

WORCESTER CULTURAL ACADEMY

Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School Minutes of the Board of Trustees Board of Trustees Meeting

Approved on May 25, 2023

Meeting Date: Monday, April 10, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Location: 81 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01604
Members present: Pamela Boisvert, Angele Goss, Amy Herman, Stacey Luster, Jane Roseberry
Members absent: None
Staff present: Lisa DeTora, Jim Donahue, Jamie Greenthal, Tina Krasnecky, Alex McConnon, Jasmin Rivas
Also present: Aislinn Doyle

Order of Business:

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

1. Discussion & Vote to Approve Lisa DeTora as Principal for WCA.....Pam Boisvert
2. Discussion & Vote to Approve Hiring Old Sturbridge Village for the Pre-Opening Period under a Limited Services Agreement until June 30, 2023.....Pam Boisvert
3. Proposed Banking Relationship.....Tina Krasnecky
 - Motion: Vote to approve opening an operating account at Country Bank and apply for an operating line of credit up to \$250,000
4. Review of Trustee Prospects.....Pam Boisvert & Stacey Luster
 - Motion: Vote to approve Susan Gately to the WCA Board of Trustees
 - Motion: Vote to approve Siobhan Dennis to the WCA Board of Trustees
 - Motion: Vote to approve Bertha-Elena Rojas to the WCA Board of Trustees
 - Motion: Vote to approve Deborah Maddox to the WCA Board of Trustees
5. Update on Pre-Opening Work.....Jim Donahue & Jamie Greenthal
6. Setting a Meeting Schedule.....Pam Boisvert
 - Motion: Vote to approve meeting the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
7. New/other business

Public Access 2*

Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- Lisa DeTora Biography
- Terms of Employment Offer LD
- 2023-04-10_BOT Prospect Forms & Resumes
- OSV_WCA Pre-Opening Services Agreement
- WCA Board Update on Pre-Opening_04-07-23

- WCA Meetings Schedule for April to December 2023_DRAFT 2

Ms. Boisvert called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Ms. Boisvert conducted a roll call of the Board. Quorum was established.

Ms. Boisvert noted that it was an important moment in the school’s history, as it was the first official Board meeting. Ms. Boisvert thanked the founding leaders, staff, and volunteers.

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items

Ms. Boisvert asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were none.

1. *Discussion & Vote to Approve Lisa DeTora as Principal for WCA.....Pam Boisvert*

Ms. Boisvert said that Ms. DeTora successfully led the creation and implementation of what is now a nationally-recognized EL school at Old Sturbridge Academy Public Charter School. (OSA.) She discussed Ms. DeTora’s unwavering commitment and dedication to educating children throughout her career. The Board complimented Ms. DeTora for all that she has accomplished at OSA and in her previous positions, and they look forward to working with her at WCA.

Motion: To approve Ms. DeTora as Principal for WCA.

By: Ms. Goss

Second: Ms. Roseberry

All in favor.

Motion passed.

2. *Discussion & Vote to Approve Hiring Old Sturbridge Village for the Pre-Opening Period at WCA until June 30, 2023.....Pam Boisvert*

Ms. Boisvert asked Mr. Donohue to speak to this agenda item. Mr. Donahue said this is similar to the limited services agreement between Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) and Old Sturbridge Academy (OSA) during OSA’s pre-opening period. Per Mr. Donahue, there is a subsequent review by DESE of a management services agreement negotiated between OSV and WCA that commences.

Discussion ensued on how Ms. DeTora will be involved in staff recruitment. Ms. Krasnecky explained that WCA makes an offer to the chosen candidate and OSV’s Human Resources Department, as part of the Pre-Opening Services contract between WCA and OSV, generates the offer letter that Principal DeTora has agreed to and signs.

Motion: To vote to approve hiring Old Sturbridge Village for the pre-opening period at WCA until June 30, 2023.

By: Ms. Roseberry

Second: Ms. Herman

All in favor.

Motion passed.

3. *Proposed Banking Relationship*.....*Tina Krasnecky*

Ms. Krasnecky said DESE sent her federal ID paperwork which was submitted so that WCA could become an entity. Per Ms. Krasnecky, DESE expects WCA to establish a banking relationship. Ms. Krasnecky proposed using Country Bank to open an operating account. Ms. Krasnecky recommended that the Board approves the application for a line of credit up to \$250,000.

Ms. Luster recused herself from the conversation due to her connection to Country Bank.

Vote: To approve opening an operating account at Country Bank and apply for an operating line of credit up to \$250,000.

By: Ms. Roseberry

Second: Ms. Goss

Ms. Luster – ABSTAINED

Motion passed.

4. *Review of Trustee Prospects*.....*Pam Boisvert & Stacey Luster*

Ms. Boisvert described Ms. Susan Gately's background to the Board.

Vote: To approve Susan Gately to the WCA Board of Trustees.

By: Ms. Luster

Second: Ms. Roseberry

All in favor.

Motion passed.

Ms. Boisvert described Ms. Siobhan Dennis' background to the Board.

Vote: To approve Siobhan Dennis to the WCA Board of Trustees.

By: Ms. Goss

Second: Ms. Roseberry

All in favor.

Motion passed.

Ms. Luster described Ms. Bertha-Elena Rojas' background to the Board.

Vote: To approve Bertha-Elena Rojas to the WCA Board of Trustees.

By: Ms. Roseberry

Second: Ms. Herman

All in favor.

Motion passed.

Ms. Boisvert described Dr. Debra Maddox’s background to the Board.

Vote: Vote to approve Dr. Debra Maddox to the WCA Board of Trustees.

By: Ms. Goss

Second: Ms. Roseberry

All in favor.

Motion passed.

Ms. Boisvert said if approved by the Commissioner, the WCA Board will be at nine Trustees.

5. *Update on Pre-Opening Work*.....*Jim Donabue & Jamie Greenthal*

Mr. Greenthal said 90 families have enrolled for the first application cycle. The second cycle ends April 11, 2023 which will then have another lottery. He said student recruitment is strong with 154 applications total.

Per Mr. Greenthal, WCA has held several information sessions. He is starting to hold office hours so that families can visit WCA. Management is creating awareness for the families of the school on social media, ads, webpages, and word of mouth.

Mr. Greenthal is also involved in job fairs and has started the interviewing process for staff.

There will be a family event at OSV on May 21, 2023 so families can get to know one another as well as some of the staff who will be working with their students at WCA. A similar family event may be planned for a Worcester location, perhaps with one of WCA’s cultural partners. Discussion ensued on how transportation can be provided to interested families for the upcoming event at OSV.

Mr. Greenthal said that another area of on-going work is programming/curriculum. There is significant interest from local museums/cultural institutions. He is working on developing partnerships/programming for next year.

Discussion ensued that there is a lot of diversity in the applicants.

The Board discussed the term “founding” (ex: founding teacher) and how that could be attractive for an educator looking for a new position or a change in roles and encouraged Mr. Greenthal to use it as a recruiting tool.

Discussion ensued on the information sessions/family events.

Mr. Donahue said there will be additional draft documents for the Board to review and vote on at upcoming meetings.

6. *Setting a Meeting Schedule*.....*Pam Boisvert*

Ms. McConnon sent a draft schedule but it did not work for everyone. She will send out a survey on additional dates/times that could work.

7. *New/other business*

Ms. Boisvert said Ms. Hopkins, WCA’s DESE representative would like to come to a future meeting to do a presentation.

Public Access 2

Ms. Boisvert asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were none.

Adjournment

Ms. Boisvert asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Roseberry moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ms. Herman seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Motion passed.

Ms. Boisvert adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.