



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 16, 2026 | 8 AM

ZOOM: MEETING ID: 895 4295 3642

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Leigh Botwinik, Katie Pollard, Tanza Pugliese, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Crystal Tuminaro, Madeline Weckel, Nathan Yufer

Meeting Start, 8:02 AM

I. Public Comment

A. No public comment.

II. Executive Session^T

A. David Singleton makes a motion to enter executive session at 8:02 AM to discuss 29 Del Code § 10004(b)(9) "Personnel matters 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." Rob Healy seconds.

B. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

C. David Singleton makes a motion to exit the Executive Session at 8:11 AM. Rob Healy seconds.

D. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

III. Review & Approval of Minutes

A. FCSW Board Minutes from February 12, 2026

1. The board reviews the minutes from February 12, 2026.

2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.

3. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

B. FCSW Executive Committee Minutes from March 19, 2026

1. The board reviews the minutes from March 19, 2026.

2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.

3. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

IV. Network Report

A. Academic Planning

1. Paul Ramirez provides an update on academic planning to address proficiency in math and reading. He shares that two focal points of this work involve revamping the math curriculum across campuses and codifying the core instructional strategies that will drive student outcomes.

V. School Report

A. Staff & Student Update

1. Rob Healy reports that students and staff returned from spring break this past Monday and that school culture has been excellent. The hallways are quiet and students are learning. He shares that leading up to spring break, the school held its annual Dragon Day and that several students and teachers traveled to the Galapagos for a special spring break trip. Further, Spring track is up and running and the team has a meet this week.

B. Heads Report

1. Crystal Tuminaro shares updates on school culture, academics, and attendance. She highlights that all teachers are wrapping up the final round of Deeper Learning Rubric evaluations, and all new teachers have completed their new teacher teacher induction programming through the state. She also highlights that senior Hasan Ervin was recognized at the Secretary of Education's



Scholar Award Dinner last week and that select juniors and seniors recently participated in training for a newly created leadership development program. These students have already applied their new leadership skills to facilitating discussions with underclassmen about what it means to be a Freire Dragon.

- C. Freire Network Dashboard
 - 1. Crystal Tuminaro presents the Dashboard and highlights decreases in withdrawals during the school year, and a 10% increase of students with on-track attendance compared to this time last year. She notes that daily attendance since March has been extremely strong. Additionally, students are preparing for state assessments which begin next week.
- D. Admissions Update
 - 1. Leigh Botwinik reports that while applications are down from last year, the rate of enrollment among applicants is stronger than in previous years.
- E. College Report
 - 1. Brandi Savage reports that 94% of seniors have applied to and been accepted to at least one two or four year college. To date, the class of 2026 has been awarded a total of \$6,616,918 in scholarships and grants.
- F. Graduation Update
 - 1. Graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00p at Frawley Stadium (801 Shipyard Dr, Wilmington, DE 19801).
 - 2. David Singleton requests that the school consider an indoor venue for future graduation ceremonies.

VI. Financials

- A. February 2026 Financial Report*
 - 1. Nathan Yufer presents the February Financial Report highlighting that as of February 28, 2026, Freire Wilmington received all of their expected state funding and local funding, We received 46% of our federal funding. Freire Wilmington is expected to earn \$10M in total revenue in FY26. We are currently projecting a year end surplus of \$19K.
 - 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.
 - 3. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- B. Presentation of Draft Budget for FY 2027
 - 1. Nathan Yufer presents a draft budget for the upcoming school year, based on an estimated enrollment of 340 students. He explains that over the next two months he will work with school, network, and board leadership to continue revising the budget before bringing it to the board for final approval at the June board meeting.
- C. CBOC Report
 - 1. Nathan Yufer reports that the CBOC is seeking an additional member for the board.

VII. Advancement

- A. Advancement Report
 - 1. Melanie Reiser reports that we have launched our spring fundraising push this month with a print appeal tied to the new Freire Schools vision. A digital appeal and active personal solicitation will follow. We will also be holding a couple small board-led friendraiser/fundraisers including one at Sheela Dattani's house on April 23. There are currently 50 guests planning to attend.
 - 2. Melanie shares that across the network board giving is currently at 73% and emphasizes the importance of reaching 100%, as we look to make grant requests in the upcoming year.

VIII. Policies & Agreements

- A. Review & Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar*
 - 1. The board reviews the 2026-2027 School Calendar.
 - 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.
 - 3. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
- B. Review & Approve Teacher Equity Plan*
 - 1. Katie Pollard presents the Teacher Equity Plan.
 - 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.
 - 3. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.



- C. Approve Slate of Staff*
 - 1. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.
 - 2. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

IX. Governance

- A. Review & Approve 2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule*
 - 1. The board reviews the 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule.
 - 2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Rob Healy seconds.
 - 3. Brad Crouch, Rob Healy, Jilian Mackenzie, David Singleton, Clint Walker, and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

- B. Lissa Brutus Resignation

- 1. The board acknowledges the resignation of Lissa Brutus from the Board of Directors.

- C. Annual evaluation of Freire Schools Collaborative and Board self evaluation

- 1. Leigh Botwinik explains the annual evaluation process.

X. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- A. Brad Crouch shares that there are no updates from the Midtown Brandywine Committee at this time.

Meeting adjourned, 8:52 AM

*Requires Vote

[†]Citation on reason for executive session: 29 Del Code § 10004(b)(9) "Personnel matters 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."