**Watershed Public Charter School April 2025 Board Meeting Agenda**

April 22, 2025  
6:00pm, virtual

Video call link: WPCS Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Time zone: America/New\_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: https://meet.google.com/pit-ixxm-nyh

Or dial: ‪(US) +1 484-841-4586‬ PIN: ‪663 607 215‬#

| **Board Member** | **Attendance** |
| --- | --- |
| Baze, Crystal | Present at 6:10 |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Absent |
| Donn, Angela | Present |
| Freedman, Laurel | Present |
| Keniston, Charlotte | Absent |
| Gilbert, William | Present |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Absent |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Present |
| Smolinski, Ann | Present |
| Thompson, Raven | Present -left at 6:37pm |
| Wenck, Leah | Present |
| **Ex-Officio Members** | **Attendance** |
| David Miller | Present |
| Lori Widney | Present |

**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”*

**Upcoming Key Dates:**

* May 5 – 9: Teacher Appreciation Week
* May 16: Schools and Offices close 3 hours early
* May 26: Memorial Day Holiday
* May 28: Career Day
* May 29: MAEOE Youth Summit
* June 13: Schools close 3 hours early
* June 16: Last day of school for students; schools close 3 hours early

**Public Comment**

None

**Consent Agenda (2 min)**

* Approval of [March 2025 Board Meeting Notes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U2u9d-Dq7m76fvu7LgjTugbIOM67yKEh0ISsJ2Ksosg/edit?usp=drive_link)

Motion - laurel second kelley

**Old Business (10 min)**

* MSDE Expert Review Team visit rescheduled for May 22 - The purpose is stemming from the Blueprint for Maryland Schools legislation. Focus groups have been conducted. Classroom evaluations are rescheduled for May 22 and the report is expected to be available in six weeks.
* Board Engagement and Volunteering opportunities - At least one opportunity is now asked of board members to participate in the school community. Parent board members are asked to do something separate from their own children’s events.
  + The Board Breakfast for Teacher Appreciation Week - Leah will send an email regarding the Board sponsored breakfast and contributions. The breakfast will take place Tuesday, May 6th at 7:30am.
  + Leah discussed her participation in career day, which is taking place on May 28th this year. Any board members who may be interested in participating can contact the school counselor at [rhennessy@bcps.org](mailto:rhennessy@bcps.org)
* Board Development - Nothing new to report. Raven, Dave, and Laurel will be attending the training in May.
* Climate and Culture Strategy - Laurel. The Baltimore Community Foundation grant request was not accepted. There is hesitancy to fund initiatives on DEI due to the current political climate. There was a conversation with Christina Easton to adjust the project timeline to July 1st, which is a new fiscal year, to see what the WPCS budget looks like and how this initiative may be fungible with other grants. Lori is committed to providing professional development and time and aiding any training. WPCS will need to find full funding before the plan can be executed, which then will lead to to the strategic planning process.

**New Business (15 min)**

* Assistant Principal Search update - Three potential candidates were interviewed. There will be a cross check with the BCPS pool The process was able to include stakeholders - staff, parents, a google form, and student group interview. It is anticipated that an offer will be made by May 7th and that there will be BCPS board approval at the end of the month.
* Teacher’s Representative Roles and Responsibilities
  + [Notes and Thoughts -- teacher representative to Board roles and responsibilities 04.07.25](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hiZYFrIM-wZTxZDSs1q-YhyjWuRwpmFc/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114945571610056350598&rtpof=true&sd=true) - The teacher representative will act as a conduit between staff and the Board in a clear and timely manner, focus on academic and school culture, cadence to report out focusing on quarterly student spotlights, and a grade level spotlight with activities, and the report is to be coordinated between other reports. This Board position will continue over the summer months, which need to be added to the bylaws. It is the hope to codify these roles and responsibilities and also look at it through the Board development lens.
* Renew America’s School Recipients Joint Letter to Secretary of Energy
  + [Copy of Renew America's Schools - Joint Letter](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wt-5om9_am1URuHlgbS62mwS-hXA6CqwyXsl26iIF4k/edit?usp=sharing) - Concerns are growing about the lack of forward movement of the grant and project for both schools and contractors. The letter was sent to the liaison for Baltimore County to sign off on it, but they declined. A revised letter was made with no response as of yet. The Board could possibly vote to sign the letter. MFume would need to be added as a CC to the contacts. It would be helpful to look at where our current students live and make sure their representatives are also CC’d. Laurel will reach out to the legislative director asking how they recommend we move forward with the letter.
* [WPCS Initial FY26 Projected Budget presentation 04.18.25](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-gQFZZYZ13VT14DcB2Ewr2F40lhk2GgS/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114945571610056350598&rtpof=true&sd=true) -
  + Per pupil funding is not yet calculated and we will submit the initial budget once that number comes off. Right now it shows a flat budget with no increase. Two other possible budget numbers were also provided. Timeline and adjustments will be made with the Board to vote on it at the May meeting with the final budget submitted to bcps by June.
  + FY26 Proposed Enrollment Model - Enrollment and staffing were discussed increasing student enrollment can provide initial revenue with modest increases per classroom.
  + FY26 Projected Revenue and Expenses
  + FY26 Proposed budget with flat funding, moderate cut, and worse Case Cut Scenarios - potentially impact for supplies and staffing. The building and facilities budget category has a hefty financing fee and it is hopeful if not expected that the actual number will be significantly less. We are still negotiating the terms.
  + FY26 Proposed budget with year-to-year comparison - YTD figure.
  + Understanding in this uncertain time, it is understood that these figures will need to change as needed.

**Reports**

* [Teacher’s Representative Report](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ONzSmRj4sxKhibIpF7VY1-tFRM3JlfGe/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113006204441659423687&rtpof=true&sd=true) (5 min) -
  + Unit Project Updates which are integrated across content areas.
  + Opportunities to connect
  + https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/DamSafety/Pages/Probable\_Maximum\_Precipitation\_Study.aspx
* [April PTO Report](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gNn12Sxmf8HbFMOHrTnkndavris7TnWggMQY3bG5ruA/edit?slide=id.p#slide=id.p) (5 min)-
  + Review of April events with over $2000 raised
  + Student of the month backdrop
  + Executive Board and Committee Work
  + Building Watershed Community
* April Principal’s Report (10 min)
  + Attendance- continues to be above expectation but the concern is chronically absent students, which has been growing
  + Hiring update
  + BCPS has unfrozen hiring for new hires - WPCS can only recommend who they would like to hire but BCPS does the hiring.
  + Data update - ELA DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) Middle of Year Benchmark (January) -What instruction is being delivered and if interventions are effective are being reviewed. Ready to read by end of 3rd grade is a necessary benchmark or students will be retained or move on with required additional supports.
  + ELA Winter MAP data
  + Student Member of the Board - Areas of consideration for the Board and application for SMOB were discussed with more clear expectations developed by May in hopes that they are voted on before the end of the school year. Lori will contact Lillie Mae to see how SMOB is handled there.
* Hiring enrollment.
* [WPCS Executive Director's April 2025 Board Meeting Report 04.18.25](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JLnMv3zCwaKYzW3xTLAbaQy8Nssnx1x7/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114945571610056350598&rtpof=true&sd=true) (15 min)
  + 2024-2025 Enrollment - Looking at expanding numbers in classes
  + Watershed SY26 Mission Survey Results from Unit 2 showcase showed a large response rate
  + Grants review
  + Current grant summary
  + DOE Renew America’s School Grant
  + Facilities Updates
  + Watershed Celebrations
  + FY25 Financial Summary - 3rd quarter summary
  + Cashflow overview July 2024-February 2025

**Open session adjourned at:** 7:41pm

**Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: \_\_04.22.2025\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Time:\_7:41\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Location:\_\_virtual\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 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 -** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

Closed session opened: 7:43pm

| **Board Member** | **Attendance in Closed Session** |
| --- | --- |
| Baze, Crystal | Absent |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Absent |
| Donn, Angela | Present |
| Freedman, Laurel | Present |
| Keniston, Charlotte | Absent |
| Gilbert, William | Present |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Absent |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Present |
| Smolinski, Ann | Present |
| Thompson, Raven | Absent |
| Wenck, Leah | Present |
| **Ex-Officio Members** | **Attendance in Closed Session** |
| David Miller | Present |
| Lori Widney | Present |

New Edge provided a conservative new timeline for the project noting that it will not be complete by July 31st. There will be a substantial completion in September. There has be a delay in fabrication. Site permitting is still in process. There will be a site visit on Thursday from BGE. Organizationally, it is important to transition to the upper school in an efficient, staged manner. A proposed move-in date is up for discussion for October 17-20th, which coincides with two professional development days.

Lori and Dave will solicit advice and input with the Faculty Council (union members) tomorrow morning and share with the faculty at large later in the day. Board members are to not to discuss this situation for the next 14 hours until the staff are made aware.

Lori proposed to change the teacher contract to give193 days instead of 191 days and possible asynchronous days as a request from BCPS. The school will still be able to function within these parameters.

Kelley feels that asynchronous days need to have an airtight plan when presenting this proposal to BCPS. Also, deliverables need to be put in writing to New Edge to apply pressure.

Ann mentioned that BCPS has not been part of this process so that may be a sticking point.

It is unknown who Lori and Dave would contact regarding shifting days. Kelley mentioned providing various options when proposing the plans.

Student welcome for new families over the summer will be shared this communication.

Ann worries about adding another student to the classroom while not having the space yet. Lori stated that only 4, 5, 7th grades will be affected.

Possible asynchronous days could include speakers, virtual field trips, or field day. PTO could help with activities. Non teaching staff could be involved. It could be considered a fall learning festival.

**Closed session adjourned:** 8:18pm