

Approved Minutes
Board of Governors Meeting
Washington Latin Public Charter School
5200 2nd Street, NW Washington, DC
Thursday, November 20, 2014
6:00pm

Governors Present: C. Culver; J. Davis; T. DiBiase; A. Economou; A. Ejiasa; S. Kimpel; M. Lerner; M. Levasseur; A. Lovett (late); J. Olchefske; C. Siddall (phone); A. Wilkins

Absent: M. Cave; R. Greiff

Head of School: M. Cutts

Guests: Kate Cromwell, WLPCS Director of Development
Tom Hagerty, WLPCS 8th Grade History Teacher
Diana Smith, WLPCS Principal
Chris Chung, Mary Kate McCarthy, and Victoria VanStekelenburg, Charter Board Partner Fellows (phone)

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ejiasa called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Economou then presented the minutes of October 30, 2014. The board approved them unanimously and with no changes after a motion made by Mr. DiBiase and seconded by Mr. Ejiasa.
3. **Governance Committee:** Mr. Ejiasa officially welcomed Mr. Olchefske to the Board, and each member introduced him- or herself. Mr. DiBiase then shared the update that unfortunately George Conway had declined his board appointment due to time constraints. Mr. DiBiase explained that, while this left the board with an even number of members (fourteen), the Governance Committee did not want to rush recruitment at the expense of finding the right fit and so would continue its search.
4. **Academic Committee:** To counterbalance the last two data-focused presentations, Ms. Economou explained that the Academic Committee would conclude the calendar year with a teacher voice and introduced Tom Hagerty, the eighth grade American History teacher. Mr. Hagerty spoke to his credentials and previous professional experiences as well as his opinion of what makes WLPCS "Latin." He highlighted numerous characteristics, chief among them the school's leadership, its belief in the whole student, teacher development and autonomy, as well as a cool-to-be-smart student culture. Mr. Lerner inquired how data was used to inform instruction, and Mr. Hagerty explained that

teachers had access to a database, PowerSchool, which provided every available metric of each student's test performance. More generally, though, he said that because of the small class sizes and close teacher-student relationships, teachers had an intrinsically strong sense for each student's performance.

5. **Report of Contracts over \$25,000:** Ms. Cutts reported that there were no new updates, though she did note a recently posted RFP for a tutoring service because it may exceed \$25,000.
6. **Report from Board President:** Mr. Ejiasa began by announcing a strategic leadership position for Ms. Lovett with consensus from the Executive Committee. He and Mr. DiBiase then shared some relevant personal updates. On behalf of Carrie Irvin, President of Charter Board Parters (CBP), who was sick and unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Ejiasa then reviewed the key findings of CBP's Board Effectiveness Diagnostic Report. He highlighted areas of both strength and weakness and outlined next-steps.
7. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Davis presented on behalf of the committee and began by noting a current enrollment of 671 students. He explained that it was a slightly higher number than originally anticipated because more students persisted from eighth grade through ninth than expected. In follow up to the audit finding and report presented at the October board meeting, Mr. Davis then noted that all proper accounts had been established. Ms. Wilkins inquired as to a budget line item regarding the Parent Association, and Ms. Culver asked about salary financing for teachers that start mid-year. Mr. Davis concluded by noting that the committee was focused on thinking about funding beyond operations to support future strategic objectives and that WLPCS Director of Finance, Ms. Izurieta, would return from maternity leave on December 1st.
8. **Head of School Report:** Ms. Cutts began by expressing concern over WLPCS's steadily decreasing number of low-income students. She directed members' attention to a chart illustrating the clear trend-line and explained that this was a top-of-mind issue for her and her leadership team who all see socioeconomic diversity as critical to the school's mission. Ms. Culver inquired as to WLPCS's process for admissions and recruitment, and Ms. Cutts explained that she worked closely with Director of Admissions, Mrs. Crystal Eleby-El, on this. Ms. Wilkins suggested offering bus service as a potential remedy and recalled that WLPCS may have had a bus line to Anacostia in its first year. Ms. Economou voiced her support for an additional bus line but also reminded that, because bus service is not publicly reimbursable, WLPCS would need to assume the expense. Mr. DiBiase argued that, from the parent perspective on recruitment, a bus line was critical because it offered a safe and timely means to and from school. Mr. Olchefske noted the District decline of low-income citizens in general and suggested that greater context be explored. Mr. Lerner inquired as to the perceived effect of the Common Lottery, and Ms. Cutts explained that, while she had not seen a real deleterious impact, it is true that the Common Lottery

required a degree of sophistication to navigate in its first year that may have favored middle-class families over low-income ones.

9. **Strategic Committee:** The board continued its conversations on strategic planning, referencing the first draft of a document written and circulated by Ms. Cutts, Dr. Smith, and Ms. Cromwell.
10. **Development Committee:** Director of Development Kate Cromwell presented on behalf of the Development Committee, beginning with an update on the capital campaign. She then delineated donations and new pledges since October and gave a final overview of the Latin Pride Campaign, now officially completed. She reminded the board that it had raised \$185,000, surpassing its original goal of \$175,000 and made note of parent leaders who had been especially helpful in coordinating that success. She noted that the Classical Facilities Grant had been submitted on October 31st and concluded with her notes on Fall Coffees. Mr. Davis commended Ms. Cromwell's success in her first six months at WLPCS, and Ms. Cutts echoed him.
11. **Project Steering Committee:** Ms. Cutts happily announced that the architects and committee are moving forward toward finalized plans for the gym's construction.
12. **Old/New Business:** Mr. Ejiasa reminded everyone that this would be the last general board meeting until January 29, 2015, though he noted the possibility of a Special Meeting in the interim. He also forecasted that either the February or March meeting would be rescheduled to a day-long retreat for strategic planning.
13. **Adjournment:** Mr. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Levasseur seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.