

**Wissahickon Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 10, 2021 6:32pm-8:05pm
Meeting Held Virtual via Zoom Conferencing**

Board Members Present: Justin DiBerardinis (Chair), Rachel Loeper (Vice Chair), Bob Anderson, Charles Case (Treasurer), Ebony Staton-Weidman, Deborah Levin (Secretary), Shauna Mace, Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir

Staff Present: Kristi Littell (CEO), Jane Walsh (Development Associate), Jess Pastore (WCS Director of Development),

Guests Present: Mike Whisman (Charter Choices), Sylvester Mobley (Coded by Kids), Shawn Jones (WCS Teacher)

Board Chair Justin DiBerardinis called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

Some Good News (Kristi Littell, CEO)

Kristi shared that, at our Fernhill Campus, our Assistant Dean of Culture (and Wissahickon Alum) Chamaine Pugh organized an Alumni Expo featuring several former Wissahickon students to help celebrate the end of Black History Month. Alumni presenters spoke about their educational and career achievements since leaving Wissahickon and answered questions from students.

Board Update (Justin DiBerardnis, Chair, and Rachel Loeper, Vice Chair)

Justin reported that former Board Member Michael-Ann Matticoli has amicably resigned from the Board. She will continue to support Wissahickon in other ways.

Approval of Consent Agenda (Justin)

The March consent agenda includes the February Board Minutes, January and February Financial Transactions, and 2021-2022 School Calendar..

Justin called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Charles led the motion, and Shauna seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Financial Update (Mike Whisman, Charter Choices)

Mike reviewed both the January and the February Financials Statements for Wissahickon Charter School. Projections show that we are trending towards a positive bottom line for June and performing well above the metrics set by the School District of Philadelphia.

Mike also reported on Governor Wolf's proposed changes to Special Education Funding and the impacts those changes would have on Wissahickon.

Justin called for a motion to approve the January Financial Statements. Bob led the motion and Rachel seconded. The January Financials were approved unanimously.

Justin then called for a motion to approve the February Financial Statements. Ebony led the motion and Shauna seconded. The February Financials were approved unanimously.

Kristi reminded all members to submit their Statements of Financial Interest by March 26th.

Mike Whisman gave a review of and outlined the distinctions between the two organizations- Wissahickon Charter School and Wissahickon Foundation - for those in attendance who were not yet familiar.

Development Update (Jess Pastore, Director of Development)

Jess Pastore, Director of Development, reported on our Spring Campaign, a replacement for the annual Spring Benefit which was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic. Jess reported that we have \$33,500 pledged in sponsorships so far and we have several other requests for sponsorship emailed out. We have set a fundraising goal for this campaign of \$90,000 which will help fund Wissahickon's LEAP programs. While we are confident in our ability to meet our goal, Jess made a plea for board members to help recruit more sponsorships.

A big part of this campaign is our "Wissahickon Teas" which are friendraising virtual information sessions. The first "tea" will be held tomorrow, March 11th, and the second will be March 25th. Jess reminded Board Members that they should be inviting guests to one of these two events.

Governance Report (Rachel)

Rachel reported that we are actively recruiting new Board Members with a goal of obtaining three new members by the August 2021 meeting.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee Update (Ebony Staton-Widman, Committee Chair)

Ebony reported that the Committee held their first meeting at which time they formalized a committee name of Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee. The committee also reviewed and developed some of their goals.

Short term goals included being more aware of the race and social justice work that is going on at school on both the student and staff level and determining how the Board can best amplify that work. The Board is also interested to know if Wissahickon works to select Black owned businesses as vendors. Kristi shared that we do and will share more details at an upcoming meeting. Long-term goals include utilizing research from CHOP to better understand the impact of race and equity issues on children and being sure to evaluate the CEO's performance, the school mission, and the strategic plan to ensure they best exemplify the school's commitment to race and justice work.

CEO Report (Kristi)

Wissahickon staff recently attended a professional development session on "Microaggressions" led by Wissahickon's staff Race & Equity Committee. Kristi shared documents from these sessions that explain how to identify a microaggression, offering examples and showing the consequences of these messages, and also how to address negative racial remarks.

At our Fernhill Campus, there was also a PD addressing the recent uptick in violence against Asian and Asian-American individuals. Kristi shared some video from this session.

Kristi then shared our latest Health and Safety Plan, which was created in anticipation of some of our students returning to in-person learning. The first students to return will be part of our Remote Access Center and will include some of our most high-needs students (Students with IEPs, students with low attendance, students experiencing homelessness, etc.). Two weeks later, our kindergarten students will also return for several days of in-person instruction, assuming their families opt-in to do so.

Justin called for a motion to adopt the health and safety plan. Bob led the motion and Charles seconded. The plan was adopted unanimously.

Justin called for a motion to adjourn. Rachel led the motion and Charles seconded. The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm

Handouts that were distributed are attached.

- WCS Board Meeting Minutes 02.03.21
- WCS Financial Report 2021.01 v1.1
- WCS Financial Report 2021.02 v1.1
- GC Minutes 3.1.21
- Wissahickon Health and Safety Plan - Spring 2021 Revision
- 2021-2022 Calendar (Both Campuses)
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Action Items:

- Board Members will submit the Statements of Financial Interest by March 26th
- Board Members will invite contacts to attend one of our two Wissahickon “Teas”
- Board Members will recruit sponsors for our Spring Campaign