



# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JUNE 28, 2023 | 8 AM**

**MEETING ID: 862 5360 5872 | PASSWORD: Dragons23**

**LOCATION: ZOOM**

**Board Members Present:** Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, Jillian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Turminaro, Clint Walker, Nathan Will

**Others Present:** Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Malcolm Eldby, Ruble Harris, Ben Moore, Christopher Moore, Khyle Nelson, Shakeeta Parker, Melanie Reiser, Maddie Weckel, Tyrone Williams

**Meeting Start: 8:07 AM**

## I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

## II. Amending Code of Conduct

- a. Kelly Davenport shared amended code of conduct with the board (*Attachment 1*)
- b. Joann Wszolek recommended changing the language of "We are a 100% safe nonviolent school" to language that focuses more generally on our commitment to nonviolence.
  - i. Bruce Lesser and David Bryant suggest removing the "100%" and replacing it with strive or committed to.
- c. Joann Wszolek recommended changes to point 5 that outlines Freire's purpose as a college preparatory school. Wszolek recommended changing the language to be more inclusive of students for whom college may not end up being the right choice.
  - i. Consensus was to amend slightly to stress Freire's focus on providing a college prep, rigorous academic experience
- d. Kelly Davenport shared proposed new language to the parent and students rights portion of the handbook in regards to students' right to call witnesses. The added portion states it is the responsibility of the student to make sure their witnesses attend.
  - i. Kiara Allison commented on ensuring that the fact finder in hearing procedures has the discretion to postpone hearings if material witnesses are unavailable. Making sure Freire recognizes the power differential between a school entity and individual students.
  - ii. The consensus was to change the language and also make sure that our procedures and practices align with ensuring fair practices for students.
- e. Sheela Dattani shared concerns that the sentence outlining physical violence does not require an action that makes it physical violence.
  - i. Board members and school administration engage in discussion as to the classification of physical violence and where intent to cause physical violence and threats fall categorically.
  - ii. Kathleen Visco also wanted to ensure a safe reporting system where students or families can report safety issues or bullying is communicated to parents.
  - iii. Consensus is to take in consideration all feedback and revise language.
- f. Kelly Davenport discusses the addition of a consequences chart related to violations of the nonviolence policy.
  - i. General board feedback to ensure that parents and students are fully aware of the chart and possible consequences.
  - ii. Malcolm Eldby, head of culture at TECH Freire, shared that one-on-one meetings are done with new students and families detailing the code of conduct and expectations.

## III. Resolutions

- a. Approve Amended Code of Conduct/Handbook
  - i. The board does a final review of the amendments to the policies within the Freire Handbook and Code of Conduct.
  - ii. Clint Walker makes a motion to approve subject to modifications that are consistent with discussion at this board meeting and which are approved by the chairman of the board of Freire Wilmington. Sheela Dattani seconds.

- iii. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Evelyn Davies, Jillian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Turminaro, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:15 AM