

**Wissahickon Charter School**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
September 17, 2025, 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Meeting held via Zoom Conferencing

**Board Members Present:** Erich Holland (Chair), Shauna White (Vice Chair), Allora Buckshon (Treasurer), Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir (Secretary), Michele Alcaraz, Dan Pereira, Jason Manning

**Board Members Absent:** Ohenewaa White

**Staff Present:** Kristi Littell (CEO), Jane Walsh (Director of Development), Ilana Lipowicz (Executive Assistant)

**Guests Present:** Mike Whisman (Vertex), Wes Suggs (The Wharton School of UPenn), Spencer Nussrallah (The Wharton School of UPenn)

**Erich called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.**

**Introductions (Kristi)**

The Board shared introductions to welcome new attendees.

**Norms (Erich)**

Erich reviewed the Board Meeting norms.

**Good News (Kristi)**

The Board shared good news. Kristi shared that the Outward Bound Blue Heron Award was awarded to founding Awbury Discovery teacher, Liz Biagioli. Members of the Board took turns sharing their good news.

**Consent Agenda (Erich)**

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- August 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- WCS Enrollment Policy 25-26
- July 2025 and August 2025 Expenses

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Board. The motion was led by Shauna and seconded by Allora.

**Finance Committee Meeting Report(Allora)**

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- Redoing Finance & Audit Committee Charter, to be voted on in next board meeting
- Audit coming up, numbers expected in October. Adding a finance committee meeting in December to review audit and will present to Board in January

**Finance Update (Mike)**

- Cash went up slightly, normal low activity for summer
- Still no PA budget which is delaying state funds to public schools
- Expecting a payment from PSD in October
- WCS in good shape in terms of balance sheet and cash balances, can weather delays in funding

**Governance (Shauna)**

Recruitment Update

- Discussion of board recruitment, down 3 members from end of SY 24-25
- Board members take strengths assessment survey
- Board has successfully engaged a group of potential new members
- Prioritizing candidates who are connectors: can help from a development perspective
- Prioritizing candidates who can support with disciplinary review work
- Allora requests to prioritize candidates who can join finance committee

Shauna presents Board candidate Ahsiya Posner Mencin for a vote. The board unanimously approves Ahsiya as a new Board member. The motion was led by Shauna and seconded by Dan.

**Development Update (Jane Walsh)**

- Fundraising goal raised to \$775,000
- Gifts in hand or pledged: \$370,000
- Fall Appeal in process
- Wissagiving coming up in November
  - Focus will be field trips+. This means Joyful experiences including special assemblies, guest speakers, etc. (Kristi)
- EITC: a specific state-level initiative that allows businesses and individuals to contribute to approved educational programs like Wissahickon in exchange for a tax credit
- Foundation Board is in recruitment process (Kristi)

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**CEO Report (Kristi)**

- **Professional Development:** One week PD for new teachers only and another week of PD for all teachers. Jamila Sams kicked off teacher PD in race & equity training. She will be working with each campus on DEIB goals.
- **Facilities:** Some hurdles with facilities at the start of SY. A new cleaning company was hired. Fernhill floors are now fully refreshed, and Awbury floors still need work
- **State of the Institution:** Kristi shares State of the Institution that was shared with staff at PD and takes questions
- **SY 25-26 Goals:** Goals for this year will come from Y2 strategic plan. Kristi to share in October Board meeting
- **Hiring:** Three roles are currently open and in the hiring process

**7:02 PM**

**The Board of Trustees entered a closed session to discuss a confidential student matter as allowable through PA State Sunshine Laws.**

**Closed Session**

A motion to approve the items discussed in closed session was made by Jason and seconded by Rekyiah. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Allora and seconded by Jason. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Closed Session adjourned at 7:30 PM.**

**Board Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.**

**Supporting Documents:**

- Board Meeting Minute 8.18.25
- Board Meeting Agenda 9.17.25
- WCS Financial Statements July 2025
- WCS Financial Statements August 2025
- State of the Institution 2025
- 251-24 Synopsis and Board Resolution
- EITC-EIO Funding Guide
- Ahsiya Posner Mencin Resume

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**Action Items:**

- Board Members to reach out to their networks to share Fall Appeal
- Erich & Rekyiah will sign 251-24 Board Agreement