

Wissahickon Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
September, 22 2021 6:40-7:52pm
Meeting Held Virtually via Zoom Conferencing

Board Members Present: Justin DiBerardinis (Chair), Charles Case (Treasurer), Anthony Coughlin, Samantha Mathews, Sylvester Mobley, Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir

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

Guests Present: Michael Whisman (Charter Choices)

Welcome/Introductions (Charles Case, Treasurer)

Some Good News (Kristi Littell, CEO)

Kristi shared a positive experience that stemmed from a negative encounter. Recently, at our Awbury Campus, two of our students got into a fight. In keeping with our commitment to utilize restorative practices, rather than punitive ones, we had the students work together for a full week on a shared project. During this time, they worked to figure out what they can do when they're mad that would be more productive than fighting. They also talked about how their interaction may have negatively affected others and themselves. At the end of the week they created a report and presented it on Zoom with their parents and some members of staff present. Kristi played a clip from that presentation which showed how much the boys grew from the restorative experience.

Development Update (Jess Pastore, Director of Development)

Jess reported that most members have returned their giving pledges, but encouraged those who did not to do so. Jess then shared our Fall Appeal materials, which will be sent out to donors this week. The theme of the appeal is "Growing Back Greater," stating that we are returning to in-person learning with knowledge gained from the pandemic, plans for the future, and with the roots of our mission maintained. Jess requested that all members forward this email when they receive it or share the message on social media so we can reach as many people as possible.

Kristi added that it has been a very busy start to the year for development work. Jess and Kristi have several meetings lined up with major donors and foundations over the course of the next few weeks, which they hope will be productive.

CEO Report (Kristi)

- **Covid Update** Kristi shared the Covid Exposure document, which details how many known Covid positive cases entered our building in a given week. The document will be shared publicly on the website for families to access. Kristi shared the process of quarantining classes when a positive case is identified and provided a couple of examples of how the school responded when we had a positive individual in the building. Kristi also shared some new guidance from the Health Department regarding Covid safety in schools that was just shared today.
- **Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice (Kristi)** WCS is focusing on Hispanic Heritage this month. Last week we had an assembly. Ms. Melissa, ASP/Recess Coordinator, talked about her own hispanic heritage with the students, sharing what it means to her to be Afro-Latina and why she is proud of her roots. Kristi shared a clip from this assembly which was held on Zoom.

- **Charter Renewal (Kristi)** WCS is currently going through our Charter Renewal process, which occurs every five years. There are multiple phases of data collection and review focused on different aspects of Charter School practices and accountability. We've met every deadline and the process is going smoothly.
- **Fernhill Facility Update** Kristi provided some updates on our plans to potentially renovate part of the Fernhill building
- **Transportation** Kristi shared some of the struggles the school, like all Philadelphia schools, have been facing with bussing this year and some of the proposed strategies to solve this crisis.
- **Vaccine Mandate** is on track. Exemption forms are due on Monday

Approval of Consent Agenda (Charles Case)

The September Consent Agenda includes Board Minutes from August 10th and from August 31st and The August Financial Transactions. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was led by Anthony and seconded by Samantha. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Financial Update (Mike Whisman, Charter Choices)

Mike provided a summary of the August Financial Statements, which are brief since they only account for two months of the fiscal year. Mike explained to the Board how Charter Choices creates our projections for the fiscal year and how we expect the budget and financials to evolve over the course of the year. Mike reported that Wissahickon is currently performing well financially.

Charles called for a motion to approve the August Financial Statements. Justin led the motion and Anthony seconded. The August Financial Statements were approved unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session to discuss a confidential student matter as allowable by PA State Sunshine Laws.

The Board came out of closed session to vote on the resolution discussed in closed session. Anthony led the motion and Justin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went back into Closed Session to discuss a confidential personnel matter as allowable by PA State Sunshine Laws.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 7:52pm

Justin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles led the motion to adjourn and Reykiah seconded. The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.

Handouts that were distributed are attached.

- WCS Board Agenda 9-22-21
- WCS Board Minutes 08.10.21
- WCS Board Minutes 08.31.21
- WCS Financial Report_2021.08v1.2
- Funding Prospects FY 19-20 EITC Business Participants by County
- Fall 2021 Appeal Materials Packet
- Student 233-20 Special Education Packet

- Student 351-21 Special Education Packet

Action Items:

- Jess and Jane will be sending out the Fall Appeal by email and will post on Social Media; Board Members should forward one or both of these messages to their contacts