

WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30pm

<https://westinghousearts-org.zoom.us/my/j4985722966> BoardMeeting

Meeting ID: 829 0442 0112

Passcode: 413522

Present:

Mr. William Pricener - Board President and Treasurer
Ms. Bernadette Gibson - Chair of Education Committee (Zoom)
Ms. Gloria Rayman - Chair of Development Committee (Zoom)
Mr. Greg Jakub - Chair of Nominating Committee
Dr. John Hisiro - Board Member (Zoom)
Dr. Donald Marinelli - Board Member (Zoom)
Mr. Dexter Hairston - Board Secretary (Zoom)
Mr. Gregory Beal - Executive Director
Dr. Kelly Lombard - WAA School Principal (Zoom)
Dr. Debra Lehew - WAA Director of Special Education
Mr. Alex Boyd - WAA School Operations Manager

Ms. Anna Very - WAA Dean of Students
Mr. Lenz Lenz - WAA Performing Arts Department Head
Ms. Lindsey McDivitt - WAA Science Department Head (Zoom)
Mr. David Graham - WAA Science Department Head (Zoom)

Guests:

Westinghouse Arts FTO Members attending via Zoom
Westinghouse Arts Faculty attending via Zoom
Westinghouse Arts Parents attending via Zoom
Members of the public via Zoom

The Meeting of the Board of Directors began at 6:32pm.

Roll Call of Board Members:

Mr. William Pricener welcomed all attending the meeting via Zoom and in person.

1. Public Comment

Westinghouse Arts Academy Board kindly requests that public comment be kept to 3 minutes per commenter, in order to respect the time of the attendees and the Board Members. Thank you.

Mr. Pricener opened it up from public comment. No one requested public comment.

Agenda Items were adjusted for Dr. Lombard, on zoom.

6. Academics/Instruction Reports

6.1. Report from the Principal – Dr. Kelly Lombard

Dr. Kelly Lombard - Part of what I would like to share is a summary of what is going on in the school. The board has asked to highlight the good that this is happening in all of our departments. We have renamed our general education groups to the Liberal Arts Department. Tonight we have the Performing Arts department head, and we also have the science department heads who are going to speak out as well. This is to help everyone to see what we do. Really we need to communicate what we do and how we do things. At this time, I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Lenz.

6.1.1.2. Report from the Performing Arts Department – Mr. Lenz

Mr. Nick Lenz - I'm really excited to be here. I have a little bit of a lengthy report.

- Who's Who in the performing arts department?
 - Lenz, Casciato, Tolbert-King, Lustig, Rigby, Berger, Very - Miss Very still working within the PAD as needed.
 - Dr. Lombard and Lenz did the first Downtown Destinations with Trust Arts Series to see "Moby Dick" at the Byham Theatre last week. The show was a puppet show, featuring life-size human puppets. International tour from the UK. 35 students in attendance. We get up to 50 tickets per performance.
 - Trust Arts Performances - 3 of the 4 events were fully subsidized for tickets and 50% subsidized for transportation. Additional private donors and the FTO helping to subsidize the additional costs for no cost to students.
 - Theatre Arts workshop is the next trip. Fully subsidized through Trust Arts.

Mr. Pricener - would they subsidize full families?

Mr. Lenz - not at this time, but we can look at other programs for that. We are still looking for one more donor for about \$150-\$200.

Mr. Pricener - Is there any stopgap? If needed, we can raise those funds per student.

Mr. Lenz - If the departments can help, they will.

Dr. Marinelli - I'll send you a check for \$150.

Mr. Beal - I will cover the rest if needed.

Mr. Lenz - hope to incorporate all of the performing arts next year, hopefully 6-8 performances next year. Inaugural trip was wonderful. Thank you to all, including the FTO.

- 2 musical theatre students who will be representing WAA at Heinz Hall with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Phenomenal opportunity for our students and school.
 - Dr. Marinelli is to thank for this opportunity, reaching out to us.
- Getting to work in a full professional setting was very special.

Dr. Marinelli - I would like to add that I think Nick deserves tremendous commendation for finding two very capable students. Another shoutout to Alex. Westinghouse bailed out Carnegie Mellon and Point Park for this event. You should feel very good. The symphony was "gaga". In all the years I have been an academic, to this day, the most professional experience I ever had was my high school. I used to say that we had our act together better than I see over here. You cannot under appreciate the education and impact you are having on these people. The symphony is saying "come on down and see it".

Mr. Pricener - Thank you, Don. Let's hope this turns into a more deep affiliation with the PSO.

Mr. Lenz gave ticketing information for these performances.

- 2nd Performing Arts Workshop Class - gather in the auditorium and students are able to share works with their peers.
 - We have had Mrs. Tolbert-King introduce and facilitate Liz Lerman's CRP, to allow for more structured and constructive feedback.

- She walks the entire audience through that vocabulary and process.
 - This is going to shape and delivery on curriculum with constructive criticism
- Slippery Rock - Presentation on Alternative Careers in the Arts at WAA
 - Offered 2 masterclasses - costume design and scenic painting
 - Furtherance of our relationship with Slippery Rock - dance, musical theatre, theatre
 - Ms. Jada Patterson - brought her students from studio arts to learn more about how they can utilize their talents
- Save the date - International Thespian Society
 - March 1 and 2 "STAMPS" One Act Performances - written by a WAA graduate Finch Kleugel
- Jacob Berger - joining us from Carnegie Mellon
 - Assimilated seamlessly into our community, teaching classes at full pace, they are going to be a great fit here at westinghouse
- Save the date - Instrumental showcase - Saturday, February 25
 - 6 majors represented, chamber ensemble, instrumental ensemble, music practicum
 - More solo and small group acts
 - Hope is to raise funds - cookie walk fundraiser, basket raffle, ticket proceeds \$10/person
 - Raising funds for instrumental program

6.1.1.1. Report from Science Department – Miss Lindsey McDivitt and Mr. David Graham

Miss McDivitt - general department things

- As of this past weekend, I'm a published researcher
- Undergraduate research available if you would like to go find it on google
- February 20th - science career panel - American association of chemistry teachers
 - 4 local community members, non-healthcare science careers
 - What you can do with both science and art
- March 22 - inaugural science department blood drive
 - A&P students will be helping to facilitate

Mr. Graham - about 20 students signed up to volunteer

- They are very excited about it

Miss McDivitt - we did some curriculum changes from last year to this year

- Rewrote physical science into a two part general science class, STEM 1 and STEM 2
- STEM 1 - focuses on external environmental factors, energy types, water treatments, sewer treatments, weather and water cycles, pollutions
- That class made 90s style PSAs as a final project
- STEM 2 - looks at internal environmental factors, making a meal, how gas combusts in your car, what happens when you burn your food
- 2 research projects, increase in allergies in our daily lives
- Chemistry - full year course, exams this week, pray for them, wrapping up periodic table units, next week showing me their projects, 118 elements and not google slides, it just needs to be better than I can do, it's an exciting week, they've made original music projects, great showcased art

6.2. Report from the Director of Special Education and Student Services – Dr. Debra Lehew

Dr. Debra Lehew

- We've finished up the senior check ins, started the juniors
- PBIS is still going very well, we're seeing a little more competitiveness with feather drawings
- Staff shout outs - tributes to one another, staff reward based on how many tickets are in there
- We'll continue to grow that program
- Enrollment - we are at 331 students as of today.

At this time, the board returned to the prescribed order of the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes from the January meeting

MOTION: To approve and accept the minutes from the January 3 general meeting			
1st: Hisiro		2nd: Marinelli	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

3. Statement by Board President

Mr. William Pricener - I don't really have much to say in terms of this. I'll deliver more in finance.

4. Board Committee Reports

4.1. Nominating - Mayor Gregory Jakub – No current report

4.2. Development – Ms. Gloria Rayman – No current report

4.3. Education – Ms. Bernadette Gibson – No current report

4.4. Finance

Mr. William Pricener - We noted that we did hire a financial consultant to help get things sorted out. We're moving along slowly but more surely.

4.5. Personnel – Mr. Dexter Hairston VOTE

Mr. Hairston:

4.5.1. **Appointments** - none

4.5.2. **New hires** - Adam Ahlgrim, April Balsomico, Jacob Berger, Kate Best, Savannah Bruno

4.5.3. **Terminations** - none

4.5.4. **Resignations** - Genna Malatino

MOTION: To accept the appointments, terminations, and resignations for the month of January.			
1st: Jakub		2nd: Rayman	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

5. Administrative Report - Mr. Gregory Beal

Mr. Beal - working diligently with consultant, meeting with Hamlin - our bond holders, positive meeting, moving along, Dr. Lombard and I are working on the Calendar. Sent to the board to look over and we'll vote on it.

Mr. Beal described the 990 hours of instruction for PDE.

Mr. Beal

- Phoenix days - catch all, clubs, arts meetings,
- Starting the school year earlier than we did previously.
- Budget is next to complete - asked the departments to submit budgetary requests so we can build the overall budget request around what they need.
- Every day is a new adventure at WAA, which we're very thankful for.

7. Student Discipline

7.1. Report from the Dean of Students - Ms. Anna Very

Miss Very described the discipline statistics that are current for the second quarter and how they measure to the first quarter. The number of incidents is similar, but because some in quarter two were more severe, the number of days of lost instructional time is double. Miss Very stated that she may need to verify the numbers for quarter two as she put them together very quickly. If she has amendments, she will include them in next month's report. See Addendum B.

8. Parent/Family/Community Outreach

8.1. Report from the FTO

Ms. Marian Sefcik

- First Dine to Donate event - we felt that it went well. People came to dinner and donations were made. We were able to raise \$232. This goes right to the students, like bus money for downtown destinations.
- We have another dine to donate event coming up on Tuesday March 12, if you weren't able to make the first one
 - Ms. Janicki will be adding a QR code for someone who lives farther away, they can donate through the QR code
 - Ms. Kimberlin - suggested to pull together all of the districts that we pull from and we can diversify into other areas. For example, South Hills instead of Monroeville. Increase accessibility.
 - Flash mob in the restaurant, students learning the line dance at Texas Roadhouse.
 - Studio Arts can do caricatures
- Instrumental Concert present - flower and candy table
- Parent Advisory Committee
 - How do we draw community into our school?
 - Not strictly FTO functions
 - May start late this year or next year
 - Meet your board of directors - open house
 - Meet your administration team
 - How to put your kid through college
 - We're open to many topics
 - FTO would organize, but it would hopefully bring more people into our building
- Can students that are hungry during the day get food out of the food locker?
 - In reading things and working with Kathy, there's an online calculator and if it meets the smart snack criteria, it can be served during the day.
 - Ms. Sefcik will go through what we have in the food locker
 - Compatible and competitive groups - one during the day and one after the end of the day.
 - Will update the wishlist for what we can and cannot use

Mr. Pricener - you've taken on a large task, I'm happy to help with that in the food locker.

Ms. Gloria Rayman - Thank you to the FTO for all of your work. This is fabulous for our students. Thank you for working to diversify the locations of the dine to donate.

Ms. Sefcik - Performing Arts Teachers - half of what we make we hold aside for that department. There is money in our account that is for that department. If there is something that is really needed. See if it's in your account first. WE used to turn the money into the school, we don't do that anymore. Please remember that we already have money for those departments. While it's not huge amounts, there is money there.

9. Cafeteria/Food Service, Technology, Facilities, Buildings and Grounds, Security and Safety

9.1. Report from the Executive Director – Mr. Gregory Beal

Mr. Beal - PDE Audit was conducted today for the cafeteria, other than a few small things, we had no issues. Kathy Parelo has worked tremendously hard to get that together. WE are working on updates for the technology. SErver migration underway. We recently asked for a change for our cleaning crew. New crew started, we are seeing more cleanliness. 5 security incidents last month.

10. Finance

10.1. Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Beal outlined the current financial reports included in the board packet.

Mr. Beal - We have moved forward into a new platform, Rippling, for payroll and HR together. Implementation already started, It does complete onboarding and offboarding. Everything is automated through that.

Mr. Pricener - Thank you for including the full statements.

Mr. Beal explained a bit more about the reports included in the board packet.

10.2. Ratification of Contracts, Bills, and Payroll for December VOTE

MOTION: To ratify the contracts, bills, and payroll for December.			
1st: Rayman		2nd: Marinelli	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

11. Student Activities – Creation of two new clubs to be added to the student activity accounts

Mr. Beal - Two new clubs to be submitted for approval, Aquarium Club and Animation Club.

Mr. Pricener - Is there an advisor for each of these groups?

Miss Very - Mr. Shultz for Animation, Ms. G. for Aquarium.

MOTION: To establish student activity accounts for the Aquarium Club and the Animation Club.			
1st: Hairston		2nd: Jakub	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

12. School Operations/ Recruitment/Marketing

12.1. Report from the School Operations Manager – Mr. Alex Boyd

Mr. Boyd

- In the past, leads were how we based our metric of success.
- Numbers were skewed
- Now, we are getting more information from prospective students with their online applications
- 140 applications filled out, not just leads
- Tour after tour after tour

Mr. Pricener - I've always heard "we've got more in the pipeline"

Mr. Boyd - I have filled out an application, as opposed to I'm interested

- Applicant quality and increase in true want to be here
- Student ambassador groups
- Student shadow day - trialed one, and it was very successful
 - See themselves as a student here at WAA
 - Not just to get students in the door, but retain them this year
- Started at 363, 331 - consistent trends for us at WAA
- Addressing those past discrepancies
- Striving for transparency and accuracy in communication

Ms. Rayman - out of the 148 applicants - how many are 9-12?

Mr. Boyd - all.

- School Choice
- Heartfelt thank you for Christina Branch - every single tour mentions how wonderful she has been.
- Friendly atmosphere that she provides is exceptional

Operations

- Daily morning announcements being sent to parents and students
- Just today launched monthly newsletter - on homepage, summary of board reports, distributed to CIAC to residents in Wilmerding

Mr. Pricener - Marian and Danielle, do you feel like you're getting better communication?

Ms. Sefcik - I do.

Ms. Janicki - I really enjoy reading them.

Mr. Pricener - Deep us posted, and always reach out.

Ms. Janicki - The format of the newsletter was really nice and easy to read. Thank you Alex.

Mr. Boyd - Rivers of Steel

- Foundry basics workshops
 - 4 day Mold and pattern making for aluminum casting
- Next year, looking for an increase in this partnership

Mr. Jakub - only from going on the site and from seeing parents complain. Are we getting any closer to busing issues?

Mr. Boyd - I was on the phone with Penn Hills - every reason has come back to personnel. We're trying to find the best way to make it as transparent as possible. We are addressing it.

Ms Sefcik - a lot of complaining on the family page during the heavy weather week in January. We're dealing with 42 districts, you make the best decisions you can. I don't think you're ever going to get rid of the complaining about busing. I think that Alex reaching out to Penn Hills is good.

13. Board Policies – 0009, 2046, 4010, 4026

Mr. Beal - 0009 - principles of governance and leadership, board of directors policy, revised

Dr. Lehew changes to 0009 - updating terminology of CEO to Executive Director. It adds that the board of directors will adhere to this policy.

Ms. Rayman - still needs revision, 0009 not ready - still has "superintendent" terminology. I want to make sure it is tailored to our particular organization.

Mr. Beal - Presenting for first reading tonight. We will put it on the agenda for second reading. Would like to put 0009, 4010, 4026. Would like to propose 2046 for approval this evening.

Mr. Pricener - let's do in the future, that it reads in the agenda that we're doing first or second read. We should do them individually, and approve each listed separately.

Ms. Rayman - School Wellness looks fine.

Mr. Pricener - Thanks to Dr. Lehew and the Wellness Committee.

Mr. Pricener - This is a first reading for policies 0009, 4010, and 4026, please read through and email Mr. Beal with any edits and suggestions you have.

MOTION: To approve Board Policy 2046.			
1st: Hisiro		2nd: Hairston	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

14. Additional Items

Dr. Marinelli - Status of the equipment donation from Point Park?

Mr. Beal - I've emailed them and am waiting to hear back about when those will be delivered.

Dr. Marinelli - Professional mixing board, video and sound editing. This is "old" equipment. It is only about two years old. Even if we're not able to use it to its full capacity, it is excellent to show prospective students.

Mr. Beal discussed the specs of the equipment that will be donated from Point Park.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Jakub motioned to adjourn the general meeting.

Mr. Pricener ended the general meeting at 7:49pm.

Dr. Marinelli suggested the proper decorum at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

An executive meeting did not take place at the conclusion of the general meeting.

Upcoming Events: Monthly Board Meeting – March 6, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Addendum A New Club Proposals

Aquarium Club

From Proposal: Informative meetings and resources about keeping fish and aquaria, and a social/socratic platform for students who do. Similar to 3RMAS or other local organizations providing similar resources, but present for students at WAACS. I believe this is a good fit for our school, as not only is there a high population of students who keep fish, but maintaining an aquarium relates to both art and science, through both setup (such as aquascaping, stocking selection, etc) and maintenance (water chemistry and tank ecology). Furthermore, community resources on tank maintenance makes aquaria accessible as a well-studied source of stress relief, and encourages a respect for often-disregarded animals and their environment.

Animation Club

From Proposal: The animation club wants to do things from making short films to little gifs. We would like to have animation put in contests and put up at our local festivals. The club fosters a community for enthusiasts to share their passion for animation and explore its various aspects, from storytelling and character design to the technical aspects of animation production. My goals for the club is not only to bring people who love the craft together but to be able to spread the word about the school and the programs the school has to offer and that people should come to Westinghouse. The whole goal of the club is to bring everyone together. We would like to have our animation put into contests when possible.

Addendum B

WAA Discipline Statistics Quarter 1, 2023-2024

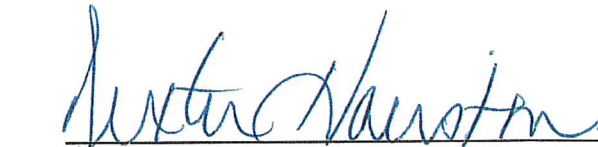
	Total Consequences Delivered	Total Number of Incidents Resulting in the Consequence
Lunch Detentions	3 Detentions	1
Saturday Detentions	0 Detentions	0
Days of In-School Suspension	8 Days	6
Days of Out-of-School Suspension	33 Days	7
Days of Lost Direct Instruction	41 Days	13

WAA Discipline Statistics Quarter 2, 2023-2024

	Total Consequences Delivered	Total Number of Incidents Resulting in the Consequence
Lunch Detentions	0 Detentions	0
Saturday Detentions	0 Detentions	0
Days of In-School Suspension	1 Day	1
Days of Out-of-School Suspension	69 Days	17
Days of Lost Direct Instruction	70 Days	18

2/28/24

Date


Board Secretary