



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WESTLAKE CHARTER SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 6:30 PM**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Board Member	Present	Absent
Hope Gawlick	Y	
Sian Burman	Y	
Nancy Kong-Vasquez		X
Josh Corell	Y	
Michelle Gibbons	Y	
Vasa Lokteff	Y	
Ashlee Patel	Y	
Shannon Simonds	Y	
Jed Wallace	Y	



III. CELEBRATIONS

HG - NKV celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary

AW - 13 years at WCS!

AH - WAVE's coffee talk, discussed a lot of great topics, great to have them accessible to more people online and more participation as a result.

AP - Celebrate our teachers. Sat in on planning meetings this week, and got to see what great things are happening at different grade levels. Our teachers are smart and thoughtful - we are so lucky!

JW - 11 years with WCS, right behind you Aimee! More than a decade of fun working together, that's really cool.

JE - HG participated in our podcast recording session this morning. Great business gets done but we also have fun doing it.

JC - WCS doing so much to support students and see parents participating and things are buzzing on campus even though we are in Distance Learning.

MG - The Westlake way of Distance Learning. Talk to parents all over the state and Sacramento. Our Westlake parents are pleased with our Distance Learning and feel like our kids are being supported. Our kids are engaged and seeing their teachers and peers. MG sees the value from outside as she talks to other families. Westlake's Distance Learning is above par so great job!

SS - Living in a state and county that makes it pretty easy to vote! A colleague is now a WCS family and they started during this pandemic so it's been great to hear reports and good feedback from them.

SB - Finance team, great teamwork with good results. Always a great meeting, it's not everyone's "cup of tea" but it is for our committee and we always get a lot of good work done.

SK - Distance Learning Kits, brain child from the summer planning and amazing stuff has evolved as we progress. Teachers are sending home enriching materials and keeping kids learning and engaged.

VL - Currently has the privilege of teaching Josh's student and she is so excited about her genius hour project. She is excited and diligent about doing her best and using all of her resources. She is crushing it!

IV. BOARD COMMENTS

HG - Echo Shannon's celebration. There are so many different ways to vote during this election cycle. If anyone needs any help they should reach out to Sac County. The Natomas Buzz has been very helpful to me as I research local issues as well. The Natomas community is wanting to engage and really help.

- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the meeting is set aside for the audience to make comments or raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Members of the public may speak on agenda items during the time when the item is addressed by the Board. This agenda item is included for the purpose of giving anyone in attendance an opportunity to ask questions or discuss non-agenda items with the Board of Directors. If visitors have a complaint about a specific employee of the school, they will be asked to submit an oral or written complaint to the employee's immediate supervisor as required by Board Policy #08-03 (Please note that the public portion of all meetings is recorded in the minutes.)



October 15, 2020

Carissa Johnson - Westlake has been clearly and consistently communicating with families about all that must be considered before making a decision about a return-to-school date. I feel that families are well informed--more so than some families at other schools or districts. Westlake's decisions make sense.

We all want to be back on campus, of course, but we all want to be on campus *safely*, too. Thanks to the board and staff for your transparent and thoughtful leadership.

VI. REPORTS: Copies of Executive Director reports on file at 2680 Mabry Drive, Sacramento, CA 95835.

A. WAVE Report - Amber Hustead, WAVE President

Feedback from WAVE meetings and coffee talks is that our community echo Ms. Johnson's comments. Families appreciate that WCS is taking their time and not rushing to reopen but considering everything at play. That's been a very common statement.

Great discussion about WAVE finances and supporting the school in a time when we can't fundraise as much as we normally would. It was good for parents who are new to Westlake to hear and get an understanding.

Olympic Triathlon is launching virtually this Sunday. Our specialty teachers have been super active and supportive of the event.

Spirit store closes Monday.

Planning a few virtual events for families as well as a staff appreciation even at the end of the trimester. Parents want to express their appreciation and support of our teachers and staff who are working so hard.

HG - Appreciate all of your leadership Amber, happy to see WAVE figured out a way to carry on the tradition of the triathlon.

B. Charter Impact Committee Report - Shannon Simonds, Committee Chair
Continued to have discussions around reflection of the equity reading and anti racism reading and research that committee members have been doing individually. John reported back about initial work happening at the school and helping the committee determine what the baseline of knowledge and comfort level needs to be and is currently. Continue to define committees' and board's role and goals and update them to include this work.

HG - Extends invitation to general public to join committees and participate.



- C. Development Committee Report - Nancy Kong-Vasquez, Committee Chair
JC - Committee had an awakening at last meeting and are realigning our goals a little, looking forward to funding initiatives that align with the social justice work being done by the school as a whole. Looking at opportunities to create experiences for Explorers. For example funding a trip for all of 9th grade to go to The Museum of Tolerance and a college tour. We will work with corporate and community partners to fund it on a yearly basis so it becomes a continued part of our high school program.
- D. Finance Committee Report - Sian Burman, Committee Chair
Committee received a budget update from Steve.
- E. Governance Committee Report - Hope Gawlick, Committee Chair
Didn't meet this month. No update.
- F. Executive Director Report - John Eick, Executive Director

HG - Asks for clarity of FAU agreement length.

AW - Bishop article from JE

VII. CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and will be enacted by one motion followed by a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Board of Directors, audience, or staff request specific items to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate action. Any items removed will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Accept and approve minutes from September 10, 2020 Board Meeting
- B. Accept and approve monetary donations

Motion:	AP	Action:	Motion to accept and approve					
Second:	MG	Vote:	Unanimous on Item A 7-Y, 1-Abstain on Item B					
HG	SB	NKV	JC	MG	VL	AP	SS	JW
Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-A Abstain - B	Y



VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. School Reopening Plans - J.Eick

VL - Clear on data and original strategy. Appreciate watching the bigger districts and partnering with other schools of similarity. Schedule of last few months would allow for some small groups but prepares for full opening in Jan

SB - Let's not be hasty, but see if anyone firmly believes in a November opening. Use period between Nov break and winter break to finalize processes with kids. But then concerned about kids forgetting everything in which case we would be better off waiting until Jan anyway.

SS - In a broader context, little nervous about opening in November and then families traveling or becoming exposed during the holidays and what that means for students and staff if we are open. Winter spikes can't be predicted but should be considered.

JE - Teachers are sharing that same thought in Leadership. The county says if we open in red and then the county goes back to purple we cannot close. If we wait until January and the county is in purple we cannot open.

MG - This point comes up frequently in our discussions. Schools have been doing a phased opening. One grade level can be opened in red which provides a gateway to a full opening. We are finding that many other schools are not rushing to reopen. Parents and families are choosing to stay in Distance Learning - even in districts in yellow. Important for us to consider winter, holiday and business and activities that are opening. People want to start taking part in these activities. Biggest concern is closing of cohorts and implications of frequent changes on students and teachers. Has heard of cohorts shutting down but not entire schools yet. Testing capacity is an issue. Not an incredible amount of youth testing, giving false appearances of case numbers. Would like to hear more about teacher feedback and concerns. Want to make sure we have continued access to student learning and how they are performing. Are there kids who don't have access to cohorts?

HG - Opening and closing could negatively impact families as well.

JE - Family response seems to support going slow. Families are nervous about exposing their kids. JE - survey staff before Nov board meeting and bring back. Language Academy model of staggered opening. K, 1 & 2 on campus first.

JC - Comments have already been addressed. Not eager to open before January. Seeing and hearing of the successes in our current Distance Learning. Will support going back when we are ready and safe. Want to keep them safe and healthy as long as possible.

JW - Survey teachers and parents. Seems as though parents are in a big rush to reopen. Parents are made at substandard Distance Learning programs elsewhere. How can we keep supporting our remote learning? We can agonize forever, but we will know intuitively when it's time to come back. Don't let external issues distract you from staying focused on delivering a great Distance Learning experience

AP - There's no significant data around kid testing. Are kids going to have access to testing? Our teaching community is great at sharing tips for making our DL program better for our kids. Colleges are shutting down for November & December, it feels weird to bring younger kids back considering that model. Having a 14 day period after December break seems relevant.

HG - The test is only as good as the moment it is given. The exposure window is still somewhat fluid. Every family will have their unique set of decisions to decide what's best for them. There is no good answer for everyone. Hard not to expect an uptick with Halloween, holidays, flu season etc. As long as we communicate the why behind what we are doing the better we are serving our community,

SS - As someone who has some understanding of the concerns on a college campus we cannot be over concerned.

VL - Stingers Up!



JE - Public comments received:

Siu-Henh Canimo - Good evening.

As a parent I fully support board member Jed's comments about focusing efforts on what we have control over rather than when we return. I'd rather be late to this party.

Thank you. Canimo family

Anna Thomas - What a thoughtful discussion about the reopening timeline.

Gives us and, I'm sure, other families the confidence in the upcoming reopening plan. Curious about what percentage of parents fill out the surveys related to distance learning.

Board breaks until 8:40

B. High School Report - E. Battin

MG - Thank you for quickly responding to my questions from the last update.

Requests update to recruiting materials that reflects people of color and diversity.

JW - Be mindful of culture shock if staff is all new vs some who move up from the K-8.

HG - Asks about hiring timeline

EB - Jan for job posting, interviews in Feb.

HG - Math placement as

JC - Will there be uniforms

EB - There will be a dress code but no uniforms.

HG -

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Goal Setting - November 2020 to allow for further Committee work

X. REFLECTION

VL - The details around starting a high school are amazing. Kudos to that team!

SK - Extremely helpful to get MG information

SB - Noticed how much work around the high school, like designing a house from scratch, so many decisions! Wonder how much of this is unique to WCS?

SS - Thoughtfulness around recruitment and staffing.

MG - Appreciate the constant weaving in of diversity, equity and inclusion.

JC - The high school presentation including some of the elements that the board had expressed interest about previously.

JE - Ditto MG & SS looking at presentations tonight where equity, diversity and inclusivity is addressed at each step.

JW - Liked the history lesson and the links to current decisions.

EB - JE and the thoughtfulness in the work he has led since March 13th.

AP - Love hearing the details and the planning around the high school.

AW - EB has put in a lot of thought about developing a math program that

will

be best for our high school students and that is wonderful.

HG - Diversity of our board members, philosophy and experiences make us a healthy board. This board relies on the right people to guide the work.

JE - Echo HG, honored and privileged to work with this board.



XI. ADJOURNMENT AT 9:51 PM

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