

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 October 2024 Board Meeting Agenda

October 22, 2024

6:00pm, Hybrid Meeting; both in-person in the Art Room of Watershed and virtual via video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pit-ixxm-nyh> or dialing: (US) +1 484-841-4586 PIN: 663 607 215#

Board Member	Attendance
Baze, Crystal	Present, in-person at 6:26 p.m.
Dietzen, Lindita	Absent
Donn, Angela	Present at 6:45 p.m., virtually
Freedman, Laurel	Present, virtually
Ford, Eric	Absent
Keniston, Charlotte	Absent
Magness-Hill, Sage	Present, in-person
Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley	Present, virtually
Shortridge, Hashim	Absent
Smolinski, Ann	Present, in-person
Thompson, Raven	Present, virtually
Wenck, Leah	Present, in-person
Ex-Officio Members	Attendance
David Miller	Present, in-person
Lori Widney	Present, in-person

Called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Laurel.

- Board minutes taken by Christina Sawyer.

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.



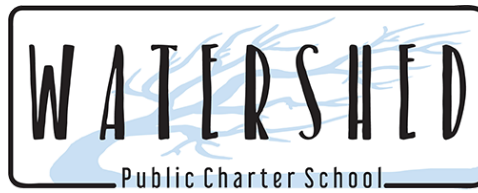
Watershed Public Charter School provides an interconnected learning environment, where hands-on exploration and creative expression foster the learning process. Our community promotes rigorous academic achievement, meaningful outdoor experiences and continuous growth for all students.

Old Business

- *24-25 Board Meeting Schedule-* Laurel said that the Board will stick with Tuesday evening time for Board Meetings and will do their best to be accommodating and to have an agenda that you can participate in online. Would like to do our best to have in-person meetings every other month. November and December Board Meeting dates will move to the week before because regularly scheduled Board meetings are during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. Nov 19 and Dec 18 are the new dates. [However, in the subsequent conversation about the Board Charter Renewal Celebration, it was decided that the Charter Renewal Celebration would replace December's Board Meeting.]
- *Board Charter Renewal Celebration-* Will be held on December 18 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Sage's home. Unit 1 Showcase is now November 20 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- *Strategic Planning Update-* Dave and Laurel have had 3-4 conversations with strategic planning folks and those who focus on DEI work. Laurel said that they have talked to two different groups, both of whom are school experts. One is a former Bal City principal and one is a small group of women with Baltimore County school experience. We have a proposal from one and we are waiting for a proposal from another. Then the next step is to bring the proposals and women before a subcommittee of Kelley, Sage and Charlotte and then to present a recommendation to the Board at the November Board Meeting. Both groups have described a 2 phase process-audit, language, practices, experience of stakeholders with a report and then stage 2 is implementation. Sage asked if there is a budget for these consultants. Dave said no and it wasn't cheap around \$12k. Sage said that they personally have done DEI assessments previously, if the Board wants to consider doing the audit in house. Dave said he has researched the Goldseker Foundation that could provide grant money for this process.

New Business

- *Board Financial Contribution-* Laurel said that it is a common practice on board to have everyone contribute a financial contribution as you are able. Goal is to have 100% participation to have a meaningful contribution. Laurel wanted to throw that out to the group as something to think about and then Laurel will reach out to everyone individually to support the amazing efforts of our school. Raven asked is it a give or get model? So if a person can't personally donate \$500, could you get an organization to donate? Laurel answered yes you could get an organization to donate. Ann asked whether these board contributions would be anonymous or public? Laurel said that they would be anonymous but want to be able to say that everyone on the board is participating. Trying to make this low barrier and easy as possible because this is new. Sage asked if we at a point that it looks better to have one time gifts or sustaining gifts? (Like WYPR) and stated that in non-profits, there is a difference between one time donation and sustaining donation. Laurel said that she is working on low hanging fruit which is board participation and being a part of the WPCS board means making a financial contribution that is meaningful to you. Leah said that if our goal is to say that everyone contributes, every year we do Teacher Appreciation Week and the event in December we all buy things for the school. Laurel said that her understanding of the philosophy around board giving is 100% of board members making



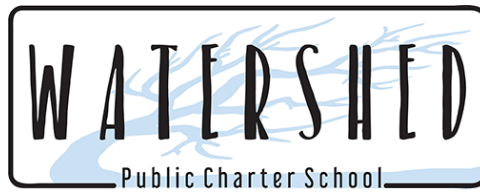
Watershed Public Charter School provides an interconnected learning environment, where hands-on exploration and creative expression foster the learning process. Our community promotes rigorous academic achievement, meaningful outdoor experiences and continuous growth for all students.

contributions to unrestricted funds to the school. Ann asked are we a 504? Laurel answered yes and said you will get a standard thank you letter with tax information.

- **Enrollment Yard Signs for Board Members-** We have ordered enrollment yard signs and we also have flyers to post them bagel shops, coffee shops, church, preschools. Sage asked if the flyer can be emailed to Board Members and the answer was yes. Lori said that there used to be an opportunity to do a huge facebook ad.

Reports

- **Principal report October 2024 .pdf**
 - Our attendance is phenomenal with 96.2% attendance; thank you to students and families.
 - Official enrollment account is 366 as of September 30.
 - Hiring- we had input sessions with the community and staff re: Assistant Principal position. Dave and Lori looked through AP resumes. In-person interviews will happen on campus at the end of the week.
 - Another request was to discuss culturally responsive teacher practices and curriculum-understanding that in a classroom we may over or under identify needs based on skin color and that students have multiple modalities of learning to assess learning. Teachers and ILT are consistently reviewing data to make sure gaps are noted and at a faster rate at a traditional Baltimore County school.
 - Next month Lori will provide an updated Quarter 1 of school progress plan.
- **October 2024 Teacher Report**
 - K-2 went on a field trip to the zoo.
 - Students showed the virtual of wonder
 - K-5 Bridges Math.
 - 6th grade has a field trip next Tuesday to Smithsonian museums.
 - Grade 3 had a classroom visit from man from Natural History Society of Maryland
 - Teachers are actively involved in being environmentally certified via University of Notre Dame and are using professional development days to become certified.
 - Leah asked what were the science experiments for 5th grade? Ann responded matter and alka seltzer.
- **Executive Director's Report and Financial Report**
 - **WPCS Executive Director's October 2024 Board Meeting Report 10.18.24.pptx**
 - Dave has been at Watershed for more than 100 days. He has been preplanning for strategic and DEI, community engagement and fundraising, formalizing processes for quickbooks coding, working with Bern to make sure things align better with reality, developing a grants intake form for staff to use, developing a marketing plan to develop in the next year. There is a period of evaluating and adjusting.



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.

- SY 25-26 lottery is open from Oct 1-Jan 15. Lottery on February 6. Had 2 open houses already. Yard signs are available by the end of October. Enrollment can be found at the top of watershedpcs.org website. We also have flyers we are distributing.
- *Grants*
 - Playground listening sessions- students really want swings.
 - DOE grant- movement on RFP process. It will now be directed by the BCPS Office of Purchasing. Anticipated RFP being up on Bal Co site by November 1 and closing on November 26. DOE really needs us to get moving on this project so that we can have shovels in the ground and construction by this summer. We still are pushing to get it to the Board of Ed in the January meeting. BOE/BCPS is the recipient. Contract should be approved no later than March and construction in June. All Watershed staff are completing reports that are due at the end of October. Next check-in meeting is October 28.
 - Middendorf- close to signing contract with Securitas for camera and swipe upgrades and they are a BCPS vetted company. Hoping to finish by the end of December
 - Clean Green 15
 - Laurel and Dave met this morning with Cindy Jones, President of Ed Foundation of BCPS. Toured campus and Ed Found has additional grant opportunities of \$1k and \$5k.
 - Other potential grants- on Thursday we will partner with Patapsco Heritage Greenway to file a grant application for Chesapeake BayTrust grant to support 3rd grade Watershed Streamkeeper's Academy. If the grant is awarded, it would fund classroom and field equipment for water monitoring and salt monitoring equipment. It will fund a field trip to release fish they raise at Patapsco. There will also be 3 community events. This all for next year, 25-26. We had a number of groups try to partner with us for CBT. YCI- we are already partnering with them and Watershed provided a letter of commitment to YCI for the same CBT grant.
 - GreenBronx machine- Dave reached out for 7th grade to get a grant for a hydroponic garden this month.
 - Leah said let's bring in goats. Ann asked how are you going to weigh the trash because she is planning 1st 15 min of each session of the environmental club to do Clean Green 15. Some suggested weighing a few bags and then extrapolating.
- *Modular Classrooms and Temporary Trailer-* We are waiting for changes to stamp permits here and over to Baltimore County for the temp use permits. They have now moved the delivery date to Monday. Probably have to cordon off an area for a night or two and then temporary trailers will be set next Tuesday. They will have to do some finish work for walkways on railings. We are scheduling movers for November 1. And then it's how fast we can get electric and then use and occupancy permit. And hopefully a couple more weeks until we are in them.



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.

- *Modular permits*- traffic control study is not required for 44 potential new students. Leah asked if are we going to discuss varying the timing for elementary and middle school drop-offs and whether we can we discuss in the future. Lori said that Baltimore County determines our start time. Ultimately, that has been because of transportation for Baltimore County. One of the suggestions has been that the older students meet from another space and do a walking train. There has been a suggestion that staff park off campus. Leah asked about the possibility of a crossing guard. Lori said that she requested it last year and this year and one has not materialized. Dave said so they have to study it. Lori said that she asked April Lewis for a crossing guard and she retired and didn't get to the request before retiring and then a new hire came in and Lori had to re-up the request. Crystal clarified that Baltimore County does not provide transportation? Leah said that Baltimore County provides special needs students transportation. Lori said they have 15 min before and after window to deliver those students. Crystal asked if that's why Baltimore County determines our start times and Lori said yes.
 - *Facility Updates*- Jason Mager built gates,elevator repairs on 10/31 and 11/1 and two exterior windows replaced 11/1, playground communication board.
 - *Treasurer's Report*- Dave said that Linda is out of the country and went through Linda's Treasurer's Report with the Board. Dave said that hel met with BCPS Budget and Finance Office yesterday and had Qs about the disbursement model. We had 3 positions that were left vacant because of the 7th grade being smaller- \$210k. We will end up netting \$10K a month more in disbursement funding starting in October. Throughout the year, the disbursement being adjusted a little bit given staff and student ratios. Dave discussed the beginning balances and total cash received along with operations expenses for facilities grants and projects. St. Gabriel had a delay in giving Watershed utility bills because of their own turnover. \$593, 287 Total Cash on Hand
 - Crystal asked about Maryland Non-Profit class for board members. Crystal is going to do a session with MANO next month
- **October PTO Report** - Kristi Eybs
 - A recap of the month: Scoop Night at The Chamery. We have been scheduling one restaurant night a month as a fundraiser. We finally got to hold our back to school social. Feedback was positive for the 1st time event. A lot of people had fun and beautiful weather and there were trivia teams, music. Kids were dancing. Thank you to everyone who came out for that.Finished mum sale fundraiser- another beautiful day. Mums from Maryland Flowers and Foliage. Pretty profitable fundraiser. In preparation for Fall Fest, we are collecting candy with Candy Monster and tradition for kids to receive candy at different stations they visit. Dogwood PTA also reached out about collecting candy for their trunk or treat. Also collecting clothing and shoes for 1st ever clothing swap held this Friday.
 - Kristi showed pictures from this month's socials.



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.

- How PTO supports community at watershed- pitch Fall Fest to anyone interested in volunteering. We continue to promote in an effective way to keep families informed. Every other Sunday a communication is coming from the PTO, Turtle Talk and yard signs. Facilitating sign-ups for volunteers. Landing page on sign-up page for all of our sign-ups. Not just for parents, anyone is welcome to sign up. Supporting our neighboring school for trunk or treat on Oct 31 and to decorate a car for trunk or treat. In November, the food drive and this month the clothing swap are all opportunities for middle schoolers to earn service learning hours.

Key Dates: Dave said that the DNR Tree Planting is this Saturday 10/26 from 10-1.

- October 21-15 – PTO Clothing Collection and Swap
- October 26 – DNR Tree Planting
- October 31 – ½ Day Early Dismissal – First Marking Period Ends
- November 1 – System Wide Professional Development – no students
- November 5 – Election Day, schools and offices closed
- November 8 – PTO Fall Fest
- November 11-15 – PTO Food Drive for St. Gabriel Food Pantry
- November 16 – PTO November Fundraiser
- November 18 – 22 American Education Week
- November 19 – Elementary Conference Day
- November 19 – Board Meeting
- November 20- Unit 1 Showcase
- November 27 – 29 – Thanksgiving Holiday (begins at noon on 11/27, early dismissal)
- December 3 – PTO Family Night/In-Person meeting (at Watershed)
- December 4 - 8 – Double Good Fundraiser
- December 18 – Board Meeting



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.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of [September 2024 Board Meeting Notes](#)

Board Member	Vote
Baze, Crystal	Yes
Dietzen, Lindita	Absent
Donn, Angela	Yes
Freedman, Laurel	Yes
Ford, Eric	Absent
Keniston, Charlotte	Absent
Magness-Hill, Sage	Motion to accept
Pettiford-Kelly, Kelley	Yes
Shortridge, Hashim	Absent
Smolinski, Ann	Yes
Thompson, Raven	Yes
Wenck, Leah	Second

Open session adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

No closed session.