

Approved Minutes
Board of Governors Meeting
Washington Latin Public Charter School
5200 2nd Street, NW Washington, DC
Thursday, July 24, 2014
6:00pm

Governors Present: M. Cave (via Skype); C. Culver (phone); J. Davis; T. DiBiase; A. Economou; C. Ejiasa; S. Kimpel; M. Lerner (late in-person arrival); M. Levasseur (late in-person arrival); A. Lovett; C. Siddall; A. Wilkins (late, phone)

Governors Absent: R. Greiff

Head of School: M. Cutts

Guests: Kate Cromwell, WLPCS Director of Development
Geovanna Izurieta, WLPCS Director of Finance
Diana Smith, WLPCS Principal

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Mr. Ejiasa called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
2. **Minutes:** The Board approved the Minutes of May 29, 2014 and Special Board Minutes of July 4, 2014 and July 11, 2014 unanimously and with no changes after a motion made by Ms. Economou and seconded by Mr. DiBiase.
3. **Contracts over \$25,000:** Ms. Izurieta noted that WLPCS had gone through the RFP process for contracts over \$25,000 and confirmed that WLPCS does not see a conflict of interest between the board and companies. Mr. Davis mentioned his concern regarding the rising cost of health insurance, and Ms. Cutts and Ms. Izurieta confirmed that while benefits have stayed the same, paying them has gotten more expensive. They explained that WLPCS has met with the Meltzer Group to address their concerns.
4. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Davis explained that Ms. Izurieta is still in the process of closing out June, but that generally WLPCS is concluding the fiscal year with \$4.3 million dollars of what appears to be discretionary money; after accounting for debt repayment, however, he clarified that only \$200,000 is truly discretionary. Mr. Davis also shared the updated investment policy, which widens the number of investment opportunities, albeit very conservatively, and gives the Head of School greater discretion. Mr. Davis made a motion to update investment policy, Mr. DiBiase seconded the motion, and the board approved it unanimously.

5. **FOCUS Lawsuit:** Board members debated the pros and cons of joining FOCUS's lawsuit against the District of Columbia for inequitable funding of charter schools as a plaintiff alongside the DC Association of Chartered Public Schools and Eagle Academy. Each board member shared his or her personal opinion, and Mr. DiBiase offered his legal expertise. Mr. Chinesom made a motion to become a plaintiff to the FOCUS lawsuit, and Ms. Economou seconded that motion. It was approved with nine votes in favor and two votes against.
6. **Head of School Report:** Ms. Cutts outlined current enrollment numbers and highlighted the especially high number of Special Education students this year, noting its effect on both staffing and finances. Ms. Cutts also commented that Common Lottery had gone well, and that distribution by ward was not terribly different than in years past.
7. **Project Steering Committee:** Mr. Davis explained that the committee was still in the process of reviewing materials and needed more clarity on funding before moving forward.
8. **Development Committee:** Director of Development Kate Cromwell began her presentation by highlighting a fundraising goal of \$1.1 million for 2014-15. She reviewed a Giving Pyramid that outlined current donors and giving, describing gaps and future objectives. She also outlined a growth narrative, explaining that WLPCS seeks to complete projects that transform the school from start-up to complete. To that end, she described the capital campaign for the gym as well as a campaign to raise teacher salaries. Ms. Cromwell then fielded several questions from board members around strategies, language, and board support on those topics.
9. **Strategic Committee:** Mr. Levasseur began by highlighting a minor revision to the Succession Plan, noting that the Head of School would provide 90 days notice instead of 60. With that, Mr. Levasseur made a motion to approve the Succession Policy, Mr. DiBiase seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Board members then undertook a discussion of strategic planning and next-steps with Ms. Cutts and Principal Diana Smith.
10. **Adjournment:** Mr. Ejiasa made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Economou seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.