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

Approved on June 15, 2023

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: 81 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01604
Members present: Pamela Boisvert, Susan Gately, Angele Goss, Amy Herman, Stacey Luster, Debra Maddox, Siobhan McKenna Dennis, Bertha-Elena Rojas, Jane Roseberry
Members absent: None
Worcester Cultural Academy Staff present: Lisa DeTora
Old Sturbridge Inc. Staff present: Jim Donahue, Jamie Greenthal, Tina Krasnecky, Alex McConnon, Kara McCormick
Members of the Public Present: Aislinn Doyle

Order of Business:
Public Comment 1 on Docketed Items*
1. Introduction/Welcome to the New Trustees............................................................... Pamela Boisvert

2. Approval of minutes – April 10, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees................. Pamela Boisvert
   • Motion: Vote to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees

3. Bylaws...................................................................................................................... Pamela Boisvert
   • Motion: Vote to approve the bylaws

4. School calendar........................................................................................................ Pamela Boisvert
   • Motion: Vote to approve the SY23-24 school calendar

5. School schedule template....................................................................................... Pamela Boisvert
   • Motion: Vote to approve the SY23-24 school schedule template

6. Student and teacher schedules............................................................................... Pamela Boisvert
   • Motion: Vote to approve the student and teacher schedules

7. Update from the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.......... Alyssa Hopkins

8. New/other business

Public Comment 2* on Undocketed items*
Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- 2023-05-25_WCA Board agenda_AMENDED
Ms. Boisvert called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

A quorum was established.

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items

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

1. Introduction/Welcome to the New Trustees.......................................................... Pamela Boisvert

   Ms. Boisvert asked the Board of Trustees to introduce themselves. The Board of Trustees and staff went around the room and introduced themselves.

2. Approval of minutes – April 10, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees...................... Pamela Boisvert

   • Motion: Approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

     By: Ms. Luster made the motion.
     Second: Ms. Roseberry seconded the motion.
     (Ms. Gately, Ms. Maddox, Ms. McKenna Dennis, and Ms. Rojas – ABSTAINED)
     Motion passed.

3. Bylaws.................................................................................................................. Pamela Boisvert

   Discussion ensued about the Trustee’s terms.

   Ms. Boisvert explained that the Trustee nominations that were sent to the commissioner were for three-year terms, except for Ms. McKenna Dennis who asked for a one year term.

   • Motion: Vote to approve the bylaws as written.

     By: Ms. Roseberry made the motion.
     Second: Ms. Maddox seconded the motion.
     All in favor.
     Motion passed.
4. School calendar

Ms. DeTora reported that the draft school calendar has the same first day of school and the same vacations in December, February, and April as the Worcester Public Schools’ calendar. Per Ms. DeTora, the last day of school is slightly different because of teacher professional development built in. There are also five additional snow days planned in advance.

Ms. DeTora explained that the teachers will begin on August 14, 2023 with 10 days of professional development and end the year with professional development in June.

- **Motion: Vote to approve the SY23-24 school calendar.**

  By: Ms. Roseberry made the motion.
  Second: Ms. Maddox seconded the motion.
  All in favor.
  Motion passed.

5. School schedule template

Ms. DeTora explained that there is six hours and fifteen minutes scheduled for each day for 180 days. There are also five scheduled emergency/snow days that will be used if needed.

- **Motion: Vote to approve the SY23-24 school schedule template.**

  By: Ms. Roseberry made the motion.
  Second: Ms. Herman seconded the motion.
  All in favor.
  Motion passed.

6. Student and teacher schedules

Ms. DeTora explained that the schedules reflect the school mission with hands-on learning. There are also opportunities for the students and teachers to engage with the cultural institutions and museums partnering with WCA. Ms. DeTora explained the Play Period (recess) and Morning Crew.

Ms. DeTora spoke about the ELA block. Ms. DeTora went into detail on the various components of the schedule, including teacher planning time.

- **Motion: Vote to approve the student and teacher schedules for 23-24 school year.**
Ms. Luster noted that Ms. DeTora’s comment about once every two weeks professional development/staff meetings for teachers was not listed in the schedule.

- **Motion Amended**: Vote to approve the student and teacher schedules for 23-24 school year and to add the once every two weeks professional development/staff meetings into the schedule.

  **By**: Ms. McKenna Dennis made the motion.
  **Second**: Ms. Goss seconded the motion.
  **All in favor**.
  **Motion passed**.

  Ms. Herman left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

7. **Update from the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Alyssa Hopkins, Assistant Director Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign**

Ms. Boisvert introduced Alyssa Hopkins from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

Ms. Hopkins made a presentation on opening procedures and provided resources for incoming members of the Board of Trustees for Worcester Cultural Academy.

Ms. Hopkins included a Q&A session for the Trustees which included additional information, including tools and resources available to ensure success.

8. **New/other business**

Ms. Boisvert asked if there was any new or other business. There was none.

9. **Public Comment 2 on Undocketed items**

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. Goss seconded the motion.
  **All in favor**.
Motion passed.

Ms. Boisvert adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.