

**Wissahickon Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 10, 2021 11:02am-1pm
Meeting Held Virtually via Zoom Conferencing**

Board Members Present: Justin DiBerardinis (Chair), Rachel Loeper (Vice Chair), Charles Case (Treasurer), Deborah Levin (Secretary), Shauna Mace, Anthony Coughlin, Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir,, Samantha Mathews, Sylvester Mobley, John Wylie

Staff Present: Kristi Littell (CEO), Jane Walsh (Development Associate)

Guests Present: Michael Whisman (Charter Choices), Cameron Voss (Charter School Office), Tom Dreitlein (Charter School Office)

Welcome/Introductions (Justin DiBerardinis, Chair)

Some Good News (Kristi Littell, CEO)

Kristi provided details on where our graduating eighth graders from the Class of 2021 are attending high school this fall, and proudly reported that all of our graduating eighth graders will be attending a high school of choice.

Kristi also gave a video tour of one of our classrooms to show the precautions and preparations we have made to keep students safe as we return to full-time in-person learning for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Swearing in of New Members (Justin DiBerardinis)

New members Sylvester Mobley, Samantha Mathews, and John Wylie were sworn in as members of the Wissahickon Charter School Board of Trustees by Board Chair Justin DiBerardinis.

Professional Development Session: “Connecting to Our Values through WCS” (Shauna Mace, Board Member)

Board Member Shauna Mace spoke to the board about the value of development and fundraising as a board member and asked Jess Pastore, Director of Development, to share the ways that members can be a “rigorous advocate” of Wissahickon Charter. Jess informed members that the two main components of being an advocate are “friendraising” (ie talking to friends about Wissahickon, inviting friends to Wissahickon events, using your network to invite friends to come in to visit the school) and fundraising (ie connecting us to a friend or corporation who can make gifts or sponsorships, forwarding some of our communications like the Fall Appeal email or Giving Tuesday social media campaign, making a gift that is personally significant to you).

Shauna also shared a survey for Board Members to complete so that they can provide some insight to the Development Team on their values and what attracted them to Wissahickon. This will allow the Development Team to provide members with the right resources and support to be a rigorous advocate for Wissahickon.

Approval of Consent Agenda (Justin DiBerardinis)

The August Consent Agenda includes the June Board Meeting Minutes and the June Financial Transactions. Justin called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Anthony led the motion to approve the consent agenda and Shauna seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Financial Update (Charles Case, Treasurer)

Mike provided a summary of the June Financial Statements, the last statements of the previous fiscal year, and reports that both the school and the foundation were in good standing and meeting or exceeding all the recommended “check marks.” In the case that there are decreased district rates in the upcoming years, we would be in good financial standing to sustain the deficit.

Justin called for a motion to approve the June Financial Statements. Debbie led the motion and Shauna seconded. The June Financial Statements were approved unanimously.

Governance Report (Rachel Loeper, Vice Chair)

Rachel provided new members with an explanation of the role that The Governance Committee serves. She provided some norms for the board such as timely responses to emails from Kristi.

Rachel reported that the Board will need to look at the Board’s goals from the previous year and determine as a group if they will want to change any of those goals for the upcoming year.

At next month’s meeting, The Governance Committee will share details on the Board’s various committees and give members a chance to select a committee on which to serve.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice (Justin DiBerardinis)

Chair of the Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee Ebony Staton Weidman was unable to attend so Justin gave a brief explanation of some of the work the committee has done over the past couple of months.

CEO Report (Kristi)

- **Institution Wide Goals** Kristi shared her goals for Wissahickon for the upcoming school year, which can be found in the attached document WCS Goals 2021-22
- **Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice Spotlight** Kristi spoke about the ways that our Culture Office provided our students with positive messages about their own self images, including our “Black is Beautiful” facts, as well as made efforts to hold up “windows” into the cultures and identities of people and groups that are not largely represented in our communities
- **Academic Update: WIN and Literacy** This year we will be instituting a daily intervention block called WIN (What I Need) at which time additional supports such as our math or literacy interventionists, learning specialists, or administrators will come into the room and allow students to work in smaller groups; We will also be adopting a new literacy approach that has a larger emphasis on phonics, which new research suggests is the best way to teach literacy

- **Hiring Update** Kristi reported that, as is true for most schools right now, there has been increased employee turnover this year as we come out of the pandemic and that hiring is extremely difficult right now. Despite this, we have hired 33 people for the new year, several of which will be filling newly created positions and several of which are filling part-time positions.

Justin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles led the motion to adjourn and Debbie seconded. The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Handouts that were distributed are attached.

- Board of Directors Agenda 8-10-21
- Charter School Oath of Office
- Results_Board Survey
- WCS Board Minutes 06.16.21
- WCS Goals 2021-22
- WCS Emergency Instructional Time
- WCS Financial Report_2021

Action Items:

- Justin to send out written Board and CEO evaluations to members
- Kristi to send out the Board letter to the school community through the Weekly Wissahickon and ClassTag