

**Wissahickon Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 2021 6:30pm-7:54pm
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, Anthony Coughlin

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

Guests Present: Mike Whisman (Charter Choices)

Welcome/Introductions (Rachel Loeper, Vice Chair)

Some Good News (Kristi Littell, CEO)

We will be offering an extended school year for students who qualify for Special Education, which will be held remotely. A remote program is actually preferred because, in the past, getting students to campus was one of the bigger barriers to the program. We will also have an extended year program for lower schoolers and middle schoolers.

We have created a Summer Program Coordinator position, which would allow some of our teachers to get experience in a leadership role. We were only planning to hire one person; however, we had three great candidates and because of the robust federal funding we are receiving, we have the financial capability to hire all three and make the program more substantial and of a hire quality. This will be a valuable pipeline for school leadership going forward.

Approval of Consent Agenda (Rachel)

This month's Consent Agenda includes approval of the following documents: March Board Minutes; March Financial Transactions; Amendment to Sibling and Founder Preference Policy; Board Resolution and Board Synopsis.

Rachel called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Bob made a motion and Ebony seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Update (Mike Whisman, Charter Choices)

Mike Whisman reviewed the March Financial Report. Cash year-over-year and month-over-month, while down slightly, are still quite positive. Mike and Kristi believe that we have more Special Education students than we are being paid for so they are working with the District to recover that difference.

Rachel called for a motion to approve the March Financials. Ebony led the motion and Shauna seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Development Update (Kristi)

Kristi provided the Board with a development update. Our goal, knowing there would be no event, auction, or honoree this year, was \$90,000. While some smaller gifts might still trickle in, we have mostly wrapped up the campaign and have \$106,200 pledged or in hand.

Kristi requested more guidance and feedback from the Board on how we might better engage them in fundraising in the future. She also emphasized the value of “friendraising” and that, even if a contact is unable to give generously or at all, we still want that connection. Finally, she encouraged the Board to let her know if any requests are outside of their capacity, if there is any confusion regarding the request, or if they need support in any other way.

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

Ebony used her time to give some space to reflect on the recent murder of Daunte Wright and allowed members to share their thoughts and feelings on this incident and on violence towards Black people in general.

Governance Report (Rachel)

Bob reported that the Governance Committee has elected to proceed with the nomination of Sylvester Mobley to the Wissahickon Board of Trustees. Rachel called for a motion to elect Sylvester to the Board. Charles led the motion to approve his election and Rekyiah seconded. The Board voted unanimously to elect Sylvester Mobley to the Wissahickon Charter School Board of Trustees.

The Board then discussed the re-election to the Board of Charles Case for his second term. Rachel called for a motion to re-elect Charles for a second term of three years. Shauna led the motion and Rekyiah seconded. The Board approved Charles’ election to a second term unanimously.

Finally, the Board discussed the re-election to the Board of Rachel Loeper for her second term. Charles called for a motion to re-elect Rachel for her second term of three years. Rekyiah led the motion and Ebony seconded. The Board approved Rachel’s re-election unanimously.

CEO Report (Kristi)

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Spotlight**

Kristi shared a slideshow that was sent to our teachers, which provides them with the tools and resources to respond to instances of police violence or other traumatic events, and also goes into specific facts and information on two events that are taking place currently, the Murder of Daunte Wright and the Derek Chauvin Trial.

- **Launch of Remote Access Centers**

Kristi shared some of the highlights and some of the challenges of our first day of in-person learning.

- **Projected Hiring Needs**

Staff retention has been extremely strong this year and appears that it will remain strong for the fall. Currently, we only have one teacher opening. We will also have a few new positions to be filled, created in response to the pandemic and funded with Covid-relief funds.

- **PSSA Update**

The government still has not issued a waiver to States for this year’s PSSAs. They have, however, expanded the timeframe for students to take the test. We have decided to test 7th and 8th graders this Spring and all others will be tested next school year.

Rachel called for a motion to adjourn. Charles led the motion to adjourn and Anthony seconded. The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.

Handouts that were distributed are attached.

- WCS Board Meeting Minutes 03.10.21
- WCS Financial Report 2021.03 v1.1

- GC Minutes 4.8..21
- Expectations for Trustees
- Sibling and Founder Preference Policy
- Sylvester Mobley Bio
- Sylvester Mobley Interview
- WCS - Student 457-19 - Board Resolution to Approve Agreement
- WCS - Student 457-19 - Board Synopsis
- Wissahickon - 457-19 - Settlement Agreement REDACTED
- WCS Board Agenda 4-14-21

Action Items: