



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 18, 2024 @ 8 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 847 7766 9393

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

Board Members Present: Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker Khaliah Walker

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Paul Rameriz, Melanie Reiser, Shinelle Superville, Maddie Weckel, Nathan Yufer

Meeting Start: 8:00am

I. Public Comment

- A. No public comment

II. Executive Session

- A. Review Slate of Staff (*Att.2*)
 - a. David Singleton makes a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:07 AM to discuss a personnel matter in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed.
 - b. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - c. David Singleton makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 8:21 AM. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - d. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

III. Review & Approval of Minutes, February 15, 2024 (*Att. 3*)*

- A. The board reviews the minutes from February 15, 2024 board meeting.
- B. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
- C. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IV. Policies & Agreements

- A. Review & Approve 2024-2025 School Calendar (*Att.4A*)*
 - a. Leigh Botwinik reviews the 2024-2025 School Calendar with the board.
 - b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - c. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- B. Review & Approve Teacher Equity Plan (*Att 4B*)*
 - a. The Teacher Equity Plan is required as part of receiving Title I/Federal educational funds. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the school districts are not disproportionately assigning teachers with less experience or credentials or assigning less effective teachers to schools that qualify for Title 1 funds or have significantly higher portions of low-income students.
 - b. The teacher equity plan outlines what Freire Schools is doing as a network to provide the highest level of instruction to all students.
 - c. Clint encourages the recruitment team to bring in more state certified teachers.

- d. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - e. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Approve Slate of Staff*
- a. The board reviews the Slate of Staff.
 - b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - c. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

V. School Report

A. Staff Update

- 1. Nathan Moser shares his thanks for being back in the building after being on paternity leave.
- 2. Nathan shares his excitement about being at the gym ribbon cutting ceremony last month and how much the students love the new gym.
- 3. Nathan shares that in March during his entrepreneur class some of his students entered a competition and won one of the 4 slots at University of Delaware.
- 4. Nathan also shares that he recently was nominated for State of Delaware's Distinguished Civics teacher of the year.

B. Heads Report

1. Admissions Update

- a. Maddie Weckel shares admissions are currently trending up in comparison to last year's data numbers.

2. Freire Network Dashboard ([Att. 5A](#))

- a. Maddie shares in regard to Joy, a few students from the 9th grade went to Philadelphia, PA to see Romeo & Juliet.
- b. Maddie also shares that a few students are participating in the Philadelphia Financial Scholars competition today.
- c. College & Career Week is coming upon April 29th to May 2nd.
- d. The school just received PSAT and SAT preliminary results yesterday. Currently Math proficiency in particular continues to be very low. The leadership will do a more thorough analysis. The staff are now preparing for Smarter balanced and DESSA tests.
- e. Other things the school is looking forward to is Staff Appreciation Week, which commences May 6th - May 10th.
- f. After improving last year, attendance numbers have stagnated. Maddie's Attendance team are diligently working to increase communication to families of chronically absent students.

3. Graduation Update**

- a. Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 5PM at Freire Wilmington Gymnasium (201 W.14th St., Wilmington DE)

4. College Report ([Att. 5B](#))

- a. Maddie and her staff are proud to share the preliminary postsecondary plans of the FCSW class of 2024 with the board.
- b. Due to issues with the rollout of the FAFSA form this year, grant aid and scholarship information is not final and student decisions on what college to attend may be delayed as a result. We will have more complete information in June.
- c. 91% (61) of seniors have applied to at least one 2-year or 4-year college.
- d. 91% (61) have received an acceptance letter from one or more of the 57 schools.

VI. Financials

A. February 2024 Financial Report ([Att. 6A](#))*

- 1. Shinelle Superville reviews the February 2024 Financial Report with the board.
- 2. The original budget that was approved back in June 2023 assumed enrollment of 475 students. Our official enrollment which is determined by the September 30th unit count is 411 students. In response the school made cost reductions to offset the reduction in revenue.
- 3. Expenses surrounding the building maintenance continues to be a concern since Freire Wilmington budget for FY254 was set at \$168,000 and the school has spent \$198,000 already.

The yearly forecast was updated to \$260,000, however if the spending irate continues we may go over the set cap amount.

4. Also, dual enrollment/scholarships, various advertising and the finalizing of the gym construction are some of the other concerns in regards to the expenses of the school.
 5. If spending stays limited, Freire Wilmington should end the year with a small surplus.
 6. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Moser seconds.
 7. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Presentation of Draft Budget for FY 2025 (*Att. 6B*)
1. Nathan Yufer reviews the draft budget with the board and invites any members to discuss the budget for next year.
- D. CBOC Update
1. No update

VII. Advancement

- A. Advancement Report (*Att. 7*)
- a. Melanie Reiser shares the network-wide unrestricted target for FY24 is \$650,000. To date, the Advancement team has raised \$501,541 in donations and pledges toward the goal, which leaves \$149,000 left by June 30, 2024.
 - b. Currently the Advancement team is preparing to print material for the spring fundraising push to ensure they meet the fundraising goal, and that appeal will be followed by personal solicitations from board members and network staff.
 - c. Melanie notes Freire Wilmington had a successful ribbon cutting event for the new David W. Singleton Athletic Center. The event was a great opportunity to thank the donors and the organizations that made the gym possible and show the community our Dragon Pride.

VIII. Governance

- A. Review Resume of K. Walker - Board Parent (*Att. 8A*)*
- a. The board reviews the resume of Khaliah Walker.
 - b. Khaliah shares her thanks and appreciation to the board for the opportunity to be a part of the board of directors.
 - c. David Singleton makes a motion nominating Khaliah Walker to serve on the Board. Nathan Moser seconds.
 - d. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- B. Review & Approve 2024-2025 Board Meeting Schedule (*Att. 8B*)*
- a. The board reviews the 2024-2025 Board Meeting Schedule.
 - b. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Kate Bayard seconds.
 - c. Kate Bayard, Lissa Brutus, Sheela Dattani, John Kane, Robert Mansell, Jilian Mackenzie, Nathan Moser, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker and Khaliah Walker vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- C. Annual Evaluation of Freire Network
- a. Leigh Botwinik asks the Board to complete the survey they will be receiving shortly evaluating the services that the Freire Schools Collaborative provides to the School. Results will be shared at the June Board meeting.

IX. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- A. There is no update at this time.

X. Final Report on the Gym - DS

- A. David Singleton shares that the gym is officially complete and gives his thanks to all who attended the gym ribbon cutting event along with those who helped bring this plan to life.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:15 AM