



Watts Learning Center

"Distinguished through Excellence"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Meeting Location: 310 West 95th street - Los Angeles, CA 90003 - Room 202

The meeting was called to order as a committee meeting as whole at 3:44pm by Eugene Fisher at the Watts Learning Center in Room 202.

- **Roll Call and Recognition of Guest**
- Board Members: G. Fisher, D. Schregardus, D. Mora, G. Polson
- WLC Staff & Regular Guests: S. Fisher, J. Lancer, K. Baptiste, F. Collins, D. Hubbard, D. Rice
- Absent: R. Yalamanchili, O. Knox, T. Howard, J. Sanders, Rao Yalamanchili, G. Windom
- Special Guest: Austin Cary (former student), Sheila Windom, Caline Smith (Consultant), WLCCMS Advisory Council Parent Doris Rosburgh

- Former Student Austin Cary who was visiting his family while on Winter Break stopped by to praise the continued work that the WLC is doing in the community. He has advised Mrs. Fisher that he would like to be included in the Alumni Committee.

- **Financial Report – Ryan Griffin of ExED**
 - Financials Elementary & Middle School
 1. October and November Financial Reports
 - a. Elementary School – The Elementary School has 50 more students higher than budgeted for. We originally forecasted for 383 students. For funding purposes we are locked in at 392.61. There is a mandated block rate – one time funding of 52K. The funds have been earmarked for furniture for the new building. We had higher expenses than budgeted for including stipends, that we did not budget for over the summer (includes Consultant and Professional Development). As it gets later in the school year class size decreases for various reasons. Class size has some impact on learning. For the purpose of transparency the check register is included for the Elementary School.
 - b. Middle School – The Middle School has a different enrollment as it pertains to enrollment. We are under-enrolled. The target enrollment was 420 students but we ended up with 394 students. The ADA for the MS is 97.8%. Keep in mind that although enrollment is smaller, the students come to school more than budgeted for. The MS also received one time funds of 56K (with 26K for E-Rate). On the expense side, we have higher expenses for teacher salaries. Some salaries came in higher. We are still actively searching for a Special Education Teacher. For the purpose of transparency the check register is included for the Middle School.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORTS
(SCHREGARDUS/POLSON)**

Yes Vote:

**Fisher
Schregardus
Polson**

APPROVAL OF INTERIM REPORTS (SCHREGARDUS/POLSON)

Yes Vote:

**Fisher
Schregardus
Polson**

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM:
APPROVED(SCHREGARDUS/POLSON)**

Yes Vote:

**Fisher
Schregardus
Polson**

- **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING MINUTES:
APPROVED(POLSON/SCHREGARDUS)
Amend to add the following: Caline Smith (to the roll call)**

Yes Vote:

**Fisher
Polson
Schregardus**

- **Food Service Contract as presented by Sheila Windom**

Both Schools got together as a team to review Revolution, Fresh Start and Better For You. The California Department of Education mandates the contract for the state and not the school. The providers are reviewed in each category by minimum and maximum points. We average the first points on the food service company and who would be best for the school. The team vetted and selected Better For You and would like to submit the final contract to the WLC Board for approval and signature.

**APPROVAL OF REVOLUTION FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT:
(SCHREGARDUS/POLSON)**

Yes Vote:

**Fisher
Polson
Schregardus**

- **Public Comment** – D. Rosburgh (WLCCMS Parent Council President) asked during the Public Comment that the PC be put back into the hands of Mr. Rice because she feels like the Parent Council is at standstill without meeting with Dr. Lancer due to roadblocks. If the communication was better we could function better as a Parent

Council. As of right now we are divided. We would like to fundraise, have a sports program or whatever is needed to better educate the MS students.

Mrs. Fisher mentioned that Avalon Gardens and Bellagio Road will meet as a Board to fundraise for the students to go to South Africa.

President's Report: Eugene Fisher

Phase II: Certificate of Occupancy will expire on February 6th. There are two more inspections before final certificate is issued. Work will be done on Saturday to complete the requirements for the inspection and issuance of certificate.

Grant Award \$6,000.00: We have received a \$6,000.00 grant for the Doby Efficacy Program. The program was created to honor Dr. Winston Doby and is for male African American and Latino students to help with improvement in reading.

APPROVED: MORA/SCHREGARDUS

Yes Vote:

Mora

Schregardus

Fisher

Polson

Math/Reading: The Board has allotted some enhancements for the Middle School to improve reading, whether through Professional Development or something else that would help our students succeed. The state is very serious about academics. The Board would like to know how we can identify issues and they can't figure out what we need to find solutions. Our commitment is to do everything we can. We need short term ideas. We are prepared to provide whatever is needed for the scores to improve. There are no options for that and if we don't improve there won't be a school.

Watts Gang Taskforce: The school received the award for their commitment to service. The award will be posted at both schools.

- **Parent Coordinator – Miranda Henderson:** We are preparing for the WLC Family Day. It's a half a day event that will focus on reading and math. The event is on January 20th. At the MS we have Parent Conferences coming up and Ms. Henderson is assisting with coordination for the conferences. There is an aggressive plan in place to deal with the MS tutoring issue. We are letting parents and students dictate tutoring and this can no longer happen. We are making progress with the Math Department and we are currently looking into making schedule changes. Fifty students in the math elective will be moved into Art classes.
- **WLC Parent Council – No report at this meeting.**
- **WLCCMS Parent Council –No report at this meeting.**

School/Student Achievement

Dr. Jared Lancer – Executive Director

See attachment for full report. – Schools have made progress. The only observation is the data point at the MS. The data point is not available for the middle school. Neither school is nowhere near the should be, but there is progress and the data shows that. Both schools need to meet their goals. We will eventually be in good shape, but we are not there yet. In Dr. Lancer's opinion, if the goals are met the MS will receive its Charter. We are looking at ways to strengthen the curriculum. We are executing resources and making them available to help students and families who may not be able to do it on their own.

Report from C. Smith – MS Math: Middle School math department agrees with Parent Council, we will be more successful if we focus on the school as a whole. Education is coming from teachers. What is happening in class and how can we make sure the time is spent efficiently. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Parsee have switched courses and you can see the difference. Interest and dedication have peaked with the change. C. Smith is working with Ms. Parsee in enrichment.

Closed Session: The Board went into a closed session with G. Fisher, G. Polson, D. Schregardus, employees (Dr. J. Lancer and D. Rice) and Board Secretary (F. Collins) at 6:35pm.

The Board President wanted it noted that there is a sense of urgency for academic improvement and no one can deny that. School is in jeopardy of losing its Charter and it seems there is more of an enthusiasm sports than there is for math and reading. Pinpointing where students are landing academically should be the reason to create tutoring to fix those issues.

The meeting was closed at 7pm.