

**Wissahickon Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 16, 2022  
7:01 - 8:45**

**Wissahickon Charter School  
This meeting was held over Zoom video conference.**

**Board Members Present:** Justin DiBerardinis, Rachel Loeper, Charles G. Case, Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir, Allora Buckshon, Anthony Coughlin, Erich Holland, Shauna Mace, Samantha Mathews, Ohenewaa White, John Wylie

**Board Members Absent:** Charles Case, Deborah Levin,

**Guests:**

**Staff Present:** Kristi Littell, Jane Walsh, Paul Vande Stouwe, Kristy Hruska

**Meeting Called to Order**

Justin called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**Good News (Kristi):** Kristi shared details of two campus wide, community-building events: *Wissahickon in the Wissahickon* and *Awbury at Awbury*.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes/Consent Agenda**

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Financial statements, September Minutes, 2023-2024 Calendar) was led by Rachel Loeper and was seconded by Ohenewaa White-Ra. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Enrollment Update:**

Paul Vande Stouwe shared an enrollment update with the Board members. Students enter WCS through a lottery, which is run by Apply Philly Charter. Preference is extended to siblings and the children of founders/staff. A majority of our students come from a wide pool of zip codes because we use Apply Philly Charter. Paul explained how sibling preference works for applicants and how prospective students are ultimately verified as siblings of current students.

**Finance Committee (Kristi):**

Kristi shared that we are well in range of where the district wants us to be for metrics related to our finances, and our audit should be done by the end of the calendar year. This year's audit has taken longer because of the federal funding provided during the pandemic. There is a slight discrepancy between the number of students we have on record vs. what district is compensating us for.

The Board discussed staff bonuses being funded through The Wissahickon Foundation. Justin called for a motion to approve a bonus of \$250 for each staff member. Anthony Coughlin made the motion, which

was seconded by Samantha Mathews. The Board unanimously approved a \$250 staff bonus using Foundation funds.

A motion for the approval of the September 2022 and October 2022 financial reports was made by Samantha Mathews and seconded by Shauna Mace. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Governance Committee (Shauna):**

Shauna reported that we are working to re-engage as a (BOT) community and to continue team-building among the Board. The Governance Committee also discussed ways it can support academic excellence at WCS.

**Diversity, Equity, and Justice (Justin):**

The DEJ Committee just had a relaunch meeting in October and is focused on exploring DEJ through an environmental lens/environmental justice issues. “How can the Board support the school in combating environmental racism?” The DEJ plans to continue to highlight the work that WCS already does: provide access to clean, safe outdoor spaces and the ways that WCS creates equity.

**Development Update (Jane):** We are over halfway to our fundraising goal for the year in unrestricted funds. We continue to invite people into our community to support our friend-raising efforts and our Development department continues to build a network of outside funding sources. Giving Tuesday is on November 29th, and we will need the Board’s help with our fundraising efforts for it, as Giving Tuesday relies on social media momentum. We are looking for businesses in PA to help contribute through EITC giving, which can be a net benefit to the company.

**CEO/COO Update (Kristi):**

Kristi and Jane spoke with Marc Russell, founder of Better Wallet, over Zoom to brainstorm. He is interested in meeting with our students to talk about financial literacy. Our 8th grade students have been going through the high school application process, and it is our goal for every 8th grader to have a choice in where they attend high school. Guidance meets with every 8th grader and their families to help them with the application process, through which students can apply to independent and charter schools. We are also rolling out a new report card in K-2 that is standards based, making it very clear to the family what the child knows and can do.

**Closed Session** – The Board of Trustees entered a closed session to discuss a student issue as allowable through PA State Sunshine Laws.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Coughlin and seconded by John Wylie. It was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.**

**Action Items:**

**\*Quote re: what you love about WCS.**

**\*Friend-raising - five new supporters. How can your network connect us to people?**

**\*Make sure to share Board good news.**

**\*Kristy should share more of the school's environmental activism through social media. (Maybe designate one day a week for this?)**

**Any handouts that were distributed are attached.**