

**Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 6:00 P.M. EDT

Present:

Bill Pricener, Board President/Treasurer (Zoom)
Dexter Hairston, Board Secretary
John Hisiro, Trustee (Zoom)
Don Marinelli, Trustee (Zoom)
Greg Jakub, Trustee (Zoom)
Gloria Raymond, Trustee (Zoom)
Matt Racunas, Solicitor (Zoom)
Rick Fosbrink, WAACS CEO (Zoom)
Betsy D'Emidio, WAACS Principal/CAO (Zoom)
Bernadette Gibson, WAACS Assoc. Principal
/Special Ed Coordinator(Zoom)
Chapree Pagliari, Dean of Students (Zoom)
Elizabeth Speed, WAACS Faculty & Dir. of
Marketing (Zoom)
Nadine Dunn, WAACS Business Admin/Brd
Recording Secretary (Zoom)

Excused:

JP Hernandez, Trustee

Guests:

Marian Sefcik, WAACS Guardian & Retired
Teacher
WAACS Faculty and Parents attending via Zoom

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees began at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call of Board Members:

Bill Pricener, Board President, welcomed all attending via Zoom.

Public Comment:

Ms. Marian Sefcik, concerned WAACS grandparent and retired teacher, spoke to the Board inquiring about the number of teachers that have left WACCS recently and these positions do not seem to be being replaced. As an educator herself, she knows how hard teachers work and the greater burden placed on the teaching staff because positions are being left empty. She fears that this would only add to the teacher retention issue. Ms. Sefcik continued to say that with some of the empty positions, she worries that we are not fulfilling the charter we have with East Allegheny. Mr. Pricener asked Mr. Fosbrink to respond. Mr. Fosbrink was unable to address any personnel matters however he did state that we are actively looking for teaching replacements. He cited the posting for a new Special Ed teacher on PA Educator however, we have not received any responses. Some of the hurdles we face in competing for qualified teachers are public school salary ranges and PSERS. Those are also some of the reasons teachers move from school to school. Additionally, teaching during a pandemic is difficult, hence hiring teachers is also difficult. Mr. Fosbrink assured Ms. Sefcik that the school is still growing, we will continue to look for and hire qualified teachers and any current vacancy will be filled as soon as possible.

Introduction of Dr. Betsy D'Emidio

Bill Pricener, Board Chair, welcomed and introduced to the entire Board, Dr. Betsy D'Emidio the new Principal of WAACS. Dr. D'Emidio shared her arts background in Music and her that her most recent position was with East Allegheny School District. She continued that she was very happy to be at WAACS and is looking forward to working with Faculty, Staff, and Board to build the future of WAACS.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Bill Pricener, Board President, called for a motion to accept the minutes from the 9/2/2020 meeting.

Motion made: To accept the minutes from 8/05/2020 - Greg Jakub, 2nd: John Hisiro

Vote: All in favor: ALL Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstaining- Motion Carried.

Board Governance:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, pointed out that the Board Member still had time to sign up for the board training being held virtually on Oct. 21 from 9 am to 1:30 pm. Dr. Don Marinelli asked Mr. Fosbrink to send a reminder email containing the link to the training out to the board members once again. Mr. Matt Racunas, our solicitor, will confirm if this is a yearly required training for all board members and report back to the board.

School Programs & Policies:

Nothing new to report. This section will be addressed by Dr. D'Emidio in future meetings.

School Personnel:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, referred the Board to the list of personnel that was supplied to the members prior to the meeting. Mr. Fosbrink noted that Ms. Bernadette Gibson will be staying on and transitioning to our Associate Principal & Special Ed Coordinator position.

Bill Pricener, Board President, called for a motion to approve the personnel report.

Motion made: To approve the personnel report - John Hisiro; 2nd: Gloria Raymond

Vote: All in favor: ALL Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstaining- Motion Carried.

Report on Facilities:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, reported that the final planning study from MCF Architects was received and now we have to decide how we want to break this large project into smaller chunks. Mr. Fosbrink informed the Board that MCF Architects would be willing to help us in this process. Mr. Fosbrink continued to say that now is the time we need to start thinking of donors and asked board member Gloria Raymond if she would help on the fundraising committee. Mr. Pricener added that he had a conversation with a contact of his that advised him to look into smaller foundations for grants. Once we get a few smaller foundations on board with the project, we can then approach the larger ones in Pittsburgh.

Report on Finance and Business Services:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, apologized for the lateness of the board meeting items and said it was due to the financial reports coming out of the new software. The school billing report was not working as seamlessly as we were led to believe from the software sales person. The school billing had to be redone and the report numbers as well. Mr. Fosbrink commented on the two sets of reports but overall we are doing much better financially than we had been almost a year ago. The payment to RPA was explained because it was larger than our usual rental payment. September's payment included a reimbursement to RPA for property taxes they needed to pay up front to close the bank loan for the summer projects. WAACS normally pays the property tax directly to the tax collector. The auditors will be reviewing the reports soon.

Mr. Pricener asked for a motion to retroactively approve payroll, contracts, and bills for September.

Motion made: To approve the contracts, bills and payroll for September- Don Marinelli, 2nd: John Hisiro

Vote: All in favor: ALL Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstaining- Motion Carried.

Report on Marketing and Enrollment:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, stated that we didn't have anything new to report with regard to Marketing and Enrollment. We are experiencing lots of flux due to Covid and how school is working this year, some like the hybrid environment, while others do not. Elizabeth Speed, WAACS Faculty and Director of Marketing, stated

that they would have more solid yet conservative numbers for the Board next month. Ms. Susan Maskerinac, Director of Admissions and PR, has already started working on and touring student candidates for the 21-22 school year. When asked what is working the best for getting prospective students, Ms. Speed stated that word of mouth is our best advertising. She continued to say parents can help by posting signs and having their students talk about the school to their friends. We are still running our Each One - Reach One offer, where students who refer a prospective student to us and they accept will get a WAACS hooded sweatshirt. According to Ms. Speed, 75 students have received a sweatshirt so far this year.

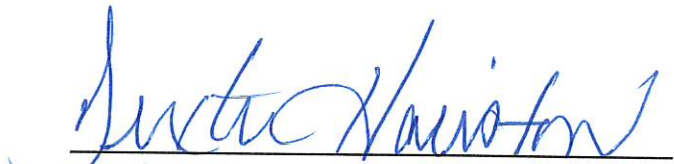
Executive Session:

Bill Pricener, Board President, stated that there were no issues to be addressed in the Executive session and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Pricener then asked for a motion to adjourn. Greg Jakub made the motion and Don Marinelli 2nd. The public meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Next Meeting: November 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Date:


Board Secretary