

**WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, March 6, 6:30pm

<https://westinghousearts-org.zoom.us/j/4985722966> BoardMeeting

Meeting ID: 829 0442 0112

Passcode: 413522

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**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  
Ms. Amanda Bateman - WAA English Department Head  
Ms. Makenna Wingrove via Zoom - WAA Creative Arts  
Department Head

**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

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*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 - Hearing none, let's move onto approval of the minutes.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the February meeting VOTE**

**MOTION: To approve and accept the minutes from the February 7 general meeting**

**1st: Jakub**

**2nd: Rayman**

**YEA: All**

**NAY: 0**

**ABSTAINING: 0**

**MOTION: Carried**

**3. Statement by Board President - Mr. William Pricener**

Mr. Pricener - No statement this month, when I met with several of the staff, we seemed to have a really good atmosphere.

**4. Board Committee Reports**

**4.1. Nominating – Mayor Gregory Jakub – No current report**

*Mr. Jakub presented resume materials for a board member candidate.*

**Mr. Jakub** - Ms. Kirk is a teacher who recently retired. Technology specialist, advancement director, SAP case manager, chairperson of the mathematics curriculum, lead teacher trainer, taught 2nd grade from 1981-2009, masters in curriculum and instruction, PA Principal Certification, etc. She is very interested in WAA's success.

**Mr. Pricener** - She was involved in the original charter applications. We will not vote tonight, but we are interested in her application. We will vote next month.

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

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

**4.4. Finance – Mr. William Pricener**

**Mr. Pricener** - Our independent financial consultant, found some government grant dollars that we had not yet tapped into. I will hold off on numbers, but it will help the school financially to an extreme degree. Thank you to Mr. Matt Racunas for finding the individual, Jill Reegan. I will bring it forward as soon as possible.

**4.4.1. Monthly financial report – Mr. Gregory Beal**

**4.4.2. Ratification of contracts, bills, and payroll for January VOTE**

**Mr. Beal** - We are working with the financial consultant in trying to sort out some specific finances from where we were previously overcommitted and we are working to sort that out on a daily basis.

*Mr. Beal pointed out particular financial statements in the board packet for review.*

**Mr. Pricener** - The dollars from the school district come into U.S. Bank. Our payments from school districts go into U.S. Bank, the bond payment is taken from that account, then we use the remainder to pay our day to day expenses.

<b>MOTION: To ratify the contracts, bills, and payroll for January.</b>			
<b>1st: Rayman</b>		<b>2nd: Gibson</b>	
<b>YEA: All</b>	<b>NAY: 0</b>	<b>ABSTAINING: 0</b>	<b>MOTION: Carried</b>

**4.5. Personnel – Mr. Dexter Hairston**

**Mr. Pricener** - Mr. Hairston is unavailable. Appointment of Mark Dichiera for kitchen porter. No terminations, resignations, leave or unpaid leave

**4.5.1. New hires VOTE**

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

## 5. Administrative Report

### 5.1. Report from the School Administrators – Mr. Gregory Beal and Dr. Kelly Lombard

**Mr. Beal** - Dr. Lombard and I are at an educational conference, South by Southwest Conference. Without a doubt, we have met remarkable people this week, informational sessions, made some partners and relationships that we can bring back to WAA to improve aspects of the school

**Dr. Lombard** - I want to go over some of the sessions.

- Curriculum and Design
- Mastery/Creativity/Identity - We garnered information to implement things we are already attempting
- Post Secondary Planning
  - What that means in the world of work
  - work skills gap
  - researchers giving fresh insights
- The Power of Creative Education
  - What we're doing is seemingly cutting edge
  - grantmaking strategies, local and nationwide
  - results framework in education.
  - We are no different than other schools in the country.
  - It's great to see how people are evoking change and eliciting community
  - This has been fabulous to get this opportunity.

**Mr. Pricener** - I'm really happy to hear that the conference has been beneficial. When do you come back?

**Dr. Lombard** - We come back on Friday.

#### 5.1.1. School Calendar VOTE

**Mr. Beal** - Phoenix Days inserted throughout the year, flexible instruction days to incorporate alternative activities. We have also included a change in the bell schedule hours with the 990 hours change for instructional days. We feel very good about the calendar and the way it looks. The faculty has seen it, it has been posted on the website, We present the calendar for next year for ratification.

**Mr. Pricener** - March 13th, a Thursday. Is that correct?

**Mr. Beal** - This is the one off outlier to go into the inservice day.

**Mr. Pricener** - Any questions?

<b>MOTION: School Calendar Ratification for the 2024-2025 School Year</b>	
<b>1st: Jakub</b>	<b>2nd: Rayman</b>

YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried
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**5.1.2. 2024-2025 Board Meeting Dates**

Mr. Beal - We went through and prepared the board meeting dates. Runs from July to June. Adjustment to January for New Years Day.

<b>MOTION: Approve the board meeting dates for 2024-2025</b>			
1st: Rayman		2nd: Gibson	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

**5.1.3. Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and use of Funds by Charter School VOTE**

Mr. Beal - This form is stating that WAA is adopting the Allegheny Intermediate Unit policies.

Dr. Lehw - It is all related to special education federal funding. We are agreeing to follow the AIU policies and procedures when it comes to IDEIA monies.

<b>MOTION: Approval of LEA Policies, Procedures, and use of Funds by Charter School</b>			
1st: Gibson		2nd: Rayman	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

**5.1.4. IDEIA-B Use of Funds Agreement VOTE**

Dr. Lehw - There are limitations to what we can spend that money on. There are regulations to what we can spend the money on.

Mr. Pricener - And we'd better.

<b>MOTION: Approval of IDEIA-B Use of Funds Agreement</b>			
1st: Jakub		2nd: Gibson	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

**Additional Item: Wilmerding Community Center**

Mr. Pricener - The Wilmerding Community Center, potentially being a site for the summer food service program. We will discuss in executive session and it will be quite pricey, but we will continue to discuss.

Mr. Alex Boyd - In talking with the administration and with the community members, it will be a very expensive endeavor.

**6. Academics/Instruction**



## 6.1. Report from the Principal – Dr. Kelly Lombard

**Dr. Lombard** - We have a hard deadline that Miss Very has been very instrumental in to finalize all curriculum planning documents by 3/15. We're looking at how best to acquire wants and needs. When we have more of a want, we are discussing how we can fundraise next year. This is more aligned with a usual school budget timeline.

We have had 2 meetings with the parent advisory committee. We are working on a parent survey that will be sent out to parents and families. WE have reviewed parent and family engagement policies for LEA. These are both important We accept funds for Title I, II, and IV. We need parent input on how we spend those funds.

The spring parent and family meeting is either before or after the FTO meeting on April 8. This is a standalone meeting, but it is important that we have as many participants as possible. I encourage the faculty to go to this as well.

### 6.1.1. Department Reports

#### 6.1.1.1. Report from English Department

*Ms. Amanda Bateman delivered an overview of the English Department board report. - SEE ADDENDUM A*

**Mr. Pricener** - Thank you for your professionalism and for making those students your number one priority.

#### 6.1.1.2. Report from the Creative Arts Department

*Ms. Makenna Wingrove delivered an overview of the Creative Arts Department board report - SEE ADDENDUM B*

*Mr. Pricener discussed some things he made in high school and asked how many students are taking ceramics.*

**Ms. Wingrove** - About 60. The kilns get full really fast. Lots of the kids bring in things they are making at home.

*Ms. Wingrove continued her review from the board update. - SEE ADDENDUM B*

**Mr. Pricener** - That's a whole lot going on in this school!

**Ms. Wingrove** - Lemonade Stand is on April 4th!

**Mr. Pricener** - I thank you for taking the time to give us these reports. This is really helpful for both of you to give your updates to the board.

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

### 6.2.1. ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan VOTE

**Dr. Lehew** - We have to revise our health and safety plan updates every 6 months. The only thing that changed is the date and that we will follow CDC guidelines.

**MOTION: To approve the ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan**

1st: Rayman		2nd: Gibson	
YEA: All	NAY: 0	ABSTAINING: 0	MOTION: Carried

## 7. Student Discipline

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

*Miss Very described an update to the Quarter 2 discipline statistics from the last meeting. There is an updated version of Quarter 2 as well as an inclusion of Quarter 3. The mistake had to do with dates from Quarter 3 getting mixed into Quarter 2's section. Will include fixed Quarter 2 and the addition of Quarter 3 in the Addendum. Miss Very explained that the data between quarters is actually commensurate and not a vast difference like initially thought from the last meeting. - SEE ADDENDUM C*

## 8. Parent/Family/Community Outreach

### 8.1. Report from the FTO

**Ms. Marian Sefcik** - Parent Advisory Committee meeting on April 8. Our hope is to make this an in person and zoom meeting to incorporate as many people as possible.

Difference in communications about compliant foods allowed to be accessed during the school day for students who are experiencing food insecurity. Ms. Parelo indicated that we're not allowed to distribute food during the school day as that would not be compliant with food service. I don't want to go against the dictations from the Department of Education, so if someone can clarify that, it would be appreciated.

**Mr. Pricener** - They need to have their bellies full. We need to get this figured out.

**Ms. Sefcik** - If you go online, it asks for the system to determine compliant and non-compliant. I am willing to sit and divide the stuff up. We're being told that we can't give anything other than what is being given during lunch.

**Mr. Pricener** - We will get clarification

**Ms. Sefcik** - Continued discussions with Alex (Boyd) on brick placement. Several communications about when the bricks will be in place to come and see them. We haven't come up with a place to put them. Realistically with renovations down the road, we need to know where to put them.

Dine to Donate next week on Tuesday. 10% goes back to the FTO. Group of musical theatre parents who are putting together fundraisers for helping with production costs. Raffle basket to raise funds.

The money we get from concessions - half of what is made goes back to whatever group is performing that evening. We used some of the dance funds to help with the trip.

I have two questions if someone can clarify - on the new calendar, I don't see any half days. Is that accurate?

**Mr. Beal** - Yes. There is a large decrease in attendance on half days. We eliminated them completely. If need be, we will make virtual days.

Ms. Sefcik - I know we are connected with the AIU3, correct? There is a scholarship given by the Pitt Penguins foundation. One is available to schools in AIU3 providing free or reduced lunch. Our school is not listed as a school that is eligible.

Our next general meeting is Monday, March 11. The executive meeting is on the 18th.

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

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

Mr. Beal -

Technology - we've moved pretty much fully to the servers, we are working with Cologero for what his needs are and his plans for the summer

Buildings and Grounds - there's not much going on outside, but we're trying to get things done inside.

Safety/Security - There was a medical emergency, we have to do a stay in place to allow privacy for treatment. There were some instances where that was greatly inflated on social media. Rest assured, there was no danger to students. We sent out a statement afterwards, we let everyone know that sometimes it is easy to jump on board social media.

Cafeteria/Food Service - Completed the state inspection in February. There were a few takeaways that we needed to take care of. Menu adjustments that need to be made. We have an employee out, we hired the part time porter to continue the functioning in the cafeteria. We have decided as a school that we will not be doing the summer foods program this year. We are pulling back from some of the summer programming so that we can pause and make sure to recoup some of our finances.

Mr. Pricener - Who pays for lights in the castle? We're spending a lot of money on electricity. The developers should be reimbursing us for those lights.

Mr. Jakub - There are full weekends where the lights stay on, and the community is frustrated by this.

## 10. Student Activities – No current report

## 11. School Operations/ Recruitment/Marketing

### 11.1. Report from the School Operations Manager – Mr. Alex Boyd

Mr. Boyd delivered his board report - SEE ADDENDUM D

Mr. Pricener - How much money?

Mr. Boyd - \$10,000

Mr. Beal - The dance students are at the regional festival. They alternate with the nationals, at nationals last year, our students qualified for over \$100,000 in scholarships last year.

Ms. Rayman - Are we advertising that information there?

Mr. Boyd - Yes in some places. If they didn't accept the scholarships, we don't report that.

Mr. Pricener - Can we display temporarily?

Mr. Boyd - Yes, we can.

Ms. Rayman - Do you think we'll have 40 students enroll per month?

Mr. Boyd - I can get you numbers. It's approximately 2 applications per day.

Dr. Lehw - The current enrollment is 331.

## 12. Board Policies VOTE

### 12.1. 0009, 4010, 4026 – Second Reading

### 12.2. 0000, 0002, 0004 – First Reading

Mr. Beal - We have updated these policies as we needed to. We are able to either move to 3rd reading or vote. We are separating out policies from procedures. A procedure should be in a manual, not in board policy.

Mr. Pricener - I would like to wait until we have a full board to move forward with these. We will vote next month.

## 13. Additional Items

*There were no additional items.*

## 14. Adjournment

*Mr. Jakub motioned to adjourn the general meeting.*

*Mr. Pricener ended the general meeting at 7:44pm.*

*An executive session was held at the conclusion of the general meeting.*

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

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## Addendum A

### **March Board Meeting - English Department Notes - Ms. Amanda Bateman**

#### Testing Preparation

- o AP Literature and Composition and AP Language and Composition
  - Lit (May 8), Lang (May 14)
  - Practice Exams Q2, Q3, Q4
  - Weekly multiple choice



- In-class and out of class essays
- Keystone Literature (10th Grade) Week of May 13-24
  - Fiction, nonfiction, drama
  - Multiple choice and Constructed Response practice

#### Board Report Items

- Ms. Bateman's AP Language and Composition class is working on the Synthesis Essay. This essay involves looking at a selection of sources and forming a defensible position on a topic.
  - To align with the requirements of the essay as well as Valentine's Day, students looked at a variety of sources including Instagram posts and Snapchats to determine whether the fictional high school couple, Marc and Carly, should stay together or break up. After crafting a position on the couple's fate, students worked in groups to create a poster that defended their position using the provided sources.
- In Ms. Olshanski's English 9 classes, students were asked to choose a character from *To Kill A Mockingbird* and complete a visual representation of the character. Students chose a quote from the book and were asked to create a quote they thought the character would say about themselves, based on the student's perception of the character.

#### Upcoming

- Honors English 10 field trip to Pittsburgh Public Theater to see *The Importance of Being Earnest*

#### Addendum B

## Studio Arts- Sculpture

Sculpture and ceramics classes have been actively engaged in coil and slab building projects, delving into the fundamental principles of sculptural creation. The coil and slab building techniques serve as foundational skills, allowing students to grasp the essential elements of sculptural construction. Through hands-on experience and guided instruction, students are honing their abilities to manipulate clay and shape it into intricate forms. This week marks an exciting phase as students start the glazing process, which leads to an exploration of colors and textures to enhance their creations. This phase not only adds aesthetic depth to their projects but also fosters creative expression and individuality.



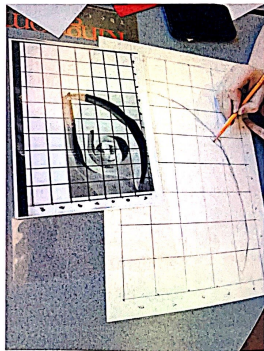
## Studio Arts- Printmaking

In my three printmaking sections we have been working in relief to create linocut prints. Seniors are already done with their first critique and working on the second part of their lino projects by working in reduction and multi-block techniques. My Freshmen have just completed the drawing portion of their large self-portraits which they've been working on for 7 weeks. They are putting their color theory knowledge to the test by practicing color matching before they begin to paint their portraits. My mixed media students are still getting into the groove of things, creating diptych sculptures from newsprint only.

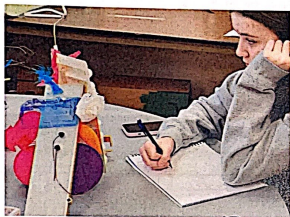


## Studio Arts- Foundation

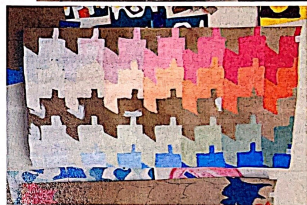
In my foundations class we are currently working on approaches to observational painting. We have constructed simple paper sculptures in white paper and are almost finished with our grayscale paintings in tempera paint. Next we will make colored paper constructions and paint them in color acrylic paint before launching an independently conceived painting in acrylic which will combine both observational and imaginative subject matter. This follows up after a semester of observational and imaginative drawing, studies in shape, pattern and color theory in the creation of an original tessellated wallpaper design. We have also worked on perspective and grid supports in drawing and completed a unit on figurative drawing which included sculpting in plasticine. At one point, we departed from foundational conventions by creating theatrical maquettes in painted cardboard with articulated paper dolls and made video art by creating scenes with music inside these maquettes. This gave students some experience in



model-making and in working in time-based media. Students are becoming familiar with the conventions of critique and are forming a supportive community, able to constructively support each other in pushing their work forward. In my Contemporary Art History class, which I'm teaching for the second time, we are considering art after the advent of photography, how this technological advance upended discourse around painting and changed the trajectory of art made in the last century. We are looking at the American canon and also departing from this timeline to consider what artists outside of the mainstream were working on that might have been only recently added to the conversation. We are using resources such as



archives and kids' independent research



Drawing and Painting for Non-Majors is a rigorous course in the fundamentals of each discipline. Students are moved through a curriculum which teaches them a broad range of techniques for strengthening the ability to move intentionally between observational and imaginative modes of drawing. We are working on a still-life at the moment, focusing on the use of negative space, thumbnails and developing the habit of looking more at the subject than at the paper while drawing. We will tackle portraits next, then add painting and basic painting techniques to our repertoire before tackling our final project, a safety poster which will combine an analysis of the principles of design with large-scale figurative drawing.

## Digital- Video Art

My Video Art class, which I'm teaching for the first time, consists of a dialogue between the moving-image content that students find on their own on Social Media platforms and the earliest examples of the art form which date back to the late 1960s when independent artists were first able to get their hands on the Sony Portapak—the first one-person portable video/audio recording system. We will work consistently towards the middle of this timeline, helping students to think through the material that they watch and produce from a critical perspective, considering the line between art and entertainment and the underlying purpose and effect of the material they are hooked on through their phones.



# Literary

My foundation's students created our first department wide chapbook "Death by Quill Vol 1" (they voted on the title). This book is hand bound and contains 22 poems from students across all grade levels after many many drafts.

My journalism and feminism classes are working together to publish a "student issues" newsletter next month where the journalism students interview my feminism students, then take their concerns to an interview with admin, then write up a formal objective piece.

My senior seminar is working on their final portfolios which will be hand bound and contain works they've compiled from all four years at Westinghouse. They're making two copies—one for the classroom and one for themselves. My theory and cultural studies class has been reading numerous difficult philosophical texts and preparing for a round of presentations where the students have to teach some of these works.



## Addendum C

WAA Discipline Statistics Quarter 2, 2023-2024 (Data Corrected from February Board Meeting 11/1/23-1/11/24)

	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	0	0
Days of Out-of-School Suspension	53	13
Days of Lost Direct Instruction	53	13

WAA Discipline Statistics Quarter 3, 2023-2024 (1/12/24-3/6/24)

	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	3	2
Days of Out-of-School Suspension	55	11
Days of Lost Direct Instruction	58	13



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Addendum D

School Operations Board Report - Alex Boyd (03/06/24)

**Recruitment Overview**

Recruitment efforts are continuing to go strong, and we made changes to the way auditions/portfolios are submitted due to the influx in applicants. We are also seeing a preference for students to sign up for a shadow day. Plans for the New and Returning Student Summer Orientation are underway.

We are also in the process of planning New and Returning Student Summer Orientation. For next year we currently have 267 students enrolled or returning for the 24/25 school year. We currently have 41 students in the active application process (auditions and interviews).

Yearly Totals:

7/1/23- 386

9/1/23- 351

10/1/23- 343 (43 students lost from July 1-October 1)

2/1/24- 332 (11 Students lost from October 1- February 1, 2024)

**School Operations Update**

**February Highlights:**

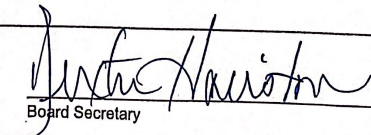
February proved to be an exceptionally busy period for our team, with numerous logistical challenges successfully navigated.

- The month featured enriching field trips, including 2 Downtown Destination Field Trips- one was a theatre arts workshop and the other was a performance of "The Equality of Night and Day". - The International Thespian Society produced "Stamps" their student-written and produced one-act play. Rehearsals for "Chicago" have also begun.
- The Junior Seminar Class went to Pittsburgh Technical College on Friday (2/23). This has been the second year we have gone to tour, and have established a yearly visit for Westlinghosue Juniors. Stephanie Tolbert-King (Mrs. T) has organized 12 dance majors to attend the Regional High School Dance Festival in Norfolk, VA. They are there now! (March 6th-10th) Many students in attendance will be performing Mrs. T's piece, "That Which Paralyzes", which was accepted by adjudication for performance at the festival. Some students will also be auditioning for college and summer intensive scholarships.
- We also had our monthly Performing Arts Workshop. This month some of the Performing Arts faculty and staff presented work to the students.

**Fundraisers:** We have had many fundraisers this month raising over \$7800 for student programming. Talked about Bricks and Infrastructure Grant as well.

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April 1, 2024  
Date

  
Board Secretary