

Approved Minutes

Board of Governors Meeting **Washington Latin Public Charter School** **5200 2nd Street, NW Washington, DC** **Thursday, November 19, 2015** **6:00pm**

Governors Present: M. Cave (phone); R. Dalal; J. Davis; A. Economou; C. Ejiasa; R. Greiff; M. Levasseur; A. Lovett; T. Morgan; J. Olchefske; H. Rawlings; T. Tuck; A. Wilkins

Absent: C. Culver; P. Mara

Head of School: M. Cutts

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

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ejiasa called the meeting to order at 6:20pm and welcomed the group, noting the impressive and almost full attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Economou then presented the general board minutes of September 24, 2015 and October 29, 2015. She reminded members that the September minutes had been revised since their original presentation at the request of Ms. Lovett regarding Search Committee notes. Both sets were approved unanimously and with no changes after a motion made by Ms. Economou and seconded by Mr. Olchefske.
3. **Report of Contracts over \$25,000:** Ms. Izurieta reported no new contracts.
4. **Board President Report:** Mr. Ejiasa resurfaced a previously stated concern around annual goal alignment between the Head of School, Board, and various committees. Mr. Olchefske and Ms. Economou reiterated their hope that instead of using the current, disparate formats, goals could be reorganized in a more streamlined, cohesive fashion using the strategic plan as an organizing principle. Ms. Lovett also noted that such an approach would likely prove helpful during the search and onboarding process of the new head of school. Mr. Ejiasa agreed. He also announced changes to the committee structure, noting that more board members translated to fewer committee assignments. Notable changes included Dr. Rawlings' phased appointment as chair of the Development Commitment (effective

Q1 2016)and Mr. Morgan’s appointment to the Finance committee. Mr. Ejiasa made a motion to nominate Dr. Rawlings and Mr. Morgan to their respective committees, Mr. Davis seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Head of School Report:** Ms. Cutts began by providing a brief update on a troubling harassment issue involving the safety of students walking to and from Fort Totten metro. She explained steps that she and her administration were taking with police and authorities to ensure a positive resolution and promised to keep board members posted. She then offered a short enrollment update, noting that it was likely that WLPCS would need to restrict the number of available openings in the ninth grade given capacity constraints. Ms. Cutts concluded by thanking Kearney Shanahan for the generous *pro bono* legal counsel offered by his firm and presented him with a gift.
6. **Audit Committee:** Ms. Izurieta and Mr. Ejiasa presented on behalf of the Audit Committee, noting their frustration around a last-minute adjustment (following the special meeting to approve the audit) regarding 10-month employees. Mr. Olchefske sought Mr. Morgan’s opinion given his background as an auditor, and Mr. Morgan noted that while it was admittedly frustrating that the mistake was not caught sooner, it was something WLPCS had overlooked as well and was fortunately caught before the audit’s completion. Mr. Ejiasa made a motion to approve and accept the audit subject to its final draft’s review by an ad hoc committee comprised of him, Mr. Morgan, and Ms. Dalal. Mr. Levasseur seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
7. **FOCUS Lawsuit:** Ms. Cutts invited Stephen Marcus, one of the attorneys representing FOCUS, to provide an update on the case. He reminded board members that the objective of the lawsuit was to ensure that DC public charters schools received equal funding under the uniform per-student funding formula. Mr. Marcus walked through the points of arguments on both sides of the case, the judge’s decision, and the upcoming timeline. He predicted that whoever loses will appeal to circuit court and that a final outcome would not be realized for several months.
8. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Olchefske presented on behalf of the finance committee and noted that it was a “good news” financial report with little change from the previous meeting. He also noted a healthy but somewhat misleading surplus that would merit further conversation, as much of it was already earmarked. Dr. Rawlings requested that the committee present a breakdown of the surplus, outlining amounts already committed and the total remainder.
9. **Search Committee:** Ms. Lovett presented on behalf of the search committee, announcing that the candidate pool had been whittled down to 8 semi-finalists. She then described the timeline by which the three finalists would be selected and asked members to block their calendars accordingly.

10. **Development Committee:** Ms. Cromwell reminded members to mark their calendars for the upcoming WLPCS gala on April 30th. She noted that the current location was McLean Gardens but welcomed other ideas; Mr. Greiff offered to connect her with 1776 as a possible location.
11. **Real Estate Committee:** Ms. Cutts provided a brief update on the gym, commenting that the groundbreaking ceremony had gone well and that construction was well underway.
12. **Strategic Committee:** Ms. Cromwell presented at the behest of Mr. Levasseur and on behalf of the strategic committee, demonstrating the mock-up of the strategic plan for external use. Debate ensued over particulars, including release date and images, but finally resolved with deference to Ms. Cromwell and the Development Committee as the external version was agreed to serve primarily as a fundraising tool.
13. **Adjournment:** Mr. Ejiasa thanked and congratulated everyone for participating in a demanding 2015-16 school year thus far and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rawlings seconded it, it passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.