

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 6:00 P.M. EDT

Present:

Bill Pricener, Board President/Treasurer
Greg Jakub, Trustee
Don Marinelli, Trustee
Bernadette Gibson, Trustee (Zoom)
Gloria Rayman, Trustee
John Hisiro, Trustee
Matt Racunas, Solicitor
Rick Fosbrink, WAACS CEO
Kelly Lombard, WAACS Principal
Debra Lehew, WAACS Dir. SpEd (Zoom)
Nadine Dunn, WAACS Dir, of Engagement &
Board Recording Secretary

Excused:

Dexter Hairston, Board Secretary
JP Hernandez, Trustee

Guests:

Westinghouse Arts Parents attending via Zoom

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees began at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call of Board Members:

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

Public Comment:

None

Mr. William Pricener, Board President, welcomed Dr. Kelly Lombard, our new school principal to her first board meeting. Dr. Lombard gave a quick overview of her background and answered some questions from Board members.

Guest Presentations:

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Bill Pricener, Board President, stated that the minutes from the last meeting contained an error. He then asked if anyone had additional corrections or comments to the September minutes. Mr. Pricener called for a motion to accept the minutes, with corrections, from the 9/1/2021 meeting.

Motion made: To accept the corrected minutes from 9/1/2021 - Greg Jakub; 2nd: John Hisiro

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

Board Governance:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, reminded the Board once again that the PA Coalition of Charter School Conference is being held on October 20, 21, 22. He will be attending in person.

School Programs & Policies:

Dr. Kelly Lombard, Principal, stated that in reviewing the new ACT 158 that we will have to revise the Graduation policy to add the new pathways to Graduation. These pathways consist of 8 alternatives to Keystone scores to show proficiency in the subject area. Dr. Lombard continued by saying that she intends to

create a faculty group and a student group so that these groups can voice their concerns and ideas to further update school policies.

Dr. Lombard addressed with the Board a parent's concern with the Masking Policy here at Westinghouse Arts Academy. Our solicitor, Matt Rancunas answered by stating that the School Masking policy is mandated by the State Government and we must abide by that ruling. There are many cases at the state level and until the State Government changes or updates the mandate, our School Board cannot override what is mandated.

Dr. Lombard concluded by informing the Board that the school will be holding a Homecoming dance and hosting Haunted Hallways for the Wilmerding Community again this year.

School Personnel:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, reviewed the new hire list included in the Board items for review. He notes a few changes such as the hiring of a new building sub to replace a building sub who moved into a full-time teaching position. We also hired an LPN to assist our school nurse and manage the weekly Covid testing program. Also, he informed the Board that Ms. Chapree Pagilari had tendered her resignation and will not return from maternity leave. Mr. Fosbrink said he had a very nice conversation with Ms. Pagilari and told her that she would be welcomed back if she ever wanted to return.

Motion made: To approve the personnel report - Gloria Rayman; 2nd: Don Hisiro

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

Report on Facilities:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, was happy to report that all is well.

Report on Fundraising:

Rick Fosbrink, CEO, informed the Board that we submitted our EITC Application to the State and we also submitted an application for a Safety Grant, similar to the one we received two years ago. The last safety grant helped pay for cameras and the PA system. If we are granted this one, we would use it to update our entry system to be able to access doors using your phone. This phone app would also be able to track entrances and exits, especially during emergency situations. Mr. Fosbrink stated that our report to the Allegheny Foundation was also submitted.

Mr. Fosbrink announced that we will be holding our second fundraising dinner and show event. The date is November 13th. We are in the planning stages but again we will have ticket levels such as Table purchases, Individual Dinner & Show combos, and just show tickets. The students will be performing a MTI show on the main stage that evening; as well as silent student art auctions, and FTO basket raffle. Mr. Fosbrink asked the Board members to help us build out our invite list by sending invites to their contacts. More information will be forthcoming.

Lastly, Mr. Fosbrink, several members of the Board, and Ms. Dunn had a great first meeting with Carter Fundraising. We have started having weekly meetings with them and will update the Board moving forward.

Report on Finance and Business Services:

Mr. Fosbrink presented two Bond options which would allow us to purchase the school building. The first option was through Charter School Capital. In speaking with Charter School Capital, Mr. Fosbrink was not happy that they were not able to produce any documentation showing that at the end of the 40 years, we would receive the building back from them. In discussions with our solicitor about this deal, Mr. Fosbrink was introduced to an independent Bond company, PiperSandler. Mr. Fosbrink reviewed the self Bond option and stated that at the end of this option we would save a great deal of money. We will have to come to a decision

quickly due to the Landlords looking to sell our building by the end of this calendar year. Mr. Fosbrink will share more information with the Board once he has another meeting with his PiperSandler contact tomorrow.

Mr. Fosbrink presented the contracts, bills, and payroll reports for the month of September. The Board had a brief discussion regarding their approval vs ratification of items. Our solicitor stated that most Boards do not hold invoices or payroll, thus they ratified paid items from the past month. The September items were reviewed and there was nothing out of the ordinary. Mr. Pricener called for a motion to ratify.

Motion made: To ratified the contracts, bills and payroll for September - Gloria Rayman; 2nd: Greg Jakub
Vote: All in favor: ALL Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstaining- Motion Carried.

Report on Marketing and Enrollment:

Rick Fosbrink stated that our Charter Renewal was sent to EA for review. That being said, our Marketing Specialist and Director of Admissions have been working hard. Alex, our Marketing Specialist, has been uploading department videos to our social media outlets. He also tweaked our web boilerplate to hi-lite our impact on the student's education and the community of Wilmerding. Mr. Fosbrink stated that our current student enrollment is 310. The number fluctuates this time of year and starts to level out by mid-October. Both employees are doing a great job getting students involved.

Executive Session:

Mr. Pricener thanked everyone for attending and stated that the Board Members will now go into the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Pricener called for an adjournment motion of the public session.


Motion made: To adjourn the public meeting and enter into the Executive Session - John Hisiro

The Board went into the Executive Session and the public meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2021 at 6:00 pm

12/30/21

Date:



Board Secretary