



West Virginia Academy, Ltd.  
Governing Board and Officers Meeting  
March 16, 2023 | 7:00pm (EST)

**Board Members Attending:** John Treu (J. Treu), Susan Dull (S. Dull), Frank Fidler (F. Fidler), Curt Hassler (C. Hassler), Allison Woods (A. Woods), Trista King (T. King)

**Officers Attending:** Suji Kwon (S. Kwon)

**Not in Attendance:** Frank Oliverio (F. Oliverio)

I - Approve Meeting Minutes to Prior Meeting(s)

**Motion:** S. Dull moves to approve 12/15/2022 Board Meeting minutes. Seconded by C. Hassler.

**Discussion:** C. Hassler asks whether there will be discussion of motions within the 12/15/2022 minutes such as amendment of the Charter to remove requirement for transportation within the Primary Recruitment Area. J. Treu notes that further discussion regarding the same can be discussed during new/additional business segment.

**Outcome:** Motion is unanimously approved by the Governing Board (abstention by A. Woods and T. King who were not present)

**Motion:** C. Hassler moves to approve 1/19/2023 Board Meeting minutes. Seconded by S. Dull.

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Motion is unanimously approved by the Governing Board.

II – Updates on Legislation and Student Registration for 2023-2024 (J. Treu)

J. Treu presented updates for 2023-2024 registrations. At present, approximately 280 scholars are attending WVA, for the next Academic Year 375 enrollments are expected. Of those enrollments, 263 are returning scholars. Approximately 100 new applications were received, and marketing efforts seem to be working. General discussion regarding potential of new enrollments not attending, accepting student transfers, and Charter retention rates and requirements for the upcoming Academic years.

J. Treu presented updates on Legislation, lengthy discussion of Governing Board Members followed.

J. Treu- There were several high impact goals in the forefront for WVA, J. Treu and F. Oliverio assisted with this process. 1-Foundation Funding increased to 99% from 90%, pending Governor signature. 2- Retroactive Foundation Funding to 2022-2023 year, this was denied. 3-Appropriation of funding with the DOE due to previous implementation of cutting funds (due to enrollment numbers, clawed back fall funds, and refusal to pay for any student that was homeschooled or not previously enrolled in school for

the prior year). Compromise was to request an additional Appropriation for this, also on the Governor's desk for signature, an additional \$245,000 of funding is expected.

C. Hassler- To summarize, how much money are we expecting to come back to the Academy?

J. Treu- As soon as signed, approximately \$245,000 which is much needed at this time due to the extensive cuts.

S. Kwon- The approximate total is \$263,000. Funding will come back fairly immediately at the earliest in 2-3 days after approval.

J. Treu- We also pushed for several other things including sports provisions, again on the Governor's desk for signature. There are a few other good provisions including Safe Schools Initiative, general statement on making funding equal, again on Governor's desk for signature.

C. Hassler- Senate Bill 47 was approved.

J. Treu- Senate Bill 47 gives \$100,000 funding to start up Charter Schools which WVA would qualify for. Funds have not been appropriated, unsure of timeline due to appropriation process which is very important, and we will need to push moving forward.

J. Treu- Another issue was DHHR wanted to regulate WVA last year, explicit language was applied to note specific exclusion of Public Schools and Charter Schools including after school programs.

A. Woods- Will this help with new academic year?

J. Treu- Yes, presumably, we will be able to revamp programming again, again great news.

C. Hassler- What bills were discussed/targets?

J. Treu- SB 510, SB 47, House Bill 3084, there were two others including retirement plans and Safe School Funds, I'm unsure of the Bill numbers at this time. We had about 5 or 6 bills go through.

T. King- Regarding enrollment and staffing, are there current classes waitlisted for the upcoming school year?

J. Treu- We have a few spots in Kindergarten and Pre-K. We are at a tipping point with 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we will be running two classes there now and more space is available. Every other grade has a few seats left at this point.

T. King- Are we fully staffed for teachers?

J. Treu- We are staffed currently, we did have some very small class sizes, classes will be a little bigger, but we will have one of the best student: staff ratios in Morgantown. Class size will be around 18-20 targeted goal.

C. Hassler- Are there any open staffing positions?

J. Treu- Per S. Kwon there are a few part-time positions currently open.

A. Woods- Do Teachers have to file a letter of intent for the new academic year?

S. Kwon- They do file that in April.

J. Treu- The Teaching positions have been easiest to fill, some of the Administration/Support positions have been more difficult to fill.

### III – Approval of Academic Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year

J. Treu presented general guidelines for changing/altering the Academic Calendar, attention to careful consideration when removing planned days as a 180-day requirement must be met while following the Charter Agreement which requires programming breaks for remediation between terms. General discussion held regarding terms and dates.

Attention called to the following dates:

- 1- Summary of Term Dates for Term 3
- 2- 2023 Thanksgiving Break Dates
- 3- December 21-29, 2023
- 4- January 1, 2024

**Motion:** T. King moves to approve the 2023-2024 Calendar with the following Amendments, seconded by S. Dull:

- 1- Summary of Term Dates Term 3: January 15-March 8
- 2- 2023 Thanksgiving Break (November 21-24)
- 3- December 21-31 (No School or Programming)
- 4- January 1, 2024 New Year's Day (No School/Programming)

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Motion is unanimously approved by the Governing Board with the above Amendments which will be submitted to the Executive Team for consideration.

### IV – Second Quarter Results & Budgeting (S. Kwon)

S. Kwon presented Second Quarter Results as of March 15, 2023, that were circulated (See Addendum 1 and 2) attached to these minutes). Several accommodations were made for anticipated cuts in funding. We did have a private donation and a long-term Greer Loan that assisted funding shortfalls during that time. We did have a lot of donations in the first and second quarter which also helped with December shortfalls. Salary expenditures were less.

T. King- To clarify, were salaries reduced for staffing/teachers?

S. Kwon- Changes were due to realignment where positions were not necessary.

J. Treu- Cuts were almost exclusively in Administration, teacher salaries were impacted only with change of positions.

S. Kwon- Classroom size was also adjusted and need for Teachers to also be replaced was not required.

S. Kwon- There was a slight increase in interest paid due to restructuring of loans. Even with shortfall, operating revenue is still miraculous, if funding would have been as anticipated we would have seen growth.

C. Hassler- Regarding fixed assets.

J. Treu- These are mostly furnishings that F. Fidler helped have donated and the lease hold improvements to the building for improvements such as stairs to make the school a school building as opposed to an office setting. We are locked into a 5-year lease.

S. Kwon- Further discussion of the Projected Cash Flow. The Increased Enrollment Funding of \$195,375 in January saved us from shortfalls. We are currently considering other funding and grants, although we are unsure if those would help for this year.

J. Treu- Funding is in more of a lump-sum and because of that we end up with some greater fluctuations but we are working through that. We really need some additional donations and grants over the next 4-6 months. There is potential for growth funding in December. Federal funding for Special Needs Students is on a reimbursement basis and will be added next year.

C. Hassler- Will funding change after July?

J. Treu- Yes, funding is backloaded and dependent on other state factors.

T. King- So funding essentially changes Quarterly?

J. Treu- Yes. The lowest amount we will receive is through July-September.

A. Woods- How are we going to meet budgeting shortfalls?

J. Treu- We will need to focus on donations and grants. We aren't able to cut staff or faculty at this time. Fundraising will also be important. There are a few income streams we can look at including Hope Scholarship and Preschool Programming.

A. Woods- Are there Grants being considered?

S. Dull- Yes, I just got the software and previously applied Grants were declined/denied. Software will be able to sort and narrow search.

T. King- Are there current pending Grants?

J. Treu- No.

S. Dull- All that we applied for were not approved.

C. Hassler- Are there any due dates coming up for Grants and will the software assist with writing them?

S. Dull- I'm unsure on due dates as the software was just received, it will assist with writing them.

J. Treu- I would like to start an initiative for families to consider donations and value of the Academy. Donations have occurred but would be a really helpful resource.

S. Kwon- I think it would be helpful to consider employers and other resources that families may have as a community.

J. Treu- We are doing a lot right due to savvy investments and sweat equity, there is a lot of optimism for the future.

## V – Discussion of 2023-2034 Student Registration Process

N/A as previously discussed.

## VI – Discussion of Committees and Committee Chairs

J. Treu discussed interest in forming greater communication and action between the Governing Board and the Executive Team with target areas of emphasis. Current ideas include Sponsorship/Grants and Recruitment/Retention. The ACF is already established. Ideally each Governing Board Member would have a specific assignment with identified meaningful tasks and actions. A Committee would be identified with a committee chair member. S. Dull would effectively be Sponsorship/Grants if a committee was created. No motions were made, further considerations to be made in this area.

## VII– New/Additional Business

C. Hassler- Were there updates on the previous minutes regarding Transportation in the PRA. Was this acted on?

J. Treu- No updates, our Authorizer will need emailed, and approval will be needed by their Board to change the language within the agreement.

C. Hassler- There was one more thing, does the expansion of the PRA need approved by the Charter?

J. Treu- No, we do need to generate a map and approve that as the Governing Board. This is important when it comes to the lottery, but we were just under so a lottery was not required.

C. Hassler- Is there new information on a bus driver?

J. Treu- Yes, we do have someone lined up for Bruceton and Cheat Lake.

General discussion of difficulties obtaining/retaining drivers was had.

**Motion:** C. Hassler moves to go into an Executive Session, seconded by S. Dull.

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Motion is unanimously approved by the Governing Board.

## VII – Legal Updates (Executive Session Conducted)

Governing board conducts executive session which begins at 8:33 and concludes at 9:22

**Motion:** A. Woods moves to adjourn Executive Session, seconded by F. Fidler.

**Discussion:** None.

**Outcome:** Motion is unanimously approved by the Governing Board.

Following Executive Session, meeting proceeded for adjournment.

**Motion:** A. Woods moves to adjourn, seconded by T. King.

**Discussion:** None.

**Outcome:** Motion is unanimously approved by the Governing Board.

**[Minutes approved on 4/13/2023]**

