

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

Date: January 26, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: 17 Battery Pl., 1st 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 10:06 a.m. on January 26, 2023.

Report of the Chairperson

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

The minutes summarizing the December 15, 2022 board meeting were disseminated prior to the meeting. There are no questions.

Motion: Ms. Jackson makes the motion to accept the December 15, 2022 minutes.

Second: Mr. Levine seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

Report of the CEO and Principal

Fall Term Ends – This is the end of the fall term. January 26th is the last day for our regents and we are doing the Global History regents. We have already had the English, Living Environment, and Algebra. This is the last week of this term. The new term starts next week.

Current State of Regents Exams – There is still a lot of discussion about what they are going to do about the regents. They are probably going to keep them, but there are going to be several alternatives to graduation that do not include necessarily passing these exams. They have accelerated their process. They have a committee working on this. They originally wanted it to

be a two year committee, but they have cut it down to one year. Mr. Tabano does not think eliminating all the regents is the right way to go because it would be hard to make sure that what is being offered in place of a regents exam is going to be something that will help a student prepare for post-secondary programs and other opportunities. They are talking about, possibly, a portfolio assessment, or other assessments they could use to show some proficiency. Mr. Tabano believes that the regents are not the best of all things, but at least you have to be somewhat proficient. For instance, you have to be able to write well enough, and there is a way to measure it fairly. They had taken out the US History regents last year because of one question that might have been not suitable for the students, regarding guns. They are bringing the US History regents back in June.

Staff Development: Restorative Practices – On January 31st, the first Restorative Practices Workshop will take place through our professional development contract. It is, simply put, an alternative to suspension and punitive outcomes. It is meant to cut down on students being suspended and receiving sanctions that they feel are not fair. The whole idea behind this is to try to talk it out with the student and try to make the student see the folly of their ways. The training will take place over 2 years and there will be 4 workshops total. A lot of the practices that they are teaching are ones that we already implement. For example, we do not suspend students. This training is coming from LMU. Mr. Tabano had a meeting with them to discuss aligned interests, as well as how to reach those students with mental health issues and issues with keeping up with things that need to be done for school.

Outreach/Recruitment – We have 2 outreach coordinators out in the field. They are visiting high schools in the city, meeting with school counselors and parent coordinators, and introducing our school to them. A lot of these schools are looking for alternatives for their students, and there are also schools that have more students than they can handle with the new rule in effect about class size. They have already met with several schools and are now lined up to give presentations to the students starting next week. They are set to see approximately 10 high schools in the next 2 days, and so far they have been received well. They are leaving our flyers with the counselors and the parent coordinators, and doing a good job trying to sell our school. This will help in our recruitment going forward. The timing is right because it is the end of the term. We will see how many applications we will get as a result, since many schools are looking to downsize their population.

Current Lobbyist Activities/Meeting with CSA – Mr. Tabano reports that our bill will be included in this legislative session. We are continuing to meet with legislators. Mr. Tabano is scheduled to meet with a couple more in the following week, and will also be meeting with Henry Rubio, the new head of CSA, the principals union, because we want to make sure he continues to give us

the same support as his predecessor, Mark Cannizzaro, gave us. In his ask just before the session, Mr. Cannizzaro has always put in that they look out for charter schools and conversion schools, and he has always put in something about asking for them to help meet our needs and whatever we are proposing. The meeting with Mr. Rubio is to make sure that he will include our budget request for pension reimbursement in his budget.

Substance Abuse Workshops – We are doing workshops around substance abuse. They are happening during lunch time on Wednesdays.

New Initiatives/Project Prevent Grant – We received a grant called Project Prevent. We are not the lead on this grant, but we are included. It links our families and our students with community agencies with the express purpose of trying to reduce violence and criminal activity in the community. Alex Martinez, who used to be with JVL, is the head of this organization and is spearheading the effort. We have two people set to attend a meeting to see what the organization's plan is around providing workshops for parents and students.

Newsletter – The JVL newsletter highlights student achievement and alumni. The current one will be posted on the website soon and they will be posted on the website on a monthly basis.

Report of the CFOO

Financial Update – Ms. Sakosky reports that in the 6 month financials, the change in net assets is a \$941,000 increase. This is a really strong number. As stated in the past, we always have to wait for the second half of the school year, but based on the projections through the end of this school year, June 30th, we are actually going to break even, and might also have a little bit extra in the amount of about \$84,000 in the black. There are a couple of things that have happened that contributed to this. The IDEA Budget, which is our special education funding, was originally for about a \$100,000, and the receipt that we received was almost \$191,000. That is an extra \$90,000 pickup that was not forecasted for, and the projection is based on our special education headcount from the previous year. There must have been an increase in the allocation for us to get that bump. Additionally, the other piece that came in was the ERTC credit for the pandemic. We had submitted the application and filed it in September with the expectation that it would take a couple of years for the IRS to go through all of the applications and check the numbers. However, we actually received the payment this month. They also gave us interest on the money that they owe us. The application was for about \$294,000, and the total amount that we received was \$301,000. The other piece is also the financial market. Our investment portfolios have done well. We had an increase in the investment portfolio for both October and November, and there was a slight decrease in December, but year-to-date for the 6 months is an increase of about

\$67,000. We could stay conservative with the investment increase, leaving us at about \$81,000 for the rest of the school year, which is double what the budget was for the year. Another contributing factor is the per-pupil enrollment, our FTEs, have also improved. The FTEs in the past have been roughly around 300, between 295 and 310. We are going really strong right now. The projections are for roughly 329 general education FTEs. The invoice for DOE was just done and that number is at 344. We are now starting to see students come through because traditional schools are realizing some students are not going to meet the requirements and they are referring them to alternative schools, like charter schools. We have also been tentatively awarded the Round 8 21st Century after-school funding for the next 4 years at \$420,000 each year. We are working on the budget at this time, updating it with current programming ideas as well as the related costs. We have been trying to get an audio engineering program off the ground. We had a meeting with Kareema Watkins, the compliance director, who previously ran the after-school program, and would like to start it off as an after-school program and then build it into an internship program. This would be a great opportunity to provide the students with a career driven program.

Annual Medical Renewal Update – We renew the non-union staff medical insurance for the upcoming year on March 1st. There will be an increase of about 8.72%. Regardless of the increase, it is still the priority of JVL to take good care of our employees with their health plans. Partially because due to pay scales being low at a non-profit, the benefits have to be attractive enough to appeal to talented and skilled workers. Additionally, these are tough times, and covering as much of that burden for our employees is a good social commitment.

Motion: Mr. Levine makes the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Mr. Tabano seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.