

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

**Date:** December 15, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 AM

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

**Members Present:**

In-Person: Ronald Tabano

Virtual: Richard Levine, Harvey Newman, and Dana Jackson

**Members Absent:** Evgenia Soldatos, Lawrence Ng

**Call to Order:** Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on December 15, 2022.

**Report of the Chairperson**

The Board accepts the absence of Evgenia Soldatos and Lawrence Ng.

The minutes summarizing the November 17, 2022 board meeting were disseminated prior to the meeting. There are no questions.

**Motion:** Ms. Jackson makes the motion to accept the November 17, 2022 minutes.

**Second:** Mr. Levine seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Report of the CEO and Principal**

Bill Language for Pension Relief - The bill language for pension relief was sent out to the board members prior to the meeting. It explains what will be presented to Albany. We would also like to present it to some of the players that we have met with, so that they are aware that we are going to advance the bill language. In particular, we have reached out to John Lew and he is in receipt of it. This will serve as another extra layer. Having a bill up there will keep in everybody's mind what we are asking for. Therefore giving us 2 chances. They may not necessarily okay the bill, but that also does not mean that we will not get what we want anyway. At least with the bill, we will get double exposure. We are giving ourselves a second

avenue to approach this. Mr. Tabano is also scheduling a trip, most likely in the latter part of January or in February, to actually go to Albany, and discuss the bill, as well as our ask about the pension. We will be following it up with in-person meetings to try to put forward the support for the bill.

Meeting with CSA - We are meeting with the CSA Principals Union in early January. Mark Canisero, the current President, will be retiring. We are arranging a meeting with Mr. Canisero and his successor, so that we can maintain their support. In the past, they were the one union that always put us in their ask in Albany during budget time. They have been very supportive and we will be meeting with them to make sure that we get continued support with the transition from Mr. Canisero to the new President.

Albany Meetings with Elected Officials - As mentioned previously, Mr. Tabano will be going to Albany, either at the end of January or beginning of February. Whenever we see that it is the right time to meet, they will set up meetings for us over the course of several days. When we first started doing this, we had great results because we got them to change the pension formula to where it could fluctuate from 0 to 30, and they set a fixed rate for the pension years ago. That was because we got Flanagan support, who was a council person at the time. He said he would support it, and he did. The idea is that if we knock on doors, they see us, and we present a strong enough argument, then it is in their minds what our needs are and why we have these needs.

Charter Center Lobby Days - The Charter Center has made their front and center request for facilities relief. It appears there are 70 charter schools that are in private space that are not getting facilities relief. They are using that as one of their ask. However, they are going to push the cap lifting more. Mr. Tabano is on their advisory board, and in January there will be an advisory meeting with them to discuss strategies for facilities relief. This is one of the two points of priority. The other being the cap lift, which is being driven by Eva Moskowitz, her money, and her political support, dominating a lot of the dialogue.

Staff Change - Our Application and Database Developer person has gone, and so we are in the process of looking to fill that role. We had a consultant come in to take a look at what we are doing to see if they might be interested in sustaining what we are doing for a while. We will evaluate how much they want to take on, and what makes sense.

Recruitment - We have been interviewing and now booked up all of the first week of January. Additionally, we are also going to go out on a recruitment campaign in January, where we will be driving around to certain places and distributing flyers and other materials. Once the

January regents takes place, we will start to see even more of an influx, because students will not be passing and will be looking for a place to go to.

Attendance - Our attendance has taken a significant hit. All the transfer schools have not rebounded from the pandemic. Mr. Tabano went over data with New Dawn and Urban Dove, and attendance is running at 50 to 60 percent at best in most places, and lower in some. This population suffered the most in terms of dropping out and losing their momentum. The younger kids suffered more because that is their learning age. But what we have lost, and what transition schools have lost is that momentum that you get when students do get back. Our students being 18 and 19, have not lost a year or more. They just lost their momentum, and they lost their initiative. We are met with resistance when trying to reach out to parents who do not want to be bothered, students who are not residing at the address provided, and students who would rather work and do not want to give up their jobs to instead go to school.

Outreach - Our students have many issues that they are dealing with, especially family issues, that are causing them to struggle. However, we do offer a lot of support. We have a good mental health team and we have a good approach to mental health issues.

Bronx Renovations - We are going to have all the floors done in February. We are waiting for the designer to give his final design. They have painted and the radiator covers have come in as well. The sign was approved by Landmark, so now we are waiting for that. A lot of this is expected to happen in January and we are staying on top of the renovations. The culinary program is about to start getting ready to do events. There is a good demand to have them do some events for the community. They have about 8 or 9 hydroponics towers going and they have already harvested one set of towers. The Bronx location will soon start to look really good once we finish the floor and do a little bit more of the touch ups. So far, the paint job has significantly improved the appearance.

## **Report of the CFOO**

Financial Update - The financials will be available at the next board meeting. There is a delay due to recent staff changes, and we are currently backed up. We are behind in the accounting, but hope to catch up soon. In regards to the invoicing for January, the FTEs that we reported and submitted to DOE, that number has improved. We submitted roughly 329 General Ed FTEs. That number is up a little over 30, compared to the previous invoice that was submitted. It is still under what we would like as a target, but it is really out of our hands with the population that we are dealing with and trying to serve. However, this increase and hopefully an additional increase of 5 to 10 for the upcoming semester, will help reduce the deficit in the budget.

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

**Motion:** Ms. Jackson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Mr. Tabano seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned 10:30 a.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.