

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

Date: August 25, 2020

Time: 2:00 **Place:** Zoom Video

Members Present: Harvey Newman, Douglas Knight, Richard Levine, Ron Tabano, Dana Jackson, Lawrence Ng, Sy Fliegel, Luba Koziolkowsky

Members Absent: none

Call to Order: Mr. Newman called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM on August 25, 2020

The minutes summarizing the July 22, 2020 board meeting were reviewed. Mr. Newman requests a motion to accept the July 2020 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Knight makes a motion to accept the July 2020 minutes.

Second: Ms. Jackson makes motion and Ron Tabano seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Report of the CEO

Mr. Tabano reported feedback from survey of students' parents. JVL staff contact parents of students from both campuses to inquire - 1) do you want child to attend remotely from home? 2) do you want student to attend class in person? 3) Do you have the property technology at home if they choose to remain at home?

Results – slightly higher percentage requested attending in person than remote. Nearly 50/50. Technology – survey helped determine who needs tablets and Cecilia had IT order 100 new tablets. All needs should be covered.

\$94,000 grant provided by Esser will be used for tablets and PPE needs. There were no strings attached for use of money.

Mr. Tabano mentioned what he hears about potential UFT teachers' strike. Teachers would lose 2 days of pay for each day out on strike. This is known as the Taylor law.

Recruitment is issue for JVL. Nobody in transfer schools is comfortable at this time. Students aren't moving. This would typically be a time that we would see movement. Anticipating that it might free up when the Mayor announces whether instruction will be from home or in classroom.

Ron working with consultant (Mary Grace) to prepare data for charter renewal application. JVL has 2 – 3 times number of “most at risk” students of most other transfer schools. We have 47% special Ed and significant number of 18,19 and 20 year olds. “Risk” is failure to graduate high school. Report is due 10/2/2020. Key section is “are we a viable school, and supporting information includes regents scores, data re graduation rate, and our numbers have been increasing annually – a good trend.

Eighth grade revision is also part of our renewal application. Mr. Tabano reports that seventh grade is the new 8th grade, because there are thousands of 7th graders that are already too old – 16 and 17 years old. He does not see social promotions after 8th grade. JVL application included taking on over aged 7th graders who will be going into to 8th grade. This is a nuance in the way we will present it. The distinction may be important toward efforts to obtain facilities money. Harvey Newman added – we anticipate chaos due to students who did not focus and absorb (or even attend) remote learning. He suggested that a prediction be made in our application that JVL will be necessary to service the additional numbers of disenfranchised students.

Staff reduction – we lost a teacher from Bronx (Julie Padilla) who will take an Assistant Principal position in at a K-5 charter school in Queens. We have a teacher who is physically in GA and will be terminated if not willing to return physically when that happens. All teachers must report if no accommodation is granted. We will not replace teachers who leave. We will consolidate the two campuses for remote learning and can cut back by using teachers from both campuses to teach students from both campuses.

Graduates – currently at 108 for the year. Ron, Cecilia and other staff drove to Bronx, Mt. Vernon, and Queens to deliver graduation swag bags to students, say hi, see parents, etc. with August graduates. JVL has promised parents that this year's graduating students will be able to join physical graduation if we have one next year.

Resolution – Ron gave motion to accept resolution concerning projected school reopening plan that is now on JVL Website. Dana seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

Report of the CFOO

In July we voted as a board to continue our meetings by zoom vs. in person though end of 2020. Cecilia pointed out that we can't make that decision on our own because it is subject to "open meetings law". The Governor had suspended in person meetings through 9/4/2020 and we voted for our practice to comply – "We have to adhere to open meeting law". If Governor says meeting must again be in person, then we must have an in person meeting. We voted to revise our statement about all meetings will be by zoom, and it was unanimous.

Financial Report through July 31, 2020. Our expenditures were reduced due to shorter summer session and other consolidation of classes on zoom, reducing teachers, etc. This represented a monthly savings of approx. \$15,000 for instruction for the summer. Cecilia reiterated that we are in hiring freeze. Cash and investments are doing well. All financials are based upon 450 FTE's for enrollment. Harvey requested that we have call with Brad from Morgan Stanley for update on markets and our investments. He had concern about long term view of bonds.

Fiscal year end 6/30/2020 audit report is progressing. Auditors did visit to see information first had and have been provided with answers and information concerning any residual questions. Anticipate having a draft of audit report in late September.

After school programming for the fall will likely resume. Cecilia is looking to the State for flexibilities in the 21st Century funding due to Covid and more remote activities that are required. She is anticipating that the modification will be approved. Activities will include Yoga, MMA, self-defense, recycling art, dance, leadership through chess, American sign language with music and social emotional learning and mental health counseling support.

PPE – School purchased for health and safety concern upon returning in person. Face masks, hand sanitizers, signage, see through barriers for office cubicles, floor social distance decals. Will purchase additional as necessary. Harvey says Mayor indicates that city will do inspections. But Ron says they are not obligated to be inspected and he does not know of any PPE being provided by NYCDOE to any of its schools because they have no money.

Mr. Tabano reports all AC in Bronx and filters were upgraded and windows can open. Windows in Manhattan are not easy to open but we are working with building management to have them fix windows.

Employee Health and Safety Policy was distributed in draft by Cecilia. The board reviewed and Harvey requested a motion to approve.

Motion: Mr. Ng makes a motion to adopt the Employee COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy
Second: Ms. Koziolkowsky seconded the motion
Vote: Unanimous

Cecilia presented work that has been done concerning “employee reasonable workplace accommodations.” JVL mirrored a form used by DOE and received 11 applications from teachers. An employer is obligated to have interactive dialogue with the employee to attempt to find a reasonable accommodation that will permit them to perform the job remotely. The names were provided to us, but not the conditions for which they requested accommodations due to reason of medical confidentiality. We adjourned to an executive session (vs. board forum) to review and discuss, and then resumed the meeting and then voted on the recommendation. All 11 requests were approved by the board.

Mr. Knight asked what percent of 54 employees seeking accommodation and it was 20 % or 11 of 54.

We scheduled the next meeting for 9/17/2020.

Mr. Newman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Fliegel makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Ms. Knight seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM