

**John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** October 20, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Place:** 17 Battery Pl., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004

**Members Present:**

In-Person: Ron Tabano

Virtual: Richard Levine, Evgenia Soldatos, Lawrence Ng

**Members Absent:** Dana Jackson, Harvey Newman

**Call to Order:** Mr. Levine called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on October 20, 2022.

**Report of the Vice Chairperson**

The Board accepts the absence of Dana Jackson and Harvey Newman.

The minutes summarizing the September 22, 2022 board meeting were disseminated prior to the meeting. There are no questions.

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano makes the motion to accept the September 22, 2022 minutes.

**Second:** Ms. Soldatos seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

Audit Report – Mr. Levine reports the audit is going well. Cecilia and her team are working with them throughout and providing everything electronically. There have been no findings. We approved the draft and we're in good standing relative to the other similar organizations that they work with. The decrease of the fund balance is about \$300k, but our program expenditures is 87%, which is a very strong number, as they mentioned.

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano makes the motion to approve the draft reports that are due.

**Second:** Ms. Soldatos seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

## **Report of the CEO and Principal**

State Budget Allocation – Mr. Tabano reports that we are still waiting for the State to send paperwork regarding funds owed to the school, as per the agreement last year, in the amount of approximately 153k, which is what the state allocated to the school in the last budget. We have been in communication with the State office and David Frank, who assures that the paperwork should be coming soon.

Student Data – Mr. Tabano reports that currently there are 325 students. The school is intended for 295, but there were more students added. The initial number of 344 mentioned on the dashboard has been updated due to the fact that several students needed to be removed when they turned 21 over the summer.

Accountability Measures – Mr. Tabano reports that the State has been looking into a plan on how they could hold schools accountable and what they can hold them accountable for, in the absences of report cards. Currently, they are in the process of accepting comments and feedback on what would be fair. Betty Rosa is known to be fair and also particularly favorable to charter schools, so the outlook is good.

Emergency Response Drill Training – Mr. Tabano reports that on November 9<sup>th</sup> the school will be conducting its first drill. There will be people coming, as part of a grant, to both campuses and doing an emergency response drill that will include a lockdown of students in the classroom without a shooter. The next drill will be a lockdown with a shooter on the premises or in the area.

Upcoming Events – Mr. Tabano reports that he and Cecilia will be attending the PBIS conference in Chicago next week starting October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Project Director's meeting is on Wednesday to discuss school climate, which encompasses issues that are currently at the forefront. The past two years, the conference was held via zoom. This year it will be in person, and there will be workshops regarding school climate, performance incentives, and how to motivate students using positive behavior reinforcement.

New Grant Opportunities – Mr. Tabano reports that we have an opportunity to receive a new mental health grant that is coming out. We would not be the lead on it, but we would be a part of it. Normally, only 40 get awarded each year. This year they are awarding 150. This is due to a large amount of money coming from both the federal and state governments and allocated to mental health. A key issue has been the pandemic. Many school administrators are reporting increased depression and anxiety among students.

Revised Disciplinary Policy – Mr. Tabano reports that the policies in the Student Handbook and the Operations Handbook have been revised and will be voted on during the next meeting. The primary changes are to the code of conduct, specifically regarding the Dignity Act and diversity. Sections have been added in compliance with the law for those issues, as they are more prevalent now.

Pension Relief – Mr. Tabano reports that we have been meeting with city officials and we have a breakthrough with pension relief. We are still trying to get support for the issue. Ben Weisberg has expressed interest in supporting us, so we will be meeting with him soon. He would be a key supporter since he used to be involved in labor and union issues. His support would be very helpful because it has to filter from the state through the city. That is why we're going after the city first, so that we have their support ahead of time and we know they're going to have to be the pass through agent if they okay this pension relief. Mr. Tabano will also be campaigning in Albany early next year in an effort to increase support.

## **Report of the CFOO**

Financial Reports – Ms. Sakosky reports that the numbers on our FTEs that were reported to the city were at 295, as Mr. Tabano stated earlier, which is lower than expected. The budget calls for 382. With the new students we've taken in, we are currently at 325, and expect those numbers to go up throughout the year. The 20 students who have aged out, from the city's billing perspective, are being kept on despite this. The fund balance for the three months is positive, showing an \$871,000 increase. However, when looking at the projected numbers for the fiscal year ending in June, there will be a decrease. There are expenditures that are coming that will affect the revenue, because we won't have the revenue to offset the additional expenditures. That projection for the twelve months does not look good. We are looking at a million dollar deficit. However, we have programs in place and are still recruiting new students. It is anticipated that intake will steadily increase after the January regents are administered. Ms. Sakosky reminds the Board that the deficit for last year at this same time was projected to be \$1.5 million, but it only came out to be \$300,000.

## **New Business**

The board addressed Darell Hayes's resignation from the board, and are currently seeking replacements.

There is no additional business and Mr. Levine asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano makes the motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Ms. Soldatos seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned 10:30 a.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2022 at 10:00am.