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

March 25, 2025  
6:00pm, in-person

Video call link: WPCS Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 25 · 6:00 – 7:30pm

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

Called to order at 6:06pm by Laurel.

The newest Board Member, William Gilbert was introduced. He is a parent of two WPCS students. He currently works as an IT sales professional and is a committed community leader

**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:**

* March 31 – Professional Development day; no school for students
* April 4: Third Marking Period ends; Schools and Offices close 3 hours early
* April 8, 5:30 pm: Governance Committee meeting
* April 10, 12:00 pm: Finance Committee meeting
* April 7 – 11: Scholastic Book Fair
* April 14 – 21: Spring Break
* April 22, 6:00 pm: April Board Meeting
* 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 [February 2025 Board Meeting Notes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fHzqD-s2KG89mjIN5Jw1daCM4A4n-vxdSPt9oeJduFE/edit?usp=drive_link) motion to approve Ann, Charlotte - not will

| **Board Member** | **Vote** |
| --- | --- |
| Baze, Crystal | Yes |
| Dietzen, Lindita | Absent |
| Donn, Angela | Yes |
| Freedman, Laurel | Yes |
| Keniston, Charlotte | Second |
| Gilbert, William | Abstain |
| Magness-Hill, Sage | Yes |
| Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley | Absent |
| Smolinski, Ann | Motion to approve |
| Thompson, Raven | Yes |
| Wenck, Leah | Yes |

**Student Spotlight**

* Aamir Snead, 6th Grade, - Aamir was selected to Center Stage's 40th Annual Young Playwrights Festival. With the theme “I love my city, I love myself,” he wrote a play called “BeMorE.” Answering some questions from the Board, he described feeling he had something to share. This was the first play he has written. Aamir came to WPCS in 5th grade. Aamir enjoys the feeling of WPCS as a strong community.
* Gemirah Okubanjo, 6th Grade - Gemirah has attended WPCS since 2nd grade. She presented her Ted talk that she created for her English Language Arts class on the subject of gratitude journaling and she answered questions from the Board.

**Old Business (10 min)**

* MSDE Expert Review Team visit rescheduled for May 22 - MSDE has completed components of the review except the observation, which was focused on grades K-5. All feedback panels have been completed. WPCS should get the report in approximately 6-8 weeks.
* Response to Public Comments. The [WPCS Climate and Culture Strategy Initiative 03.19.25](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Nh9p1qD9wlAVCPLbMgyio3jIge3wgqAk/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114121566523089744069&rtpof=true&sd=true) was presented to staff giving an overview of the process and how the Board decided on ImPACT Educational Consultants. From this meeting, the breakout groups questions and feedback will be shared with Christina Easton, including space issues, current political DEI trends, observations, family involvement, etc. Charlotte expressed concern that teachers feel it is outside imposition and wanted to explore how can we try and make it feel more collaborative and beneficial. Lori feels that once Christina Easton meets the staff, and we take these thoughts and concerns to her, it can help shape how to move forward. Time and effort to build up trust will be needed but this is a good first step to build that trust. Ann felt the meeting was constructive and gave them a voice. Christina may come to our April board meeting.

**New Business (15 min)**

* Board Engagement and Volunteering opportunities - Charlotte, Raven and Laurel have been in discussions about how to deepen Board engagement of the school. A system was created from the PTA list, to attend at least one event in the school. Also discussed was how the Board could have a table to promote engagement with the Board at various events. The PTA has a portal w twice a month communications about opportunities will be sent out to board member. Parent board members are tasked with coming to an event unrelated to their own children. Training for volunteers through BCPS will be necessary if you come during the day.
* Board Development - Raven volunteered to conduct research and provide coordination in board development, including- updating orientation documents, acclimate new board members how board meetings are run, differentiate the PTA and Board responsibilities, and provide continuing education around topics in which board members are interested and report back with information learned. A Maryland Non-Profits Course is entitled Board Excellence will be attended byDave, Laurel, and Raven focusing on making the board run well. More possibilities will be looked at in the future.

**Reports**

* [March PTO Report](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jD_6mJU9skCRGjk8HwaoPxCvmvz29G7KcMOTeps2mP8/edit?usp=sharing) (10 min) - There was a review of events with pictures including the Spelling Bee where two students went to regionals, the read-a-thon which raised $6600, the Unit Showcase take -away craft kits, Five Guys fundraiser which rased $600+, Sky Zone night, and family game night. Other topics included in the PTO report included Student of the Month Backdrop, Executive Board and committee work, end of year celebrations, and upcoming events.

Teacher appreciation week - The Board traditionally contributes money and time, and it was decided that breakfast before 8:00 would be best for teachers with a grab and go box to make it easier. Leah will help set up the Board sponsored breakfast. The date will be the week of May 5th with a date chosen by the end of the week. There are currently 65 staff members.

* [Principal Report (10 min)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v4P36TDBmOplu_9bav1HTDSrs77oeWD1/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=101319369714676631344&rtpof=true&sd=true) -
  + Attendance data report was shared, specifically measures that are taken to address chronic absenteeism.
  + Hiring updates: WPCS is hoping to hire a permanent assistant principal by mid April. The director of climate and culture will be hired afterwards. BCPS Priority transfers need to be placed before WPCS can hire outside of that pool. Special education staff are subject to priority transfers.
  + Student Member of the Board- A proposed timeline and criteria needs to be created including - application development, expectations, Board members to review applications and make recommendations, reviewing bi-laws, possible mentoring of the student(s), a soft roll out, and not including students in closed session. Raven, Angela, and Sage will email Lori about developing parameters.
* [Executive Director's Report and Finance Report](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jcElydUno3IRAax8VtZZ4B3eKsfHLYs3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114945571610056350598&rtpof=true&sd=true)(15 min) -
  + 2025-26 enrollment
  + Grants review including American Design Associates Alternative Learning Spaces grant through Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public School for new library furniture.
  + Current grants summary - Department of Energy Renew America's Schools Grant- met ad hoc with other schools around the country on how to advocate when the department went dark. They are back up and running with half the staff. Some of the project timeline will need to be modified including the HVAC system.
  + Modular Upper School Project - Some permitting approvals should be verified by early april. Timeline was shared with staff. An updated schedule by New Edge should be available next week. Weekly updates will be sent to the Board. Intercoms are being integrated in the buildings. William offered to help write RFPs and assist with any technical needs. An Additional adult will be used for bathroom breaks in the new building, which will also include scheduled breaks
  + Facilities updates- The barriers are down for the elevator repair and the project is almost complete.
  + Watershed celebrations - 3rd graders had a demonstration for pro-environment issues
  + Financial Summary- A link to the February Financial report is in the presentation which discussed budget vs. actuals, a budget summary. A detailed budget will be presented in the April board meeting with a flat initial budget proposal including a possible growth of two students per classroom. With the uncertainty of future funding, various possibilities with three budget models will be discussed.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Leah and seconded by Ann.

**Open session adjourned at: 7:43pm.**

**Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Time:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Location:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Motion to close meeting made by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

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 -** |
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