

**Approved Minutes**  
**Board of Governors Meeting**  
**Washington Latin Public Charter School**  
**5200 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC**  
**Wednesday, January 29, 2015**  
**6:00pm**

**Governors Present:** , M. Cave, C. Culver (late arrival), J. Davis, T. DiBiase, A. Economou, C. Ejiasa, R. Greiff (late arrival), M. Lerner (late arrival/early departure), M. Levasseur, A. Lovett, J. Olchefske (early departure), C. Siddall (phone/early departure), A. Wilkins

**Absent:** S. Kimpel

**Head of School:** M. Cutts

**Guests:** Liz Collins, WLPCS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade History Teacher  
Kate Cromwell, WLPCS Director of Development  
Geovanna Izurieta, WLPCS Director of Finance  
Diana Smith, WLPCS Principal  
Victoria Van Stekelenburg, Charter Board Partners fellow

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ejiasa called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Economou then presented the general board minutes of November 20, 2014 and Special Meeting minutes of January 7, 2015. The board approved them unanimously and with no changes after a motion made by Mr. Ejiasa and seconded by Mr. Olchefske.
3. **Report of Contracts over \$25,000:** Ms. Izurieta reported no new updates.
4. **Ad-Hoc Committee in Support of School Leader:** Ms. Lovett announced her four selections to this committee and provided her reasoning for each, naming Mr. Cave, Ms. Economou, Mr. Greiff, and Ms. Wilkins. Mr. DiBiase nominated the slate of candidates, Mr. Levasseur seconded their nomination, and the vote passed unanimously.
5. **Report from Board President:** Mr. Ejiasa updated the board on some personal affairs and then announced Mr. DiBiase's impending resignation, explaining that Mr. DiBiase would tie up some loose ends over the ensuing weeks but that this would be his last meeting. Mr. Ejiasa thanked Mr. DiBiase for his extraordinary contribution to WLPCS and presented him with a gift on behalf of the board. Mr. DiBiase expressed his own gratitude for a wonderful Latin experience, beginning

several years ago as a parent. Mr. Ejiasa explained that the board would work through the details of Mr. DiBiase's replacement at its next meeting.

6. **Project Steering Committee:** By way of background, Ms. Cutts explained that, before leaving office, former Mayor Gray froze \$40 million of funding due to a \$203 million revenue shortfall; this had stalled a number of projects, including WLPCS's grant to build a gym. Ms. Cutts reported DC Council's optimism in being able to quickly reinstate that money, having already made significant progress to that end. Nevertheless, Ms. Cutts and the Project Steering Committee wanted to proceed cautiously and, for that reason, had foregone the opportunity to purchase a building permit. Mr. Greiff inquired as to timeline, and Ms. Cutts responded that WLPCS should know more by the end of the following week. Mr. DiBiase noted how significantly the council had changed in recent months, and Ms. Cutts delineated some alternative funding options. In that vein, Ms. Cutts also shared her desire to assemble a Latin Leadership Circle, an advisory circle including major donors, and sought the board's opinion and approval. Mr. Olchefske suggested that it would be helpful to read and vote upon a formal resolution regarding members' titles if they were to include "Board Member Emeritus" nomenclature, and Ms. Cutts and Ms. Cromwell responded that they would be happy to formulate that and present it at the next meeting.
7. **Development Committee:** Mr. Greiff spoke on behalf of the Development Committee and began by stressing the need for fuller integration amongst the committees. He expressed his concern around fundraising pipeline and also emphasized the committee's intention to more honestly appraise fundraising opportunities and challenges. Ms. Economou inquired as to committee schedule, members, and meetings, and Mr. Greiff expressed a sense of urgency in coordinating those details. Mr. Greiff and Ms. Cromwell also inquired as to give-or-get policies for board members, and Mr. DiBiase explained that it had not been a component of board recruitment to date but that it was certainly worth considering going forward. Ms. Economou wondered if having a comparatively low FARMS population did not affect development efforts, and Ms. Cromwell confirmed her belief that it did and was a strategic consideration.
8. **Head of School Report:** Ms. Cutts relayed important conversations with potential donors and fellow charter school leaders. She also announced that WLPCS was prepared to offer bus service to and from Anacostia provided sufficient demand and was already advertising that in recruitment materials.
9. **Academic Committee:** Ms. Economou began by quickly reviewing the finalized Academic Summary and providing an update on the Academic Dashboard. She then explained that this presentation would be the first of a three-part series focusing on the "Faculty Lifecycle," this one highlighting teacher recruitment and hiring. Ms. Cutts and Dr. Smith reviewed some facts and figures and then spoke more qualitatively to the importance of hiring the right faculty and staff. They delineated their most reliable sources for good teachers, regular challenges, and

success stories. Dr. Smith also highlighted the qualities she seeks in new hires, including persistence, tenacity, and resilience. Ninth grade English teacher Elizabeth Collins then shared her experience as a first year teacher at Latin. Having taught for six years previously at public schools in DCPS and Fairfax County, Ms. Collins compared her experiences, described what had attracted her to Latin, and how she came to be hired. She stressed her immediate respect for Dr. Smith, the facility, the school's emphasis on relationships and citizenship, small class size, and teacher autonomy as critical draws. Board members asked several questions and then thanked her for her valuable insights.

10. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Davis presented on behalf of the Finance committee. He began by discussing the impending budget review and approval process. He also referenced the desire of some to see WLPCS allocate more funds to various expense line items, for example salaries, but indicated his own preference and that of the committee to reserve cash in light of approaching debt repayments and refinance. Mr. Davis confirmed that all board members would have the opportunity to weigh in during the budget review and approval process.
11. **Strategic Committee:** Mr. Levasseur led this conversation as the board continued its strategic planning, reviewing and revising the deliverables timeline based on input from other members.
12. **Old/New Business:** Mr. Ejiasa shared his hope that board members would be able to convene for a Saturday retreat in March in lieu of the February meeting. He explained that dates would be forthcoming as they worked around Bacchanalia (scheduled for March 6-8).
13. **Adjournment:** Mr. Ejiasa made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Levasseur seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.