

**Wissahickon Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 9, 2022 6:34pm-7:42pm**

**Meeting Held Virtual via Zoom Conferencing**

**Board Members Present:** Justin DiBerardinis (Chair), Charles Case (Treasurer), Shauna Mace, Rachel Loeper, John Wylie, Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir, Anthony Coughlin

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

**Guests Present:** n/a

**Board chair called the meeting to order at 6:34pm**

**Governance Committee Report (Rachel Loeper, Governance Committee Chair)**

Rachel shared some priorities for board recruitment, which include finding someone to join the finance committee, someone with legal expertise, and a Wissahickon alumni. Kristi noted that she does have a promising potential candidate from FS Investment, though they would not fill any of these desired gaps. Any members with recommendations should send that information to Rachel and Shauna.

PA Board Certification has been completed. All members completed the training and have been issued their certificates.

Shauna expressed an interest in succession planning and inquired about the status of the temporary Succession Planning Committee that had been established prior to the pandemic. She also noted that she has a contact who could aid in this work. The board debated the necessity of this committee. It was decided that Succession Planning was still valuable, but that the Governance Committee would absorb this work with assistance from Justin.

**CEO Report (Kristi Littell, CEO)**

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Spotlight** Kristi noted that there has been a need for more black teachers at schools, including Wissahickon Charter. We have therefore applied to TNTP's Fellowship for Black Teacher Talent Consortium, a competitive national program focused on attracting and retaining more black educators. We are currently in the final stages of our application process with an interview coming up that will have their team meeting with various members of our team. If accepted, this would be a wonderful opportunity for our school.
- **Covid Update** A week ago the Health Department announced that Philadelphia's indoor masking mandate was ending immediately and that the school mask mandate would tentatively end one week later. Today was our first day being "mask optional." Kristi has worked hard to emphasize to both students and staff that their masking decision is personal, that everyone is free to make different decisions, and that we should respect those decisions. Some additional health guidance regarding contact tracing and other measures was announced this evening, though Kristi still needs to parse through that information.
- **Development Update** We are still waiting for news from The Lenfest Foundation regarding our grant application. They contacted us last week with some follow-up questions and informed us that they would have a final decision for us shortly. Kristi and Jane had started looking at dates for our Spring Event, but we have some concerns regarding everyone's capacity to contribute to these efforts to ensure this event is successful. Kristi asked the board if they would be willing and able to support this event.

- **Charter Renewal Update** Charter Renewal Site Plan will happen on March 24th. Four members of the Charter School Office will be coming out. They've requested three separate agendas and they will be at lots of different spaces in the school, including both campuses as well as Awbury Arboretum for our Forest School.

### **Some Good News (Kristi)**

Kristi shared a video of our Fernhill Campus' HBCU Celebration.

### **Review of March Consent Agenda (Justin DiBerardinis, Chair)**

The March Consent Agenda includes the February Board Meeting Minutes, The March 2nd Board Meeting Minutes, The January Financial Transactions, a Special Education Resolution, and the Procurement Policy.

Justin called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Anthony led the motion and Rachel seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

### **Financials (Charles Case, Treasurer)**

Charles reviewed the January Financial Statements with the board, which show that our finances are continuing to trend positively. Charles notes that much of our finances rely on enrollment and, because we are close to having all seats filled, we should see an increase in funding from the district.

Justin called for a motion to approve the January Financials. John led the motion and Shauna seconded. The Financials were approved unanimously.

### **The Board went into Closed Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter as allowable by PA State Sunshine Laws at 7:26pm.**

### **The Board came out of Closed Session at 7:41pm**

Justin called for a motion to approve the resolution proposed in closed sessions. Anthony made the motion and Rachel seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Justin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was led by Rachel and seconded by Shauna. The board approved unanimously to adjourn.

### **The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm**

### **Handouts that were distributed are attached.**

- WCS Board Meeting Minutes 02.02.22
- WCS Board Meeting Minutes 03.02.22
- WCS\_Procurement PolicyUsing Federal Funds\_2022 Update
- WCS\_FinancialReport\_2021.01 v1.1
- Student IH Folder
- WCS Board Agenda Mar 9, 2022

### **Action Items:**

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