



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**June 16, 2016 – 201 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801**

#### Minutes

*Directors Present: John Pierson, Clint Walker, Hal Real, Julia Li, Bob Goff, Christian Willauer, Penny Marshall, Mia Davenport-Chaney, John Kane, Henry Smith*

*Directors Absent: None*

*Others Present: Felicia Wenell, Paul Ramirez, Kelly Davenport, Bill Ray, Melanie Reiser, Matt Kong, Leigh Botwinik*

- I. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – The Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. The President noted that the Board had a quorum, and the meeting commenced. John Pierson noted the resignation of Mike Cattermole as a Board member.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Clint Walker moved that the minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting be approved as read, and Bob Goff seconded this motion. The Board was polled, and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **School Report** – Paul Ramirez and Felicia Wenell presented the school report. Yesterday was the last day of school of our first year of operation. Paul Ramirez presented the school's Smarter Balanced preliminary results. Based on these preliminary results, students are showing growth. Kelly Davenport indicated that our students' entry scores in 2014-15 are evidence that we are committed to working with a diverse group of Wilmington students seeking improvement from where they begin at the school. Paul Ramirez indicated that when the scores come out, we will compare ourselves with our local school districts from which we draw students and at charter schools across the state that serve 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Felicia Wenell noted that construction has begun on Phase II. Our end of year field trips gave our students some positive shared community experiences. With finals this week, our students expressed that they are proud of how far they have come. Students are growing and learning.

- IV. **Enrollment/Recruitment 2016-17** – We have 144 students newly enrolled. Our aim is to be 105% enrolled for 2016-17 with a waiting list in each grade. We are still working to fill out the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade entirely, and we have a wait list for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Approximately 70% of our students from 2015-16 are returning in 2016-17, with the bulk being from our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are choosing into other schools for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Felicia Wenell reported that other schools lose between 25-30% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders because of choice. Our demographics are staying similar to 2015-16.

- V. **Phase 2 Construction Update** – Kelly Davenport presented the Phase 2 Construction Update. It is a ten-week project estimated to be completed on August 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. The abatement work is complete and the fireproofing is currently going on. Kelly Davenport presented the Phase II construction contract with Skanska, which does not have liquidated damages clause similar to our Phase I contract and uses the same level of fixtures and finishings as Phase I.
- VI. **Finance Report** –
- For the second month in a row, the CBOC did not have quorum. We need to have five members so recruitment has to happen over the summer. Jodi O’Ferrall wants to attend an upcoming Board meeting and address the Board.
  - Bill Ray presented the financials for the month ending May 31, 2016.
  - Bill Ray presented a proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-17 and led a discussion with Melanie Reiser on the lunch program options going forward. Specifically we discussed whether to continue as a pay as you go lunch program or a Community Eligible Provision (CEP) school where 100% of our students would eat free. The budget was built including the loss of CEP. Based on the projected benefits of CEP, there was Board consensus to use the CEP route next year.
  - Bill Ray presented a memo to the Board on Year-End Transfer of Funds from the Freire Foundation. To meet the State of Delaware Financial Performance Framework and prevent the possibility of undergoing formal review with the State, Build the Future is recommending that the Freire Charter School Board of Directors vote to accept up to \$200,000 in funding from the Freire Foundation. It is important to note that the request for unrestricted funds is not to plug an operating deficit, but to demonstrate the reserves required in the Financial Performance Framework. Hal Real made a motion to accept a transfer of up to \$200,000 from the Freire Foundation, and Penny Marshall seconded the motion. The Board was polled, and the motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Fundraising Update** – Leigh Botwink presented the May Development Report. We have raised \$145,550 of our \$300,000 fundraising goal for 2015-16. Kelly Davenport noted the success of raising half of what was a stretch goal for a first year of operation. We now need to decide what type of fundraising Freire Charter School Wilmington wants to do going forward, such as having an event like Bridge to Wisdom. Over the summer the Development Committee will meet with Leigh Botwinik and Build the Future’s new development consultant to develop a fundraising strategy for 2016-17.
- VIII. **Midtown Brandywine Committee Update** – There was nothing to report.
- IX. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

*The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at 201 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE.*