

Approved Minutes
Board of Governors Meeting
Washington Latin Public Charter School
5200 2nd Street, NW Washington, DC
Thursday, October 29, 2015
6:00pm

Governors Present: M. Cave (phone); R. Dalal; A. Economou; M. Levasseur; A. Lovett; P. Mara; T. Morgan; J. Olchefske; A. Wilkins

Absent: C. Culver; J. Davis; C. Ejiasa; R. Greiff; H. Rawlings; T. Tuck

Head of School: M. Cutts

Guests: Kate Cromwell, WLPCS Director of Development
Geovanna Izurieta, WLPCS Director of Finance
Diana Smith, WLPCS Principal
Eric Harter, Shanahan Law Firm

1. **Call to Order:** Noting the unexpected absence of Board Chair Mr. Ejiasa due to car trouble and planned absence of Vice President Mr. Davis, Ms. Economou explained that as secretary she would run tonight's meeting and called it to order at 6:10pm. She welcomed Mr. Morgan, the newest addition to the board, and board members made appropriate introductions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Economou then presented the general board minutes of September 25, 2015, apologizing for the delay in their circulation. Ms. Lovett requested minor revisions to the description of the Search Committee, and Ms. Economou agreed, bumping the vote for their approval to the next board meeting.
3. **Report of Contracts over \$25,000:** Ms. Izurieta reported no new contracts.
4. **Board President Report:** Ms. Cutts noted that Mr. Ejiasa had intended to discuss alignment of goals but could address that at a later date. Ms. Economou also noted Mr. Ejiasa's intention to confirm her second three-year term of board service, the first of which expired that evening. Mr. Mara made a motion to nominate Ms. Economou to a second term of board service, Ms. Lovett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. **Head of School Report:**
 - a. **FOCUS lawsuit:** Ms. Cutts noted that attorney Stephen Marcus was scheduled to provide an update on the FOCUS lawsuit at the November board meeting.
 - b. **PARCC test results:** Ms. Cutts then reviewed the upper school PARCC test score results, articulating her and Dr. Smith's satisfaction with the test's initial administration. Board members commented on WLPCS's performance relative to other DC charter and traditional public schools and predicted how it might affect future enrollment trends. Ms. Cutts explained to board members that middle school results would be made available in mid-November, and Ms. Economou reminded board members that the academic committee would be conducting a data presentation on all PARCC results at January's board meeting. Ms. Cutts also shared that WLPCS had hired a data intern to help parse and synthesize performance results.
 - c. **Enrollment:** Mr. Levasseur clarified official enrollment at 685 students, and Ms. Cutts confirmed, noting October 5th as the cut-off date.
 - d. **Groundbreaking:** Ms. Cutts also reminded board members that the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new gym would be held on November 11, from 4-5pm.
6. **Strategic Committee:** Mr. Levasseur spoke on behalf of the Strategic Committee, noting how much progress had been made on the strategic plan and that it would be ready for public consumption by January 2016. He confirmed some final details and announced his hope that, as the committee stepped back, the board as a whole would take ownership to make it a live and meaningful document. Ms. Economou thanked Mr. Levasseur and the committee for their work in making so much important progress in a relatively short time.
7. **Academic Committee:** Ms. Economou then introduced teacher Bill Clausen, Head of the Classics Department, who presented on the Socratic Seminar, its mechanics, and critical role in WLPCS pedagogy. Mr. Clausen thanked the board for its work and his invitation to present. He shared some personal background and then showed a short clip of a seminar in which WLPCS students discuss a New Yorker article on Zell Kravinsky and a moral dilemma he poses. Mr. Clausen asked board members for their impressions, walked them through the notable features of the students' exchange, and answered numerous questions. Mr. Clausen attributed seminars' success to several factors, including: 1) the diversity of the students 2) the intimacy of their setting and 3) the genuine sense of trust in the greater school community.
8. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Olchefske directed this update to Ms. Izurieta who walked board members through the most recent financial statements, commenting on one variance and then total cash balances.
9. **Audit Committee:** Ms. Dalal also directed this update to Ms. Izurieta who reported that everything was proceeding smoothly with auditors Kendall,

Prebola, and Jones, and that audit approval would be sought at the next board meeting. Ms. Dalal congratulated Ms. Izurieta on an uneventful audit so far, noting that Kendall, Prebola, and Jones had already commented on their appreciation for Ms. Izurieta's work and their hope to continue working with WLPCS past this audit.

10. **Search Committee:** Ms. Lovett spoke on behalf of the committee, reporting that Mr. Rowland and Mr. Awrey of Carney, Sandoe & Associates had completed their report on the stakeholder visit, that it was very positive, and that she and committee members would make findings available for review shortly. Ms. Lovett then explained the timeline and process by which candidates would be whittled down, asking board members to block their calendars accordingly, particularly during the week of January 11, 2016.
11. **Development Committee:** Ms. Cutts announced the exciting news that WLPCS had blown past its Latin Pride Campaign goal of \$185,000 to raise \$203,583, crediting the leadership of Ms. Cromwell and parent Edith Shine for its phenomenal success. Ms. Cromwell noted that the board had not yet achieved 100% participation but that she was confident it would. Ms. Economou inquired as to the state of the Development Committee more generally, which was described as essentially non-functioning. Ms. Economou registered her frustration with the lack of activity on this committee, not only because of its critical role in fundraising and visibility, but also because it was resulting in inequitable time distribution across committee assignments. Ms. Cutts noted that this issue was on Mr. Ejiasa's radar. A few other board members voiced their own frustrations and hope that, given the importance of fundraising and development, this issue would be resolved quickly.
12. **Governance Committee:** Mr. Mara spoke briefly on behalf of the committee, sharing that it was in the process of standardizing its recruiting procedure for candidates. He also noted impending board member departures in 2016 and candidates currently on deck to replace them.
13. **Old/New Business:** Ms. Cutts provided a quick update on the gym, noting that the GNP had been finalized at \$4.8 million including the contingency, and hoped that a Grand Opening could be scheduled before graduation on June 13, 2016. She also thanked attorney Eric Harter for all his hard work to date. Ms. Economou made two brief housekeeping announcements: 1) She would be circulating forms for immediate signature, including governance, commitment and conflict of interest policies and 2) She was working to transition all board documents from hard copy to online storage and asked board members for their patience.
14. **Adjournment:** Ms. Economou made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Olchefske seconded it, and it was approved unanimously at 8:20pm.

