



### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 14, 2017

#### Minutes

*Directors Present: Clint Walker, Trish Blessing, Julia Li, John Kane, Christian Willauer, Mia Davenport, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser*

*Directors Absent: Robert Goff*

*Others Present: Siawaa Antwi (Student Representative), Kelly Davenport, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Paul Ramirez, Bill Ray, Hillary Sorin, Felicia Wenell*

*Location: 201 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801*

8:06 AM, meeting called to order.

#### **I. Review & Approval of Minutes**

- a. Christian Willauer moves to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 15, 2017. Julia Li seconds the motion. All in favor.

#### **II. Governance**

- a. Clint Walker introduces Marnie Kelly to the Board of Directors and asks for a motion to approve her election to Freire Wilmington's Board of Directors.
- b. John Kane makes a motion to elect Marnie Kelly to the Board. Christian Willauer seconds. All in favor.

#### **III. School Updates**

- a. Student Representative Update
  - i. Siawaa Antwi, a current student at Freire Wilmington, talks about the expanded after school program and new classes for the 2017-2018 school year. She mentions how excited she is about the new opportunities available to students because of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Freire was awarded over the summer. She notes that taking classes at Freire Wilmington does not "feel boring but rather fun and interactive."
- b. Staff Member Update
  - i. Julia Li updates the Board of Directors on her new role within the Freire community, Director of Academic Operations, and touches on the summer clinic and orientation for new students. She then introduces Nathan Moser, teacher of American History and Power and Money, who she recommends as the new teacher on the Freire Wilmington Board of Directors.
  - ii. Nathan shares that he was very impressed by the growth mindset component of orientation. He notes that he still hears students praise the culture of Freire Wilmington

which is rooted in what they learned in orientation. He mentions the school needs to work more diligently to publicize afterschool activities and create interest among students.

- iii. Julia Li formally resigns from the Board of Directors.
  - iv. John Kane makes a motion to elect Nathan Moser as the new teacher on the Board of Directors. Mia Davenport seconds. All in favor.
- c. FCSW September Data Packet
- i. Paul Ramirez reviews the proficiency scores and compares Freire Wilmington's scores to state averages. Although Freire's proficiency rates were lower in 2017 than in 2016, 8th graders came in at much lower proficiency levels at the start of last school year. However, growth increased over last year and was much higher than the state average. Freire had the highest level of growth of comparable area schools.
  - ii. Felicia Wenell notes the significant increase of average daily attendance throughout the school over the past year. She reviews the climate numbers from the previous school year and mentions how Freire Wilmington is working to be proactive and wise when issuing suspensions. Felicia hopes to reduce suspensions this school year.
  - iii. The Board reviews the attrition numbers and notes attrition is significantly lower than last year. The finalized attrition numbers will be available on September 30 for the Board of Directors to review at the October Board Meeting.
  - iv. Paul and Felicia note that all core program teachers from the prior school year stayed on staff and discuss the new teachers hired for this year.
- d. Vision and Priorities
- i. Paul Ramirez shares with the Board that the goal of Freire Wilmington is "Graduation x2" meaning the school wants their students to not only graduate from high school, but also college. He mentions that the school is looking into ways to further support both students who are excelling and those that are finding academic challenges at Freire.
  - ii. Felicia Wenell notes that, this year, one of the school's main goals will be to create a greater support system for students who are struggling academically and to increase the power of student voice.
- e. Slate of Staff
- i. Max Matthews reviews an up-to-date Slate of Staff for Freire Wilmington.
  - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve the Slate of Staff. Mia Davenport seconds. All in favor.
- f. 2017-2018 Student Handbook
- i. The Board reviews the updated student handbook which includes changes to the foster care and seclusion and restraint sections, and inclusion of the Teen Dating Violence policy previously approved by the Board.
  - ii. John Kane makes a motion to approve the updated student handbook. Trish Blessing seconds. All in favor.
- g. Enrollment
- i. Felicia notes current enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is around 92.5%. The goal for this year was to achieve an enrollment percentage of at least 93%. Felicia explains the difficulties the school has faced with recruiting new 8<sup>th</sup> grade students this year as compared to last school year.

#### **IV. Finances**

- a. June, July, and August Financial Statements

- i. Bill Ray reviews the finalized financial statements for the 2017 Fiscal Year. He notes that all receivables are in good standing and a preliminary draft of the school audit was passed to the Board Chair. Bill acknowledges that, at this time, there have been no audit findings. Freire Wilmington has met all the financial performance framework ratios for the second year in a row.
  - ii. Bill presents the Board of Directors with a preliminary budget that will be finalized at the October Board Meeting.
  - iii. John Kane makes a motion to approve the June, July, and August Financial Statements. Trish Blessing seconds. All in favor.
- b. Barclay's Loan Repayment Memo
  - i. Bill Ray discusses the idea of making a discretionary principal payment on the Barclay's loan to Freire Wilmington. The Board discusses the conditions of this loan and agrees it would be prudent to make a voluntary \$50,000 payment. Clint Walker recuses himself from conversation on this topic.
  - ii. John Kane moves to approve. Trish Blessing seconds. Clint Walker abstains. All others in favor.

## **V. Advancement**

- a. Hillary Sorin introduces herself as the new Director of Advancement at Build the Future. She notes her recent advancement efforts including conversations with the Longwood Foundation and individuals from WSFS. Hillary hopes to begin scheduling meetings for herself, Clint Walker, and each of the Board Members individually to overview the new advancement plan and goals for the year.
- b. There is brief mention of starting an Advancement Committee to support the advancement efforts of Freire Wilmington. More information will be shared at the October Board Meeting.

## **VI. Policy**

- a. CIPA Policy
  - i. Max Matthews explains the purpose of CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act).
  - ii. Christian Willauer makes a motion to approve. Trish Blessing seconds. All in favor.
- b. Unit Count Manual
  - i. Max Matthews explains the Unit Count Manual to the Board.
  - ii. John Kane makes a motion to approve. Trish Blessing seconds. All in favor.

## **VII. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update**

- a. Paul Ramirez notes the reinforcement efforts of the school in relation to student drop off and pickup procedures. All students are continuously reminded about these procedures and a new incentive program has been put in place to encourage its enforcement.

9:07 AM, meeting adjourned.