



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 17, 2024 | 8 AM

ZOOM: MEETING ID: 819 6413 1508

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

Board Members Present: Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, Nathan Will

Others Present: Leigh Botwinik, Olivia Burgess, Kelly Davenport, Nate Durant, Johnny Mills, Chris Moore, Paul

Rameriz, Melanie Reiser, Beth Yerga, Nathan Yufer

Meeting Start, 8:02 AM

- I. **Public Comment**
 - A. **No public comment.**
- II. **Executive Session**
 - A. **Slate of Staff**
 - 1. David Singleton makes a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:06 AM to discuss "Personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed, unless the employee or student requests that such a meeting be open." Sheela Dattani seconds.
 - 2. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
 - 3. David Singleton makes a motion to exit the Executive Session at 8:11 AM. Nathan Will seconds.
 - 4. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- III. **Governance**
 - A. **FCSW Board Visitation Day | October 17, 2024 at 9am**
 - 1. Nate Durant shares his excitement for having the board participate in today's Board Visitation Day.
- IV. **Review & Approval of Minutes, September 19, 2024 (Att.4)**
 - A. The board reviews the minutes from the September 19, 2024 board meeting.
 - B. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - C. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
- V. **School Report**
 - A. **Staff Update**

1. Nate Durant introduced Beth Yirga to the board.
2. Beth expresses her appreciation for being able to speak with the board again.
3. She shares there are currently 26 teachers staffed at Freire Wilmington - 9 are uncertified and 9 are in certified programs currently.
4. Beth will begin conducting the first round of teacher evaluations using Freire's Deeper Learning Rubric in the coming weeks.
5. Beth is also working closely with the Director of Special Education regarding Annual Determination.

B. Heads Report

1. Slate of Staff (Att. 5A)*
 - a) The board reviews the slate of staff.
 - b) David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
 - c) Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.
2. Admissions Update
 - a) **See VI.a.2**
3. October Freire Dashboard (Att. 5B)
 - a) Nate Durant shares that attendance is up at this point in the school year in comparison to last year.
 - b) Nate praises Mindy Hedgepeth for being at the helm of the MTSS program that assists with truancy prevention/intervention.
 - c) Based on the entering STAR Benchmark, students have entered this year at a lower level than last year. Nate's team is working hard to drive growth between now and the midyear benchmark.
 - d) After School Programs have kicked off and attendance is high which has helped cultivate joy and peace. The open gym program has been a huge blessing to the school community and students as well.
 - e) Tyron Hurst shares that when assemblies are held in the gym it has allowed some students who are wallflowers to be more social.

VI. Financials

A. August 2024 Financial Report (Att. 6)*

1. Nathan Yufer reviews the August 2024 Financial Report with the board.
2. The original budget that was approved back in June 2024 assumed enrollment of 411 students. The official enrollment which is determined by the September 30 unit count was 406 students which placed a negative impact on revenue and the school had to make cost reductions to offset the reduction in revenue.
3. Expenses the school has finalized include building maintenance, the CSO fee increase, various advertising projects, building improvements, and minor equipment purchases.
4. Now that Freire Wilmington has received their final enrollment numbers, they will begin the process of updating the budget. This is still in process and cost reductions will have to be made but Nathan's team will be bringing an updated, balanced budget to the board shortly.
5. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
6. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

B. CBOC Report

1. Nathan shares the CBOC is looking for new members, particularly parents.

C. Audit Report

1. Nathan shares he received the draft audit recently and is pleased with the results so far. A

final audit report will be provided to the Board as soon as it is ready.

VII. Advancement

A. Advancement Report (Att. 7)

1. Melanie Reiser shares that the FY25 unrestricted fundraising target is set to \$775,000 which is \$150,000 per Freire campus.
2. Currently the Advancement Team has raised \$230,030 in donations and pledges, which leaves \$538,000 to the estimated network-wide goal.
3. FY25 Fundraising preliminary ideas surround the following:
 - a) Establishing an unrestricted fund in Kelly Davenport's honor, and soliciting donations from major donors, vendors, and friends during her last year as network CEO.
 - b) Holding the Bridge to Wisdom fundraiser in the spring (likely May) to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organization (and the key programs that make up Freire Schools). Honor Kelly Davenport with the award.
 - c) Possibly holding a cultivation event (e.g. Coffee and Conversation) at one of our Philadelphia schools, with a special emphasis on encouraging our newest Board members to introduce people in their personal and professional networks to Freire Schools.

VIII. Policies & Agreements

A. Review & Approve Amended Property & Equipment (Federal Grants) #452 (Att. 8A)*

1. Johnny Mills shares the Amended Property & Equipment (Federal Grants) #452 with the board.
2. Minor changes were made to better incorporate language from the code of federal regulations
3. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
4. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

B. Review & Approve Amended Federal Procurement Policy (Federal Grants) #451 (Att. 8B)*

1. Johnny Mills shares the Amended Federal Procurement Policy (Federal Grants) #451 with the board.
2. This policy specifies the thresholds at which formal procurement methods must be used when federal funds are being used. In some cases, Delaware's thresholds are lower than the Federal thresholds and in those instances, we must follow the more stringent State threshold.
3. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
4. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

C. Review & Approve Amended Admissions Policy (Att. 8C)*

1. Leigh Botwink shares Amended Admissions Policy with the board.
2. The governor signed a bill to grant an admissions priority for military connected students and the policy has been amended to incorporate this priority.
3. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
4. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

D. Approval of Freire Wilmington ARP ESSER Health & Safety Plan (Att. 8D)*

1. Johnny Mills shares there are no major changes to this plan but is required by law to renew every 6 months for the duration of the ESSER grant. This will be the last time since the grants ended this Fall.

2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Nathan Will seconds.
3. Kate Bayard, Sheela Dattani, Jilian Mackenzie, Chenelle McQueen, David Singleton, David Tuminaro, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against and no abstentions.

IX. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

- A. Kate Bayard shares some concerns about having students back in the neighborhood again but overall no issues.

Meeting Adjourned 8:47 AM