

Wissahickon Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 11, 2025, 6:10pm - 7:42pm
Meeting held via Zoom Conferencing

Board Members Present: Justin DiBerardinis, Erich Holland (Vice Chair), Allora Buckshon (Treasurer), Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir (Secretary), Shauna Mace, Jason Manning, Ohenewaa White-Ra, Dan Pereira (arrived late)

Board Members Absent: Michelle Alcaraz, Rachel Loeper

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

Guests Present: Jesse Bean (Vertex Education); Melanie Wright, Rachel Courtney, Tom Dockery, Vasil Hlinka, Fran Lawall, Ed Mongan, Leann Perez, Tonya Ryzick (Compass Pro Bono); Wes Suggs (UPenn Wharton Fellow)

Justin DiBerardinis called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

Some Good News and Board Good News (Kristi)

Before sharing Good News, Kristi started off the meeting by informing the Board that Anthony Coughlin had resigned from the Board on June 9th. Kristi wished him well and expressed appreciation for his work on the board.

For Good News, Kristi attempted to share a video slide show of some happy WCS moments over the school year, however there were technical difficulties. The Board was sent the video by email to view individually at a later time.

Members of the Board were given an opportunity to share their own good news.

Consent Agenda (Justin)

The Consent Agenda contained the May Meeting Minutes, the proposed 2025-2026 Board Calendar, the WCS 2025-2026 Draft Operating Budget, the May Check Disbursements, and the Revised Enrollment Policy. The board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was led by Shauna and seconded by Allora.

Finance Update (Jesse Bean, Vertex Education)

Jesse Bean of Vertex Education started the Finance Update with a report that the School District of Philadelphia released a preliminary budget. WCS can expect to see a 17% increase per student for regular education students and a 14% increase for sped students.

The school's cash balance increased. The cash balance on May 31, 2025, was equal to 184.8 days of cash on hand. Total current liabilities on May 31, 2025, are approximately \$762,478 less than at June 30, 2024.

This is a result of a decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses.

The school's current ratio, a measure of its ability to meet current payment obligations, also increased. This is to be expected because the liability decreased as described above.

Justin called for a motion to approve the Financial Statements. The board voted unanimously to approve the Financial Statements. Rekyiah led the motion, and Jason seconded.

Jesse explained that the Board would need to adopt a resolution to authorize the Vertex team to file the application for PA Lease Reimbursement funding on Wissahickon Charter's behalf. This is a simple, annual, recurring, and required process that brings a fraction of a school's annual rent/lease costs back to the school.

Justin called for a motion to approve the Lease Reimbursement. A role call vote was required for this motion. The results of the role call vote were as follows:

Erich Holland - approve

Allora Buckshon- approve

Jason Manning - approve

Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir - approve

Shauna Mace - approve

Ohenewaa White-Ra - approve

Justin DiBerardinis - approve

Rachel Loeper - absent

Michelle Alcaraz - absent

Dan Pereira - absent

Compass Report (Compass Pro Bono - Melanie Wright, Rachel Courtney, Tom Dockery, Vasil Hlinka, Fran Lawall, Ed Mongan, Leann Perez, Tonya Ryzick)

Members of the Compass Pro Bono Team, who have been consulting with Kristi Littell, Jane Walsh, and the Wissahickon Board over the 2024-2025 school year, gave a final presentation outlining recommendations for evolving Wissahickon Charter School's Board of Trustees from an organizing board to a governing board. Key topics included:

- Clarification of board roles, including legal duties and responsibilities

- Recommendations for restructuring board committees and improving board operations, onboarding, and fundraising
- A proposed implementation timeline spanning 12 months, with clear action items for the Executive and Governance Committees
- Development of toolkits to support board member recruitment, onboarding, performance evaluation, and fundraising

Governance Update (Shauna Mace)

Shauna gave an update on recruiting efforts. With two members stepping off and one having resigned, we would ideally like to recruit at least three new members, though the school's by-laws do allow for more. At the time of the meeting, the board had not brought forth any candidates for membership.

Allora reported that she has a couple of individuals in mind for the role and will continue conversations. If any express interest, she will introduce them to Shauna.

Shauna reminded Board Members of some of the qualities we are looking for in board members. While there are many valuable traits and types of expertise that a board member could bring, at this point, we are primarily looking for individuals with a higher capacity for engagement and who are open to introducing new supporters (Board Members, Donors, Partners, etc.) to WCS.

A motion was called to vote on the Board Officers for the 2025-2026 school year. The candidates are as follows:

Erich - Chair

Shauna - Vice Chair

Allora - Treasurer

Rekyiah - Treasurer

Jason led the motion to elect the above members to their respective Officer roles. Ohenewaa seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by the board.

CEO Report (Kristi)

- **Diversity, Equity, Justice** - Kristi reported that 14 individuals have been hired so far for the 2025-2026 school year. Three of these individuals were internally promoted. Amongst all 14 individuals, 57% are BIPOC, and 100% of the internal promotions are BIPOC. Across all of Philadelphia, just 35% of teachers identify as BIPOC.
- **Safety** - Over the summer, several safety improvements will be made.

- **End of School Year** - Many happy and celebratory moments took place during the final weeks of school, which officially ended today. Some of these events include the Celebrations of Learning, Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduations, School Dances, and our annual Fun Days.

As allowable by PA State Sunshine Laws, The Board went into Closed Session at 7:23pm to discuss a personnel matter.

The board came out of closed session and adjourned at 7:42pm.

Supporting Documents:

- Board Meeting Minutes 5.14
- Board Meeting Schedule 2025-2026
- WCS 2025-2026 Draft Budget
- WCS Check Disbursements 202505
- WCS_Enrollment_Policy_2025_(rev.6-9-2025)
- 24-25 Threat Assessment Team Report
- 24-25 WCS Safety and Security Report
- Board Meeting Agenda 6.11.25
- Lease Reimbursement
- WCS CEO Evaluations 2024-2025
- WCS Financial Stmts 202505
- WCS_Final Presentation_2025 06 05 Review

Action Items:

- All Board Members are to reach out to their networks to help secure Board Candidates for the 2025-2026 School Year. Interested candidates should be referred to Shauna.