



Watts Learning Center

"Distinguished through Excellence"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MEETING MINUTES

310 West 95th Street – Los Angeles, CA 90003 – Room 202

Thursday, November 9, 2017 • Start Time: 3:30pm

The meeting was called to order as a committee meeting as whole at 3:30pm by Eugene Fisher as a committee meeting as a whole at the WLC (310 West 95th Street – Los Angeles, CA 90003) in Room 202 and available via conference call.

Roll Call and Recognition of Guest

- Board Members: G. Fisher, D. Schregardus, J. Sanders, D. Mora, G. Polson.
- Board Members Absent: O. Knox, T. Howard
- WLC Staff & Regular Guests: K. Baptiste, J. Lancer, D. Hubbard, D. Rice, R. Griffin, D. Burns, D. Rosborough, M. Henderson, C. Smith
- Regular Staff Absent: G. Windom

- **Approval of Agenda and Certification of Quorum: Approved (Schregardus/Polson)**

Yes Vote:

Schregardus

Fisher

Mora

Sanders

Polson

- **Approval of September 2017 Meeting Minutes: Reviewed and approved by the WLC Board.**

Yes Vote:

Schregardus

Fisher

Mora

Sanders

Polson

- **Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this meeting.
- **President's Report:** Eugene Fisher
 - **Phase II Report:** Mr. Fisher shared with the Board that Phase II has been completed. He thanked Mrs. Baptiste for arranging family outings on campus and commitment to changing the narrative of South LA through the work of the Watts Learning Center. David Mora congratulated the WLC ES staff for all of the hard work during the construction of phase II. Kelly Baptiste advised the Board that the first inspection was completed. Subsequent inspections are to follow to secure the certificate of occupancy.
 - **Board Priority School Safety:** ensuring safety for all staff and students. Mr. Fisher emphasized the importance of safety and the Board's position is that safety is

number #1. The safety of the students, parents, and staff is top priority. The responsibility of keeping the students, parents and staff safe rests with the Directors of the school.

- Mr. Fisher asked about the changes in the front of the school and the improved safety. Mr. Hubbard shared with the Board that the Dept. of Transportation came out and made changes with the city to alter the parking restrictions along Grand and 95th Street. Mr. Hubbard shared that the next phase would be to secure speed bumps on 95th Street. Dr. Lancer shared that there are policies in place to protect the students from bullying. There are policies in place to address complaints and there are other procedures in place during a crisis situation. There are also policies that pertain to visitors on campus, and procedures in place in the event that there is a crisis. This agenda item will be discussed further in closed session.
- **Political climate:** Mr. Fisher stated that charter schools are not the most desirable and that we must be accountable for how the money is spent is extremely important. How we treat one another is extremely important. Our Core Values is what we stand on. Our Core values are on our website and what they mean is also posted. We operate under the radar. If we do what we are supposed to do, we will not be under the radar. WLC is not just a charter school but an institution.
- **Parent Council Reports:** M. Henderson
 - Volunteer hours and activities were reviewed for both schools
 - Update of volunteer hours. Parent Coordinator keeps track of the volunteer hours quarterly for both schools. Morning/after-school valet hours have picked up at the Elementary School. Back-to-School Night and Fall Festival secured many volunteer hours at the Elementary School. Having consistent dates is important at the middle school. Mr. Fisher asked how often coordination occurs with the Directors. Ms. Henderson advised the Board that she meets weekly with both directors.
- **Financial Report:** Ryan Griffin
 - **Financial Audit:** Auditors have reviewed 2016-17 for both schools and the foundation. Another year of a clean audit from auditors. Great year! We could not ask for more. Financial Audit needs to be approved by Dec. 15, 2017. Mr. Fisher put a motion on the table to approve the financial audit for the 2016-2017 school year.
 - Motion to approve Financial Audit.

Approval Financial Audit 2016-2017.

Yes Vote:

Schregardus

Fisher

Mora

Sanders

Polson

- **September Financials**
- **ES:** The September financial report was reviewed. As of month two 490 enrollment. Budgeted or 95%, trending 97.1% at the ES. More students equals more ADA revenue. One time funding \$52,000 mandated block grant reviewed. Funds are being used to help purchase furniture. Increased salaries around certificated staff

due to salary increases. David Mora asked about anything at the state level? Ryan indicated the ADA might potentially be increased.

- Motion to approve September financials.

Approval September Financial Report.

Yes Vote:

**Schregardus
Fisher
Mora
Sanders
Polson**

- **MS:** Middle School September Financials were reviewed. Enrollment budgeted for 420 students, enrollment is close to 400. Slightly under budgeted amount.
- Motion to approve September financials.

Approval September Financial Report.

Yes Vote:

**Schregardus
Fisher
Mora
Sanders
Polson**

- **School/Student Achievement:** Dr. Jared Lancer, Executive Director.
 - **Action Item - Induction Program**
 - Last year the Board stated its position in support of the Induction Program (BTSA). The staff recommendation is for the Board to cover teacher participation expense of a 1-2 years in an approved program up to the equivalent cost of LACOE. Proposed conditions: teachers commit upon program completion a minimum of 2yrs working at school with satisfactory evaluations and evidence of student performance growth, or refund cost or pro-rated amount equivalent to time not served. BTSA support contingent annually based on available funding.
 - No action taken with open questions on terms and conditions.
 - **Action item – Stipends (Update Approved Stipend List).**
 - Recommendations for updating approved stipend list: Adding 2 roles consistent with last year at the Middle School (Data Teacher Leader \$3,000; PowerSchool Teacher Leader \$3,000); Eliminating the Administrator-in-Charge Designee Stipend at the Elementary School.
 - A motion was made to approve the Stipends by the Board.

Approval of Stipends.

Yes Vote:

**Schregardus
Fisher
Mora
Sanders**

Polson

- **Updates:** An LCAP consultant is secured to support development of the LCAP; LCAP Stakeholder Surveys - Healthy Kids Surveys will be implemented in Feb. 2018; Provision of training in accordance with Board Suicide Prevention Policy is pending based on LAUSD approval of updated policy bulletin and corresponding training.
- **Board and school goals: monitoring and improving academic performance.**
- A continued focus is on improving Reading and Math, and creating a safe and supportive school culture for students and families. At present, both schools outperform similar LAUSD schools in Reading. The schools are in process of working on strategies to improve student achievement aligned to Board goals and action plans. Summative student achievement results and fall map data were made available. Accomplishing this year's goals for student learning and safety will ensure successful renewal at the Middle School.
- Mr. Fisher states a sense of urgency since at the middle school and renewal.
- **Special Report:** Caline Smith, UCLA Math Project
- A summary report of findings and plans for providing instructional support was presented. The summary included supporting teachers to develop a math department year-long curriculum plan with adjustments to school structures for collaborative planning and professional development. Long-term structured collaborative planning time needs to be allocated on a regular basis to increase engaging and effective instruction rather than relying on programs which emphasize only foundational skills. Professional development needs to be planned so that teachers embrace the professional development. Emphasis was placed on increasing the effectiveness of instruction, effective use of instructional time and adjustments to the bell schedules. There is a proposal for a revised bell schedule. A goal is to strengthen the culture for collaboration within the math department. Teachers are very receptive to coaching. A standards-based pacing plan meeting was held with teachers and the director.
- Mr. Sanders asked whether math teachers will "buy in" to the adjustments to the bell schedule and instructional practices. Mr. Davis (MS Teacher) states that the bell schedule adjustment is well received by the math dept. but may not be by other departments. Ms. Moore (MS Teacher) states support for the schedule/bell change. Teachers are optimistic regarding buy-in because support has taken into account their concerns and is facilitated meaningfully. Mr. Fisher thanked Smith for her presentation and stressed the importance of moving the needle of student performance between now and the end of the year.
- **Recommendation for amendment to existing UCLA Math Project contract:** Presented to the board for additional hours worked outside of onsite coaching to attend board meetings, and planning instructional support services (Additional hours equates to approximately \$27,360).
- A motion was made to approve amendment by the Board.

Approval of contract amendment.

Yes Vote:

Schregardus

Fisher

Sanders

Polson

- **Local Indicators for the LCAP recommendation for Board approval:** The Board reviewed and approved the Option 2 Reflection Tool for response to the Local Indicators on the California Dashboard.
- There was a motion made to approve Option 2: Reflection Tool for Local Indicators.

Approval of Option 2: Reflection Tool for Local Indicators.

Yes Vote:

Schregardus

Fisher

Sanders

Polson

- **Closed session:** School safety.