

Watershed Public Charter School provides an interconnected learning environment, where hands-on exploration and creative expression foster the learning process. Our community promotes rigorous academic achievement, meaningful outdoor experiences and continuous growth for all students.

Watershed Public Charter School August 2024 Board Meeting Agenda

August 27, 2024

6:00pm, In-Person at Watershed Public Charter School

| Board Member | Attendance |
|---------------------------|--|
| Chapman, Sarah | Present - Outgoing Teacher representative |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Present |
| Donn, Angela | Present |
| Freedman, Laurel | Present |
| Ford, Eric | Joined 6:06pm |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Present |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Present - Kelley left early unsure of time before 7:30 |
| Smolinski, Ann | Present - New teacher representative |
| Thompson, Raven | Present |
| Wenck, Leah | Present |
| Ex-Officio Members | Attendance |
| David Miller | Present |
| Lori Widney | Present |

Called to order at 6:04pm.

Board Norms

- *Come to meetings with an open-mind*
- *Prepare to actively listen*
- *Trust collective wisdom that is shared*
- *Strive for consensus and clarity*
- *Be willing to accept feedback and ask questions*
- *Value all lived experiences and perspectives*
- *Use cultural humility when engaging with others*
- *Be conscious of "air time"*

Public Comment

- None

Consent Agenda

- Approval of [July minutes](#)

| Board Member | Vote |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Dietzen, Lindita | Yes |



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| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Donn, Angela | Second |
| Freedman, Laurel | Yes |
| Ford, Eric | Absent |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Motioned to accept |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Yes |
| Smolinski, Ann | Yes |
| Thompson, Raven | Yes |
| Wenck, Leah | Yes |

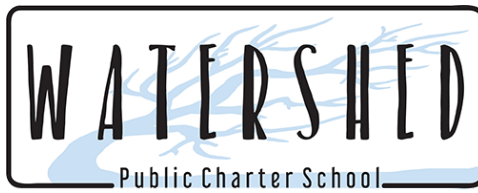
Old Business

- 24-25 Board meeting schedule discussed.
- Three new board members have been vetted, interviewed, given a tour
- Charlotte Keniston, prospective board member, introduced herself as parent of 1st and 3rd grade students, and employed at UMBC.

New Business

- Vote on New Board Members - they will not vote on anything today, and revisions to the new board member voting police will be discussed.
 - New Board Member resumes: not vote on anything today, revisions will be discussed later
 - [Crystal Baze](#)

| Board Member | Vote |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chapman, Sarah | Motioned to accept |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Yes |
| Donn, Angela | Yes |
| Freedman, Laurel | Yes |
| Ford, Eric | Yes |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Yes |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Yes |
| Thompson, Raven | Yes |
| Wenck, Leah | Second |



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- [Charlotte Keniston](#) - Community member and accountant.

| Board Member | Vote |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Chapman, Sarah | Second |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Yes |
| Donn, Angela | Yes |
| Freedman, Laurel | Yes |
| Ford, Eric | Motion to accept |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Yes |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Yes |
| Thompson, Raven | Yes |
| Wenck, Leah | Yes |

- [Hashim Shortridge](#) - Nominated by Stephanie (a previous board member, he is a community member.

| Board Member | Vote |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Chapman, Sarah | Yes |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Yes |
| Donn, Angela | Yes |
| Freedman, Laurel | Yes |
| Ford, Eric | Second |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Yes |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Motion to accept |
| Thompson, Raven | Yes |
| Wenck, Leah | Yes |

- Review length of Board member terms (including teacher term) - There will be a partial term if a board member is elected after July two year term after July. Can be renewed one time after their initial two years. If members would like to be re-elected they will. A tool will come out to show where everyone is in their timeline.
- New teacher representative - The process for choosing was discussed. The term is for two years. Staff votes on the representatives. Ann is a special ed teacher and a former stem teacher,

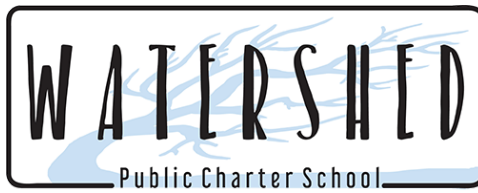


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- Revision of [Nominating Policy](#) - The proposed change was reviewed by Eric who led all of the process for prospective board members. It does not need to be voted upon in closed session. There will be a followup e-vote for the policy change as the wrong policy was linked in the agenda.
- Board committees - It is recommended that there will be a focus on a few committees with one potential topic. Governance, finance, strategic planning, DEI (first job will be to come up with an agenda of the DEI agenda/goal/focus should be), environmental committee (what would that look like was discussed).
 - Environmental Committee establishment - recommend focus on a few committees with one potential topic. Leah used to be the facilities chair for the environmental and facilities committee but there were not enough members to continue it. Leah would like to chair or co-chair this committee. How can we do some environmental activism? Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership- WPCS has been invited as part of the governor's initiative. The committee can also focus on the construction.
 - Finance - This will be more of operations focus but Raven suggested a fundraising role.
 - Follow-up survey on Committees and leadership -A survey will be sent out for anyone who would be interested in serving on a committee.
- Strategic Planning and Retreat
 - [Proposed Strategic Planning Process](#) - This will be aligned with the timeline of the renewal process.. Dave presented An outline and what a strategic planning process could look like along with the time frame. It will direct and reinforce where the school focus could go in 3-5 years. Discussed six phases. It is a living document with a communication plan. It is a good tool for fundraising. Challenges include time constraints, resources, stakeholder resistance mitigation includes clear communication, phased implementation, and on-going engagement
Next steps- strategic planning committee will look for possible funding sources or consulting, start phase 1 and encourage a call to action. There will be a possible board retreat after the new year to coincide with strategic planning. DEI will also be embedded throughout the process.

Reports

- [Principal's Report](#) -
 - Partnering with Notre Dame, teachers will be certified in environmental education. It's a year long course. It is grant funded with partnerships.
 - It's been a great start to the new year and starting outside with student learning.
 - Current enrollment 361 - 11 spots open to older grades.
 - Early Literacy - Ready to Read Act. The school will need to collect data and track interventions. Almost everyone in BCPS agreed to use Amira as an assessment tool. But WSPC has not wanted additional screen time and used DIBELS instead. A survey was given to parents with an explanation. The survey was nearly evenly split and results would have helped inform the decision but there was not a clear majority. The cost for

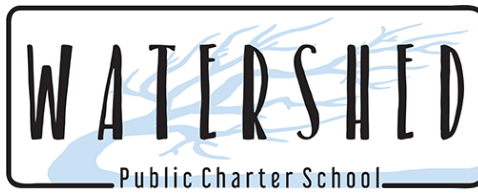


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Amira is unknown but the vendor has been contacted. A more comprehensive device plan needs to be developed. Questions were asked about pricing (unknown), hybrid possibilities, Amira is a tool that uses the same standards. It utilizes AI to inform . DIBELS meet expectations for the Act. Some AI and political concerns were explored. Dr. Bennett (Executive director for BCPS for WPCS) made the recommendation. For k-3 it is used for 3 min a week. If the switch is made this year, the entire professional development needs to be restructured, it would be a large shift for teachers, it would give a more individualized assessment of students.

| Board Member | Vote |
|-------------------------|---|
| Chapman, Sarah | Yes |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Yes |
| Donn, Angela | Yes |
| Freedman, Laurel | Yes |
| Ford, Eric | Yes |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Second |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Motion to continue this school year for BIDEs and create a strategic plan to implement next year. |
| Thompson, Raven | Yes |
| Wenck, Leah | No |

- MCap scored to be released at next board meeting
- [Financial Report](#) -
 - We are under enrolled by 11 and hoping to get the spaces filled.
 - Three staff members paid directly from Watershed, Inc. and some substitute teachers.
 - Temporary trailers for two classrooms are costing 300k trailers. The instillation of modulars will fall in next fiscal year
 - More details in report and shown on the screen.
 - Clean Green 15 - Some money is given with the school and families track when they go outside for 15 minutes to clean. \$600 is going to aquaponics for 7th grade team.
 - Discussed cash flow for 3 months
 - Maintenance for boiler fee is still being negotiated.
 - The last slide show was from New Edge with the schedule of modular installation.
 - Linda has been transitioning a lot of day to day finances to Dave.
- [Executive Director Report](#) -
 - The first 100 days plan continues to be in effect.
 - Current grant summary: DOE grant update- finalizing RFP and with BCPS procurement. Dave is looking at possible consulting since fees are included in the grant. Other potential grant opportunities are being explored.



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- o Facility updates including changing out lights, playground updates, landscaping were communicated. Dave and Christina are working out of the Exchangeree. They received approvals from the archdiocese but they want a lease amendment. Permitting is still needed.
- PTO Report - This is a new Standing report
 - o Christy Eybes presented- Explained the purpose of Watershed PTO.
 - o Impact statement was read with the year's events and collaborations.
 - o Discussed summer events and work including a calendar of events for the year to be unveiled at the first PTO meeting of the year.
 - o Some opportunities to increase family involvement for strengthening the community and providing extra support were explored, including room reps and helpers.
 - o Several activities for September were shared.
 - o WPCS PTO is open to feedback from the board on ways to support one another.

Key Dates:

- September 6: Board Social at 5:00 pm
 - o 703 Field Street, Baltimore, MD
- September 24: September Board Meeting (Virtual) at 6:00 pm

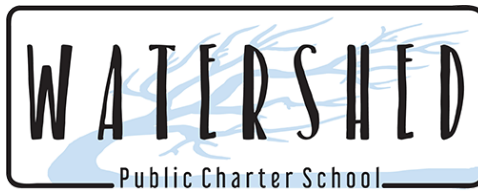
Open session adjourned at:

Vote to move to closed session

Recorded vote to close the meeting: Date: __7:57__ ; Time: _____ ; Location: __In person-WPCS_____ ;
Motion to close meeting made by: __Laurel_____ ; Seconded by __Leah_____ ;
Members in favor _____ ; Opposed: _____ ; Abstaining: _____ ; Absent: _____

This meeting will only be closed under the provision or provisions checked below, all from General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b):

(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) _____ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) _____ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) _____ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) _____ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) _____ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) _____ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) _____ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) _____ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) _____ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) _____ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) _____ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) _____ "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) _____ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a



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negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, *if* public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process”; **(15)**___ “To discuss cybersecurity, *if* the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to” (i) “security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology”; (ii) “network security information,” such as information that is related to passwords, personal ID numbers, access codes, encryption, security devices, or vulnerability assessments or that a governmental entity collects or maintains to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or (iii) “deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.”

| Citation (insert # from above) | Topic | Reason for closed-session discussion of topic - |
|---|---|--|
| | Follow up responses to May Open Session questions | |