

Wissahickon Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 31, 2026: 9:06 - 10:29 AM
Meeting held at Stradley Ronon

Board Members Present: Erich Holland (Chair), Shauna Mace (Vice Chair), Jason Manning (Secretary), Allora Buckshon (Treasurer), Dan Pereira, Michelle Alcaraz, Deana Davis, Ohenewaa White

Board Members Absent: Juanita Nyce

Staff Present: Kristi Littell (CEO), Jane Walsh (Director of Development), Ilana Lipowicz (Executive Assistant)

Guests Present: N/A

Erich called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Welcome & Introductions (Erich)

Erich reviewed the agenda with the Board.

Some Good News & Board Good News (Kristi)

Kristi shared statistics about the high schools last year's 8th graders will be attending, showing the achievements and successes of the students and of the guidance counselors. The project of this year's Wharton fellows will be to develop a system to better stay in touch with and track alumni.

The Board took turns sharing their good news.

Consent Agenda (Erich)

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- Student & Family Handbook 26-27
- Employee Handbook 26-27
- Board Minutes June 2026
- Board Minutes April 2026

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was led by Jason and seconded by Michele. The board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

Finance and Audit Committee Report (Allora & Kristi)

- Annie will review all summer financials in September.

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- Vertex is working on closing out FY26 and preparing for audit launching in September
- The 26-27 budget was predicated on a 5.5% increase to per-pupil rate, but the actual increase has been announced at 11% for regular ed and 9.8% for special ed. This is a significant increase to projected revenue.

Development Committee Report (Jane)

- Jane reviewed the year end development report:
 - The fundraising goal for 25-26 was \$775K in unrestricted funding which we surpassed, raising \$796K. We also raised about \$12K in restricted revenue, mostly for the Peggy Chung Thrash Memorial Fund.
 - Donor retention is at 82%. Dropoff from major donors that we usually see are sponsorship donors who were friends of the spring benefit honoree. We gained 99 new donors including 9 new major donors.
- The fundraising goal for the 26-27 year is \$825K. This is a big goal because we are nearing the end of multi-year pledges from several large donors.
- Going into WCS's 25th anniversary year, we will be looking for ways to celebrate and fundraise for it. Some ideas are to ask long term sponsors to increase their donations by 25% and to honor 25 people who have been important to Wissahickon. Open to new ideas for how to celebrate the 25th.
- The board discussed possibilities for building out an active alumni community network.

Governance Committee Report (Shauna)

- The governance committee shared the feedback solicited from Kristi to the board:
 - Kristi felt last year was very strong for committees. The shift to always be on screen has also increased engagement and attendance.
 - Friendraising is a growth area. How do we continue thinking strategically about potential donors and ways to engage them?
- The committee shared a board recruitment update:
 - The board is prioritizing recruiting for a current parent board member, as well as those with backgrounds in HR, development, commercial real estate, the environmental field, and higher ed.

CEO Report (Kristi)

- Staffing update: All lead teacher roles are now filled, save for one for which an offer has been sent. Now we are hiring assistant and apprentice teachers.

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- WCS is up for charter renewal this year. This is an extensive process that will include a written application, a site visit to each campus, interviews with stakeholder focus groups, one of which will be a board focus group, as well as a board meeting observation.

The Board entered a closed session to discuss a confidential student matter legally allowable by PA Sunshine State Law at 10:11 AM.

The Board exited the closed session at 10:28 AM.

A motion to approve the item discussed in closed session was led by Shauna and seconded by Dan. The Board unanimously voted to approve the item.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.

Supporting Documents:

- Meeting Agenda
- Retreat Agenda
- Year End Development Report

Action Items

- Complete board pledge forms.