



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 18, 2017

201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Minutes

Directors Present: Clint Walker, Trish Blessing, Julia Li

Directors Absent: Hal Real, Henry Smith, Bob Goff, John Kane, Christian Willauer, Mia Davenport

Others Present: Paul Ramirez, Felicia Wenell, Kelly Davenport, Bill Ray, Leigh Botwinik, Max Matthews, Lilian Wehbe, Julia Regan Fanelli, Stan Harmon

- I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum** – The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM without a quorum.
- II. Evaluation of Co-Heads of School** – Paul Ramirez and Felicia Wenell requested that their evaluation be conducted in an open session. Kelly Davenport discussed the results of their evaluation process, which showed that both are strong leaders who are committed to self-improvement and that the community feels supported by them. Clint Walker acknowledged the importance of Paul and Felicia's leadership to the school.
- III. Review of Minutes** – The members present reviewed the minutes and found them accurate.
- IV. School Updates**
 - a. **School Report** – Paul reported that he and Felicia are evaluating the school holistically, including leaders, the board, parents, teachers, and students, and that the staff recently held an entire professional development day devoted to this topic. They are reviewing progress and setting priorities for next year, with priorities being to: 1) provide new opportunities to students, 2) help low-performing students, and 3) help teachers grow continuously. Felicia reported that Freire Wilmington was recently awarded a substantial multi-year grant for extracurricular activities through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Paul noted that Smarter Balanced testing had concluded and that he would receive preliminary results in 3-4 weeks. Felicia noted that many students request to participate in events where they can speak on behalf of the school, such as this morning's cultivation breakfast. Trish Blessing asked about the school's marketing strategies for prospective students.
 - b. **Staff Member Update** – Julia Li reported on Teacher Appreciation Week, classroom projects, and the upcoming whole-school field trip to Hershey Park.
 - c. **Enrollment/Recruitment Update** – Felicia reported on recent recruitment efforts and goals for additional applicants
 - d. **School Performance Dashboard** – Leigh Botwinik reviewed attrition, attendance, and suspensions and noted that there are plans to add to the academic indicators on the dashboard next year. Paul will discuss academic measures with the Delaware Department of Education, and a Freire Philadelphia committee will also develop improvements.

V. Development – Lilian Wehbe reviewed progress toward the school’s fundraising goals as well as the status of grant requests.

VI. Financials – Bill Ray presented on the April Financial Package, noting that the school is in a similar position to the prior month. He noted that if all donation pledges are received by the end of the fiscal year, the school will meet all financial performance ratios and be able to repay \$50,000 in debt.

VII. Governance

- a. Build the Future Evaluation – Clint Walker discussed the school’s evaluation of Build the Future as Freire’s charter support organization. He noted that the school ranked Build the Future highly but hoped that participation in the evaluation process would increase in the future. He noted that the school expressed appreciation to Build the Future for opening the school, legal assistance, and fundraising. Kelly Davenport noted that the evaluation process across the Freire network has product six central questions that Build the Future will be working to address.
- b. Department of Education Website Review – It was noted that there were no issues on the school’s most recent website monitoring report from the Department of Education.

VIII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update – Members discussed the matters that the Midtown Brandywine Committee had inquired about and agreed to respond to their concerns following the next board meeting, including details of parking plans related to school growth.

IX. Other Business – Bill Ray noted that Jodi O’Ferrall resigned from the school’s Citizens Budget Oversight Committee. While the group still meets the minimum number of members, the Board members present consented to seeking a new member of the CBOC, preferably a parent.

X. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM.