

WellHeart Public Charter School Public Board

Meeting Minutes – 03/26/2025

WCS Board Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Karen Ward, board Chair

Roll Call

(KW) Karen Ward, Chair – Present

(MF) Mike Facques, Vice Chair - Present

(EW) Emily Wiete, Secretary – Present

(SL) Sean LaPorta – Present

(RL) Rich Lowney – Present

(PT) Phillip Trudel - Present

Introduction of Guests

Mike Ellis

Item #3: Public Comment

- Mike E is a very involved parent and community member. He wanted to attend tonight's meeting to catch up since he hadn't attended the last few, specifically last week's informational session. Mike likes to stay involved and help when he can.

Item #4: Director's report

Tabled by board

Item #5: Committee Reports

- I. Secretary's Report, Emily Wiete - No update - board had reviewed and accepted the draft report from March 5th, 2025
- II. Governance, Sean LaPorta
 - a. Discussion regarding handling of UI benefits: Tabled as it does not require further discussion at this time
 - b. Discussion regarding place to hold all Governance meetings: All meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 5 pm at the Amherst, NH library. Sean requests additional Governance committee members for additional input, feedback and for checks and balances.
 - c. Discussion regarding required policies: There are a few outstanding policies that need to be worked through; Maggie created a list of those policies but no update on specific ones.

- d. Discussion regarding order of policies drafting and adoption: This will be addressed at the next Governance meeting.
 - e. Discussion of resources to begin policy drafting: We will identify who's best suited and collaborate with the committee to see who can assist with each policy.
 - f. Assignment of policies to members for initial drafting: The next meeting will address this, and Sean will assign 10-12 policies to complete
 - i. Rich Lowney asked Sean to look into the E&O policy
- III. Finance, Karen Ward
- A. Wellheart Chartered Public School statement of activity for the period ending February 28th, 2025
 - 1. February 2025 activity:
 - a) Accounts reimbursable: \$48,816 - this is money paid out for grant reimbursable items with a bulk of it going towards salaries (remaining payroll was paid out) and rent to Mile Away; \$7,457 was paid out for the NH Charter School Foundation
 - b) WCS has spent \$290,643 on grant reimbursable items to date through the CSP grant and we have an available balance of \$1,209,357.
 - c) We have received a loan for \$50,000 from a private lender, allowing us to get caught up on back rent for February and March for a total of \$24,000 to DreamAcadaME; we have paid out \$3450 in payroll - there are just over \$34,000 in bills we intend to pay with the LOC
 - d) Every CSP grant reimbursable item will have been paid for and up to date; we currently still have bills from Meridian, architect fees, lawyer fees, and some utilities, all of which are not grant reimbursable. Sean will review some of the bills to see who should be accountable for them since WCS does not own the building.
 - B. Update names/signers on Bangor Bank account: The Bangor Bank account still has Michelle F, Garbielle L and Traci K on the account and all three need to be removed and replaced with Emily W and Karen W.

Motion to remove Gabrielle LeBlanc-Winch, Michelle Flynn, and Traci Korhonen from both the Bangor Bank checking and savings account and to replace them with Emily Wiete and Karen Ward made at 5:19 pm by Sean LaPorta and seconded by Mike Facques.

SL – 1 – Y

MF – 2 – Y

KW - Y

ES - Y

RL - Y

PT - Y

Motion Passes: 6-0-0

At 5:34pm "Rita" attempted to enter the waitroom via zoom but was no longer there when Sean attempted to admit her.

Karen Ward tried to purchase CSP grant reimbursable items for the school with the WCS debit card but the purchase would not go through, so she also attempted to use her own personal credit card for a one-time allowance per the state's okay.

Motion: In recognition of the debit card issues WCS has with its accounts, I move to authorize Karen Ward on an emergency basis to purchase \$3200 worth of items on behalf of the school and it be reimbursed promptly by the school as if WCS had purchased said items with its own funds, while the school's debit card issues persist, made at 5:35 pm by Sean LaPorta and seconded by Emily Wiete.

SL – 1 – Y

ES – 2 – Y

KW - Y

MF - Y

RL - Y

PT - Y

Motion Passes: 6-0-0

IV. Academic, Emily Wiete

- A. Overview of 3.18.25 information session: Emily and Mike both stated that the information session was a great turn out with a packed room. The overall feel was that it was mostly positive, but with parents and families eager to know if WCS will open in the fall of 2025 and where it will be held. We felt that many parents were eager to help and get involved in the project, and many asked very thoughtful questions. We felt some members came to ask questions to provoke negativity or “gotcha” type questions, but overall, we felt it was a very positive event with lots of interested community members eager to send their students in the fall. We ensured everyone who attended that we are working diligently to find a location so that WCS can open in the fall. We addressed questions regarding why the Mile Away would not be an option for this upcoming school year and stated that all options are on the table for the future and that the timeline for construction would not line up for a fall opening.
- B. Brief overview of collecting resumes and setting up interviews: Emily and Maggie have been reviewing resumes for all positions at WCS. They have tentatively set up one interview with a potential teacher/atelierista scheduled for next week. Emily also shared some promising partnerships within the community to address our outdoor education piece of the curriculum with a local farm and also discussed other local partnerships the committee would like to form for additional outdoor education resources.
*The NH DOE will be hosting meetings on Fridays at 9am for CSP grant interested parties with Casey Silva. Link to follow.

Item #6: New business

- a. Lifewise Academy, Mike Facques: This portion of the agenda was tabled for future discussion

Item #7: Enter into a Non-Public Session

Motion to move into Non-public meeting under RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property, which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and RSA 92-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant, made at 5:58 pm by Emily Wiete and seconded by Sean LaPorta.

EW – 1 – Y

SL – 2 – Y

KW - Y

MF - Y

RL - Y

PT - Y

Motion Passes: 6-0-0

Motion to exit the non-public meeting and to enter the public meeting made at 7:15 pm by Karen Ward and seconded by Sean LaPorta.

KW– 1 – Y

SL – 2 – Y

MF - Y

RL - Y

PT - Y

RL - Y

Motion Passes: 6-0-0

Maggie Van Camp, Director, has formed a relationship with Wild Rose Farm in Wilton, where we plan on having weekly Friday field trips with 20 students each Friday; plans could be adapted to fit our population and enrollment needs. The plan at this time is to use this as part of our outdoor curriculum. The cost for this for the year would be \$10,000 but could increase with additional students.

Motion to pay up to \$20,000 for Wild Rose Farm curriculum made at 7:18 pm by Emily Wiete and seconded by Sean LaPorta.

EW– 1 – Y

SL – 2 – Y

KW - Y

RL - Y

MF - Y

PT

Motion Passes: 6-0-0

The board discussed needing a 15-passenger van for field trips or off site activities for the students. This is a CSP grant reimbursable item.

Motion to buy a 15-passenger van costing up to \$60,000 made at 7:20 by Rich Lowney and seconded by Sean LaPorta.

RL- 1 – Y

SL – 2 – Y

KW - Y

EW- Y

MF - Y

PT

Motion Passes: 6-0-0

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:21 pm by Sean LaPorta and seconded by Mike Facques.

SL- 1- Y

MF- 2 - Y

KW- Y

RL - Y

EW - Y

PT - Y

Motion Passes: 6-0-0