FREIRE CHARTER WILMINGTON

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | 8 AM
ZOOM MEETING ID: 874 0032 6383
LOCATION: FREIRE CHARTER SCHOOL WILMINGTON | 201 W. 14TH ST., WILMINGTON DE 19801

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Crouch, Sheela Dattani, Robert Healy, Chenelle Mcqueen, David Singleton, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, Nathan Will

OTHERS PRESENT: Leigh Botwinik, Kelly Davenport, Paul Ramirez, Melanie Reiser, Madeline Weckel, Beth Yirga, Nathan Yufer

MEETING START, 8:02 AM

I. **Public Comment**
   A. No public comment.
II. **Executive Sessionт**
   A. Personnel Matter
      1. David Singleton makes a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:03 AM to discuss "29 Del Code § 10004(b)(9) "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." Nathan Will seconds.
      2. Brad Crouch, Sheela Dattani, Robert Healy, Chenelle Mcqueen, David Singleton, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
      3. David Singleton makes a motion to exit the Executive Session at 8:16 AM. Sheela Dattani seconds.
      4. Brad Crouch, Sheela Dattani, Robert Healy, Chenelle Mcqueen, David Singleton, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
III. **Review & Approval of Minutes**, December 11, 2025 *(Attachment 3)**
   A. The board reviews the minutes from the December 11, 2025 board meeting.
   B. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Robert Healy seconds.
   C. Brad Crouch, Sheela Dattani, Robert Healy, Chenelle Mcqueen, David Singleton, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.
IV. **Network Update**
   A. Freire Schools Vision *(Attachment 4)*
      1. Paul Ramirez updates the board on the vision process. He shares that he has met with over 100 stakeholders from across the Freire Schools network including students, staff members, parents, and board members to elicit feedback and discussion. Last month, board leadership approved the final version of the vision which includes the following components: College Preparatory Learning, Professional Prep, Culture of Belonging, and Thriving with AI.
      2. Paul shares that in the coming months we will form focus groups for each component of the vision to set goals, strategies, and initiatives.
V. **Financials**
   A. December 2025 Financial Report *(Attachment 5)**
      1. Nathan Yufer explains the December 2025 Financials. As of December 31, 2025, Freire Wilmington is expected to earn $9.6M in total revenue in FY26. The school will receive $665K in unrestricted fundraising. $200K from the Sonecha Foundation and $100K from the Freire Foundation. The Freire Foundation will be donating an additional $65K on top of their normal annual donation of $100K to pay for 1 FTE and help the school balance their budget. The Freire Schools Network will also be donating up to $300K. This donation will help cover

the following expenses: advertising, payroll consulting, an additional Dean, costs related to the Alternative Placement Program, and some additional HVAC repairs. This donation is needed to help the school balance their budget due to the enrollment challenges.

B. CBOC Report

1. Nathan reports that the CBOC met on Wednesday, January 28. Our parent representative, Florene Harding, has resigned. Ms. Chenelle Mcqueen joined the last meeting as a parent representative and Ms. Khaliah Walker volunteered to join the committee moving forward.

VI. School Report

A. Staff & Student Update

1. Rob Healy reports that the schoolwide reset has been outstanding and that there is a buzz in the building. He notes that students are in classes and engaged in learning. He credits Kelly Davenport's work with the leadership team and feels that the school is moving in the right direction. Rob shares that the track team has a meet today and the boys basketball team and cheerleading team will have their senior night next week.

B. Heads Report

1. Beth Yirga introduces herself as the Assistant Head of School. She shares that this February marks the 9th annual Freire Blackout Experience, our month-long celebration of Black History Month culminating on Thursday, Feb. 26th 6 pm - 8:30 pm with an amazing performance showcase and local community market taking place in our Freire gym and cafeteria. The goal for all the Blackout Experience events planned is to offer students space to affirm, reflect upon and celebrate the importance of Black history while building a culture of belonging in our school. Beth reports that over the last month they've led a reset on culture which has led to an increase in suspensions as the entire staff is upholding high behavioral expectations. She highlights that the percent of students attending 95% of days or more is up by 2%, and attendance for special education students is up as well.

C. January Freire Dashboard *(Attachment 6)*

1. Schoolwide Plan/TSI Improvement Plan Progress Update

a) See above.

D. Admissions Update

1. Leigh Botwinik reports that the number of intents received are comparable to last year, while applications are down slightly. She shares that we have a new Network Office admissions coordinator leading admissions at Freire Wilmington.

E. Flood Update

1. Nathan shares that in early February several burst sprinkler pipes caused by extremely cold weather conditions led to major flooding on the basement and first floor levels of the building. The school and network teams worked swiftly to facilitate remediation and reopen the building for instruction.

F. Head of School Search Update

1. Paul Ramirez introduces Mara Cooper from Edgility. Mara is serving as the hiring search consultant for the Head of School search. Mara explains the hiring process and shares the Head of School posting.

VII. Advancement

A. Advancement Report *(Attachment 7)*

1. Melanie Reiser reports that the network-wide unrestricted fundraising target for FY26 is $675k – $125k per Philadelphia campus and $300k for Freire Wilmington. As a network, we have raised $296k, leaving us $379k to raise to meet our fundraising target. This spring, we'll hold board member-led fundraisers and run a print campaign related to the vision. Melanie requests that all board members submit their pledges to ensure that board giving reaches 100%.

B. Political Landscape

1. Melanie notes that Freire Schools continues to pay close attention to any proposed charter regulation, budget cuts or proposed changes to the charter school renewal process.

VIII. Policies & Agreements

A. Review & Adopt Amended Policy 206 Student Attendance *(Attachment 8)**

1. The board reviews Policy 206 Student Attendance and the proposed language outlining the procedure when a student arrives late to school after 9:15am.

2. David Singleton makes a motion to approve. Sheela Dattani seconds.
3. Brad Crouch, Sheela Dattani, Robert Healy, Chenelle Mcqueen, David Singleton, Clint Walker, Khaliah Walker, and Nathan Will all vote in favor of the motion. There are no votes against or abstentions.

IX. Midtown Brandywine Committee Update

A. Brad Crouch shares that there is nothing of note to report.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:11 AM

**Requires Vote*
ᴛ*Citation on reason for executive session: 29 Del Code § 10004(b)(9) "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."*

The agenda items may not be considered in sequence. This agenda is subject to change to include additional items such as executive sessions or the deletion of items, which may arise at the time of the meeting.