

## October 14, 2015 WACS Board Minutes

Present: Stanton, Terrell, Tyler, Delana, William, Peter, Cobb, John, Katie, Morica, Amber, Justin, Laura Flynn, Page, Reinye, Rita, Susan, Caitlin, Adrienne, Elizabeth, Christie, Jenny, Michelle, Hannah

- I. Call to Order/Adoption of September Minutes (7:00-7:05)
  - A. Motion by Terrell, second Hannah, unanimous approval
- II. Principal's Report (7:05-7:45) – Delana Reeves
  - A. Dashboard
    1. Wed. tour days go forward for prospective parents
    2. 10/14 picture day and flamenco dancers Hispanic Heritage
    3. 10/16 Q1 report cards
    4. 10/20-22 book fair
    5. 10/21 curriculum night 6-8pm
    6. 10/27 community council 7-9pm
    7. 10/29 Westside Chat 8:15am
    8. 10/30 Storybook character parade 8:30am, early release 11:30am
    9. 11/4 6-8pm open house
  - B. Fall Data Report
    1. Review of MAP, RIT, NPR; year-to-year slides represent only kids present 65% of days prior year and then again this year.
    2. Known issues include African American/Caucasian and Free/Non-Free and Reduced Lunch achievement gap and slump when students move from MAP primary (test read to students) to MAP regular (students read test).
    3. 6 students who attended summer learning program began in the fall higher than where left the prior spring, inconsistent with the typical summer slump most students experience.
    4. Intervention efforts include additional staff to reduce student teacher ratio to 10:1 and even 5:1 at times, guidance counselor intervention, weekly monitoring of progress data, prioritizing gifted/tutorial needs, professional development for staff, collaboration with other charter schools who use MAP, and implementation of NW Evaluation Association Skills Navigator.
    5. Students meeting growth goals is the #1 priority. Most students are meeting growth goals (showing one year worth of growth) in reading/math with some grade-level exceptions.
    6. African American/Caucasian and Free/Non-Free and Reduced Lunch are only 2 statistically significantly distinguishable groups.
    7. Tactics by grade described by teachers:
      - a. Significant racial gap reported
      - b. K reports struggles with vocabulary/grammar, reading/writing, comprehension, and algebraic thinking; after-school and in-class tutoring (numerous staff members, outside groups, and volunteers in addition to teachers) and read-at-home kits for those struggling, challenge packet take home and in-class book studies for high performers.
      - b. 1<sup>st</sup> reports importance of reading foundation; small-group learning break outs are helping high and low performers.

c. 2<sup>nd</sup> many new students; has focused a lot on grammar and phonics as well as reading comprehension skills initially instead of jumping into literacy-based/writing curriculum elements; Wed/Thur after-school 1 hour tutoring with around 1/3 of students; take home reading given to some students that don't have at-home selection; increased focused on reading stamina.

d. 3<sup>rd</sup> Foundations for those still needing phonics and Great Books for those further along; similar to 2<sup>nd</sup> has focused on grammar boot camps initial 9 weeks; differentiated project-based learning projects beginning.

e. 4<sup>th</sup> describes co-teaching model that many grades are using to meet both gifted and special-ed needs on an individual basis; 20 minutes of daily whole-group instruction and the rest is 1:5 student teacher ratio small groups; goal to meet individual needs and push in 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum; reports significant growth (to show up in future tests) and very positive energy in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

C. Rollins Partnership discussion to be tabled for November meeting.

III. Community Council Update (7:45-7:55) – Michelle Kraynak, co-chair

A. Fun Run success; track club Tues/Thur before school continuing until cold/dark prevent; teachers report that kids come in energized and ready to learn after.

B. Directory looks fabulous, will be online

C. Book fair, curriculum nights, and open house volunteers

D. Participation across the board reported to be increasing

IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee (7:55-8:05)

1. No significant variances this month.
2. Audit to be delivered 10/21 (due date Nov 1).
3. William to email bullet-point summary.

B. Governance Committee (8:05-8:15) – tabled until November.

1. Update on scheduling/training
2. Reminder on Ethics policy/Conflict of Interest Forms

V. Executive Session (8:15-9:00)

A. Motion by Terrell to move into Executive Session to discuss facility negotiations; second John, unanimous approval.

VI. Moved out of Executive Session to review Cox Curry Feasibility Study 4-6 months.

A. After moving into Executive Session, Hannah motioned that we move back to public discussion to discuss non-facility negotiations matter of Feasibility Study; second Terrell, unanimous approval.

B. Motion by Monica to approve \$32,500 base fees and reimbursement of expenses for fundraising Feasibility Study; second Cobb, unanimous approval.

C. Motion by Terrell to move back into Executive Session; second Cobb, unanimous approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT  
(AS REQUIRED UNDER O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b))


The undersigned presiding Board Officer of Westside Atlanta Charter School's Board of Directors, under oath, hereby states and certifies that at the Board meeting held on October 14, 2015, the following:

- 1) The Board properly entered executive session as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3. The only matters discussed during such executive session of its meeting as allowable under O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2 and 50-14-3 were as follows:
  - ( ) To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings or other judicial actions;
  - ( ) To discuss tax matters which are confidential by state law;
  - To authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property;
  - ( ) To authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate;
  - ( ) To enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of or lease property, subject to approval in a subsequent public vote;
  - ( ) To enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate, subject to approval in a subsequent public vote;
  - ( ) To discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee, but not when receiving evidence or hearing argument on charges filed to determine disciplinary action;
  - ( ) To discuss records (or portions thereof) exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50.
- 2) To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, no other matters than those of a purely personal and/or nongovernmental nature were discussed during said executive session.
- 3) By executing this affidavit, the undersigned does hereby state that he/she in no way waives any rights granted under the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 4) This affidavit is executed solely for the purpose of compliance with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) and shall serve no other purpose.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

  
PRESIDING OFFICER

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO  
before me this 24 day of November, 2015.

  
Notary Public  
My commission expires:

