



# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FEBRUARY 15, 2024 @ 8 AM**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 847 7766 9393**

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

**Board Members Present: Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker Nathan Will**

**Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Nina (9th grade), Walter (9th grade), Kelly Davenport, Paul Rameriz, Melanie Reiser, Shinelle Superville, Ashley & Tracy Vanderslice (Gift from Tomorrow's Leaders of DE),Maddie Weckel, Nathan Yufer,**

**Meeting Start, 8 AM**

**I. Public Comment**

- A. There is no public comment.

**II. Executive Session**

**A. Personnel Issue**

- a. Nathan Will makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:52 AM to discuss a personnel matter in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed, unless the employee or student requests that such a meeting be open. David Singleton second.
- b. Nathan Will makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9 AM. John Kane seconds.
- c. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

**III. Donation Check Presentation -- Gift from Tomorrow's Leaders of Delaware, Ashely Vanderslice**

- a. Clint Walker introduces Ashley and Tracy Vanderslice to the board.
- b. Ashley Vanderslice and Tracy Vanderslice share their thanks to the board for speaking today.
- c. Ashley presents a donation check to the board and shares that she owns a non profit organization that helps enrich student education for those who don't have the finances to do so.
- d. Ashley states she recently organized a 5k run that helped bring the community together and raise money for her cause.

**IV. Review & Approval of Minutes, December 14, 2023 (Att. 4)\***

- A. The board reviews the minutes from December 14, 2023 board meeting.
- B. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Lissa Brutus seconds.
- C. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

**V. School Report**

**A. Staff & Student Update**

- 1. Nina Bailey (9th grade) was a part of the Corrective Math class this year and has been moved out and placed in Ms. Deena's class which focuses on Social Change.
- 2. Nina shares the project her class recently completed was about white privilege and racism and shared her poem to the board.
- 3. Walter Dickens (10th grade) shares his appreciation for the gym and thanks the board for the hard work and donation work they executed.
- 4. He shares the basketball games have given him and his teammates opportunities to learn from their mistakes and grow deeper as a team. Walter looks forward to tonight's game and

hopes to win the trophy.

## B. Heads Report

### 1. Admissions Update

- a. Maddie Weckel shares enrollment has been progressing.
- b. Open houses have been helping with retention for incoming families for the next academic year.
- c. Maddie praises both Paul Ramirez and Melanie Reiser and notes both have been a huge help with communication efforts for Freire Wilmington.

### 2. Freire Network Dashboard *(Att. 5)*

- a. Maddie shares the joy happening at the campus with the board.
- b. Dragon Day commenced last week and throughout the day each grade competed against one another in different games. The finale was held in the new gym and it was a huge hit for everyone.
- c. The gym has been a highlight for everyone at the campus, especially for the dance and sports teams.
- d. Maddie notes the campus has not finished with STAR Benchmark testing yet but her team is very eager to see the data displayed to reconfigure trends in comparison to the data last year.
- e. Intensive reading classes have commenced and Sean Hamilton has been helping with classes and teachers to ensure they have what they need.
- f. Attendance numbers are ahead of where they were last year but the overall expected growth hasn't been met yet. Frequent communication efforts have been put in place to ensure attendance data is steady.
- g. In regard to peace, suspension numbers have dropped and due to the implementation of yonder it has helped students with participation and non-breaking of the code of conduct.

## VI. Financials

### A. December 2023 Financial Report *(Att. 6A)\**

1. Nathan Yufer shares the December financial report. The original budget that was approved back in June 2023 assumed enrollment of 475 students. Our official enrollment which is determined by the September 30th unit count is 411 students currently; with this number it will place a negative impact on Freire Wilmington's revenue and the school will have to make cost reductions to offset the reduction in enrollment.
2. Expenses surrounding the building maintenance continues to be a concern since Freire Wilmington budget for FY254 was set at \$168,000 and the school has spent \$145,000 already.
3. The yearly forecast was updated to \$200,000, however if the spending rate continues we may go over the set cap amount.
4. Also, dual enrollment/scholarships, hiring a new ESL teacher, various advertisement projects and the gym construction are some concerns in regard to the expenses for the school.
5. If spending stays limited, Freire Wilmington should end the year with a small surplus.
6. Clint Walker thanks the Sonecha Family for their help and love toward not only the board but to the Freire Wilmington Campus.
7. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
8. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

### B. Review & Approve DRAFT Form 990 *(Att.6B)\**

1. Nathan Yufer shares the Draft Form 990 with the board.
2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. John Kane seconds.
3. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, 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

1. There is no update.

### D. Donation Approval - FCSW\*

1. Nathan Yufer shares the Freire Foundation board is presenting an unrestricted amount of \$200,000 from the Sonecha Foundation. The Sonecha Foundation pledged \$1,000,000 over the next 5 years.
2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
3. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

## VII. Advancement

- A. Advancement Report ([Att. 7](#))
  - a. Melanie Reiser shares the network-wide unrestricted funds target for FY24 is \$650,000. To date, the Advancement team has raised \$451,000 in donations and pledges toward the goal, which leaves \$198,000 left by June 30, 2024.
  - b. Melanie notes with the gym being finished the Freire Wilmington Athletic Center will hold its official ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 5:30 PM. This part of a capstone project and a capital campaign that raised nearly \$2,000,000 for the gym.
  - c. All Freire Board members across the network are encouraged to attend.
  - d. A few updates include:
    - i. Valentines Day cards and notes of appreciation will be sent out to all FY23 & FY24 donors.
    - ii. World Live Cafe collaboration will start back up this semester, with music programming at all three Philly Freire campuses.
    - iii. A choir director has been acquired and is set to launch at Freire Charter High School in memory of Gerald Escovitz and the funds raised from his memorial fund.
    - iv. Spring Fundraising prep will commence soon and will be accompanied by a copy of the donor appeal in April.

## VIII. Policies and Agreements

- A. Review & Approve Health and Safety Plan ([Att. 8](#))\*
  - a. Leigh shares the policy is required due to ESSER funds and every six months we are required to re-adjust the plan to ensure we are in compliance with guidelines. There are no changes to the plan since the last time it was approved and continues to stay aligned to the CDC recommendations.
  - b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
  - c. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, 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. No update at this time

## X. Progress report on the gym project - DS

- A. David Singleton shares that the gym is officially complete.
- B. David notes the board authorized this project in December 2022 to be budgeted at \$5,500,000 and when the project finalized, it was a few dollars under the budget.
- C. David states there were no big concerns from the Midtown Brandywine committee, outside of parking concerns.
- D. Kelly Davenport praises David for all his hard work and thanks him for all the joy he continues to bring the staff and students.

## XI. Governance

- A. Resignation of Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen ([Att. 11A](#))
  - a. Olivia Burgess reviews the resignation of Keisha Nesbitt-Cohen with the board.
- B. Resignation of Evelyn Davies ([Att. 11B](#))
  - a. Olivia Burgess reviews the resignation of Evelyn Davies with the board.
- C. Feedback on Potential Board Event
  - a. Lissa Brutus shares a possible collaboration idea with the board.
  - b. Lissa is hoping to bring all Freire Network boards together and see what everyone is doing at each campus, network together and compliance training.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:05 AM