

**Wissahickon Charter School (WCS)
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 7, 2017 6:42pm - 8:41pm**

**Wissahickon Charter School Fernhill Campus (Cafeteria)
4700 G Wissahickon Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144**

Board Members Present: Marty Millner, Justin Diberardinis, Fran Bradley, Richard Binswanger, Ebiho Ahonkhai (phone), Ellen Lutz, Rosi Barbera

Board Members Absent: Isaac Ewell, Justin Wheeler, Charles Rice

Staff Present: Kristi Littell (CEO), Jamal Elliott (COO), Anne Pennington Wang (Development Director), Allie DiTucci (Development Associate)

Guests Present: Mike Whisman (Charter Choices), parent visitors

Board chair called the meeting to order at 6:42pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Fran, Board Chair)

The December 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously. Motion to approve was led by Marty and seconded by Rosi.

Parent Visitor

Parents address the Board about the student behavior policy and their son's recent suspension.

Ebony's Candidacy for Board (Kristi, CEO)

Ebony is interested in bringing corporate and marketing perspective to the Board. Ebony's husband was in touch with Jamal, and conveyed her interest. Ebony's acceptance as a Board member was approved unanimously. Motion to approve was led by Richard and seconded by Marty.

The Board entered an executive session to discuss the student about which the parent visitors presented, as allowable by the PA State Sunshine Laws.

Statements of Financial Interest (Jamal, COO)

Board members need to submit their statements of financial interest ASAP.

Financials Report (Mike Whisman, Charter Choices)

Because of the timing of this meeting, the January statement hasn't yet been reviewed by Finance Committee. The Board reviewed the December 2016 financials. Mike highlighted that there was an increase in cash balance from June 30, there was a PSERS payment made in in early December, and that the school has 38 days of cash on hand. We still project a net increase for the year, due to conservative prediction of district rates. The December 2016 financials were approved unanimously. Motion to approve was led by Ellen and seconded by Richard.

Salary Scale Proposal (Jamal, COO)

Jamal presents the proposed salary scale for the 2017-2018 school year. He highlighted that the goal of the salary scale improvements was to target teachers with 4-9 years of experience. This scale will be adjusted each year to account for cost of living and other fluid factors. The new scale will be shared with the staff within one week. The new salary scale is approved unanimously. The motion to approve is led by Richard and seconded by Justin D.

Development Update (Anne, Director of Development)

Anne reports on the progress to goals (see attached), and highlights that we are ahead of where we were at this time last year. She also indicates that some donors have made multi-year commitments. Some of these top donors are already pledged for next year.

Anne reports that we have started planning for the upcoming Spring Benefit. Each Board member will update their guest list by Friday, relay sponsorship suggestions to Anne, and will have secured 2-3 auction items by the next Board Meeting.

Consultant Update (Kristi, CEO)

Kristi reports on the work she and Jamal and have done with the consultant to date. The consultant has a donor who is paying for his services in full.

School Spotlight: Literacy (Kristi, CEO)

Kristi presents about the Literacy curriculum. We use the Teachers College model, in which students are leveled A-Z and use “just right” books based on their reading level. Each day classes have mini-lessons, and individual reading time. There are also a range of special events and celebrations to promote a love of reading. A current challenge is how to best support literacy in Middle School, where many students are reading below grade level, while also preparing students for High School. School leadership is currently in conversation about how to address this challenge.

Disciplinary Review Committee Report (Jamal, COO)

Jamal updates the Board about a recent expulsion hearing. The Board discusses its stance on this case, and similar cases in the future.

Personnel Update (Kristi, CEO)

Kristi reports that the school recently lost two Middle School teachers mid-year.

The Board entered an executive session to discuss a personnel issue, as allowable by the PA State Sunshine Laws.

The hiring of Donna Green for Middle School Math at Fernhill was approved unanimously. Motion to approve was led by Richard and seconded by Rosi.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Action Items:

- **Board members need to submit their statements of financial interest ASAP.**
- **Board Members will update their guest list by Friday.**
- **Board Members will relay sponsorship suggestions to Anne.**
- **Board Members will have secured 2-3 auction items by the next Board Meeting.**

Handouts that were distributed are attached.