$1,750,000 in donations and pledges along with a \$1,375,000 grant from the Longwood Foundation towards the Freire Wilmington Capital Campaign. Along with two gifted grants from the Welfare Foundation for \$150,000 and \$35,000 from the Laffey-McHugh Foundation.

- iii. Freire Schools “Deck the Halls” end of year appeal began hitting mailboxes this week and will follow up with a digital version before winter break. The Advancement Committee will convene in January 2023 to begin planning the spring fundraising push.
 - iv. Two grants were submitted to Pennsylvania’s Commission on Crime and Delinquency for their School Mental Health and Safety and Security which both TECH Freire and Freire Charter School received \$140,000 each.
 - v. Over the summer Freire Schools collaborated with World Cafe Live, who submitted a grant request to the William Penn Foundation to run music programs in our three Philadelphia campuses. World Cafe Live was awarded a \$105,000 grant, and programming will begin in our schools in January.
 - vi. Board giving is currently at 39% network-wide and the goal is to always to reach 100%. Melanie urges those to give before the close of the 2023 fiscal year.
- b. Annual Appeal (Att. 7B)
 - i. Melanie reviews the Annual Appeal with the board.

VIII. Policies and Agreements

- a. Teacher Equity Plan (Att. 8)*
 - i. Leigh Botwinik shares the Teacher Equity Plan with the board.
 - ii. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the 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. 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 instruction for all students.
 - iii. Clint Walker notes the higher rate of low income students this year.
 - iv. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - v. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, 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

IX. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- a. There is no update at this time

Meeting Adjourned, 9:02 AM