



# Freire

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## Charter Wilmington

### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, December 19, 2019 | 8:00 AM

#### Minutes

Board Members Present: Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, Nathan Will

Others Present: Olivia Burgess, Leigh Botwinik, Johnny Mills, Paul Ramirez, Bill Ray, Tara Terry

8:00 AM, Meeting start

#### I. Public Comment

- a. There is no public comment.

#### II. Executive Session

- a. Clint Walker entertains a motion for the Board of Directors to enter Executive Session to discuss the school's strategy surrounding potential litigation.
- b. Robert Blanchard makes a motion to approve. David Singleton seconds.
- c. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. The Board enters Executive Session at 8:02 AM.
- e. The Board exits Executive Session at 8:11 AM.

#### III. Minutes

- a. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on October 24, 2019. Robert Blanchard seconds.
- b. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

#### IV. School Reports

- a. Head Report
  - i. Wilmington Dashboard
    1. Paul Ramirez shares that the school has continued to use the STAR Benchmark to gauge student comprehension. The students have participated in 2 waves of benchmark testing. Students performed similarly on both sets of tests, which Paul attributes to the imposed time limit students had to answer each question during wave 2 of testing. There was no time limit during the first wave of testing.
    2. Paul notes that the failure rate for each class is hovering around 20% which is on track with previous school years during Quarter 1. Much of this can be attributed to the large number of students coming to Freire Wilmington well behind grade level.
    3. The Board discusses the effect failing a class and/or repeating a grade has on a student's ability to get into a college or university.
    4. Paul updates the Board on the new math coaching program and curriculum used throughout the school.
    5. Currently, all teaching positions are filled at Freire Wilmington and the school is looking to fill a new position, Math Specialist.

- ii. Admissions Update
  - 1. Johnny Mills shares that the total count of applications received so far this year is above compared to this time last year. Freire Wilmington has held four Open Houses since November with attendance anywhere between 10-12 students each.
  - 2. Freire Wilmington will begin enrolling students in January. This year, Freire Wilmington is taking a stronger approach to admissions through more consistent communication with prospective families through mailings and phone outreach.
  - 3. Paul Ramirez thanks Johnny for all his work related to Wilmington Admissions this year.
- iii. Staff Member Update
  - 1. Nathan Moser shares that there has been great improvements in the lunch program this school year.
  - 2. Nathan also shares that the number of students staying for afterschool programming has increased over last year. This year, roughly a fourth of all students attending Freire Wilmington regularly participate in weekly afterschool programming.
  - 3. Nathan explains that students can create any after school program they want as long as there is high student interest and a staff member willing to “sponsor” the program.
  - 4. Mia Davenport shares that the programs have been wonderful for her two children and are a great way for the upperclassmen to connect with the younger grades.
- iv. Clint Walker asks if students have begun to receive college admissions letters. Mia Davenport shares that her son has already received three college acceptance letters and her daughter has received one.
- v. A full report on college acceptance rates to date will be shared during the February Board Meeting.
- vi. Marnie Kelly asks if there are any clubs to support students with writing college admissions essays. Nathan Moser notes that Academic Centers are where students can receive one-on-one, content specific support and the Student Center is where students can use laptops afterschool to complete college essays or other assignments.
- b. 2018-19 DOE Annual Charter Report
  - i. Paul Ramirez reviews the annual report with the Board of Directors.
  - ii. Nathan Will makes a motion to approve the 2018-19 DOE Annual Charter Report. David Singleton seconds.
  - iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

## **V. Financials**

- a. November Financial Statement
  - i. Bill reviews the November financial statement with the Board. Currently, all funding has come in on schedule with Freire Wilmington receiving all local and state funding.
  - ii. The Board further reviews the November 2019 Financial Statement.
  - iii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve the November 2019 Financial Statement. David Singleton seconds.

- iv. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- b. FY 2019 Form 990
  - i. Bill Ray shares that the Form 990 submitted to the Board needs to be updated and will be reviewed during the February Board Meeting.
- c. Revised FY 2020 Budget
  - i. Bill Ray reviews the revised FY 2020 Budget for Freire Wilmington. The school has received substantial one-time funding from a number of grants. Paul acknowledges Madeline Weckel, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, for her diligent work in writing and preparing numerous grants this year.
  - ii. Freire Wilmington is currently operating with a higher enrollment count than originally budgeted. Bill reviews additional changes from the draft budget previously approved by the Board.
  - iii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve the Revised FY 2020 Budget. Nathan Moser seconds.
  - iv. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
- d. CBOC Update
  - i. There is no update at this time.

## **VI. Advancement**

- a. Advancement Update
  - i. Leigh Botwinik shares that every year Freire Schools tries to raise \$100,000 for each of the Freire campuses. As of December 19, 2019, Freire Wilmington has raised \$75,000 of their \$100,000 goal. Leigh notes that reaching 75% of a school's fundraising goal before winter break has never happened in Freire's history.
  - ii. Clint Walker notes that Sheela Dattani's family pledged \$50,000 of the \$100,000 received. Sheela recently toured Freire Wilmington and was very impressed with the school.
  - iii. Clint also reminds all Board Members to give their annual donation.
  - iv. Leigh shares that Freire Wilmington received a \$75,000 competitive state grant to support not-yet certified teacher residents through the Relay Teacher Certification program. These residents will support Freire in high need subject areas, such as math.
- b. Cultivation Event
  - i. Leigh shares that the recent cultivation event was a success. There were about 25 guests in attendance, two of whom have already become donors. Clint notes that numerous guests have offered to partner with Freire Wilmington to tutor and counsel current students.

## **VII. Policies and Agreements**

- a. 2019-20 Title I Schoolwide Plan
  - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the 2019-20 Title I Schoolwide Plan. Board approval and submission of the schoolwide plan is an annual requirement for all schools receiving federal Title I funds. Leigh notes that this plan is strongly based off the plan Paul presented during the September Board Meeting.
  - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to approve the 2019-20 Title I Schoolwide Plan. Robert Blanchard seconds.

- iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
  - b. 2019-20 Title I Teacher Equity Plan
    - i. Leigh Botwinik reviews the 2019-20 Title I Teacher Equity Plan. Board approval and submission of the Teacher Equity Plan is an annual requirement for all schools receiving federal Title I funds. The purpose of this plan is to confirm that a network of schools is equitably distributing experienced teachers across different campuses.
    - ii. The Board discusses the certification program in Delaware and the specifics of the Teacher Equity Plan.
    - iii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve the 2019-20 Title I Teacher Equity Plan. Nathan Moser seconds.
    - iv. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
  - c. 2019-20 Unit Count Manual
    - i. Paul Ramirez reviews the 2019-20 Unit Count Manual. The unit count process is how Freire Wilmington certifies the number of students enrolled at Freire Wilmington with the state.
    - ii. David Singleton makes a motion to approve the 2019-20 Unit Count Manual. Mark Stellini seconds.
    - iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.
  - d. RH Education Services Agreement
    - i. Clint Walker entertains a motion to approve the RH Education Services Agreement as discussed during Executive Session.
    - ii. Marnie Kelly makes a motion to approve the RH Education Services Agreement. Robert Blanchard seconds.
    - iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

## **VIII. Governance**

- a. Tara Terry Resume
  - i. Clint Walker acknowledges Tara Terry, a current Freire Wilmington parent who is being considered to join the Board of Directors. Clint Walker, Kelly Davenport, and Paul Ramirez will interview Ms. Terry in the new year and hold a vote on her appointment during the February Board Meeting.
- b. Tanisha Baker Resume
  - i. Clint Walker shares that Tanisha Baker is another Freire Wilmington parent up for consideration to join the Board of Directors.
- c. Sheela Dattani Resume
  - i. Clint Walker provides a brief background on Sheela Dattani to the Board of Directors, noting that Sheela Dattani's family recently pledged \$50,000 to support Freire Wilmington.
  - ii. Mark Stellini makes a motion to appoint Sheela Dattani to the Board of Directors. Robert Blanchard seconds.
  - iii. Robert Blanchard, Mia Davenport, John Kane, Marnie Kelly, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, Mark Stellini, Clint Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions. The motion passes.

**IX. Mid-town Brandywine Committee Report**

- a. Robert Blanchard shares that the Mid-town Brandywine Committee has recently raised issue with the current parent/student drop off at Freire Wilmington.
- b. Robert and Paul Ramirez will meet in the new year to discuss possible ways to address this issue.

9:00 AM, meeting adjourned.