

**Wai‘alae Elementary Public Charter School
Governing School Board Special Meeting
Minutes of January 25, 2022 at 6:00pm**

I. Opening

- A. 6:02 PM: Quorum established and a meeting called to order by Chair Lam.
- B. In attendance: Chair Lam, Vice Chair Leon Geschwind, Troy W. Ballard, Bernard K. Nunies, Keopu Reelitz, Kristen Brummel, Interim CEO Jodie Cheff
 - 1. Guests: PJ Foehr (SPCSC), Sue Deuber,
- C. Public Comments: N/A
- D. MVB Exercise:
 - 1. Joy video and breakout groups discussing Joy
- E. January 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Bernard K. Nunies moves to accept meeting minutes, Kristen Brummel seconds, unanimous GSB approval

II. School Report

- A. CEO Report - Interim CEO Jodie Cheff
 - 1. Academic
 - a) WASC team meeting scheduled for March 8th (45 minutes), GSB leadership attendance requested
 - (1) Chair Lam requests that Interim CEO Jodie Cheff send email to board chairs with requisite preparation information and meeting times
 - 2. Financial
 - a) Preliminary budget proposal prepared for SY 2022-2023, has not been shared with faculty at this time
 - (1) \$600,000 over-budget given revised numbers, budgeting closer to \$450,00 as closer to actual budget
 - (2) Interim CEO Jodie Cheff will be discussing with faculty next week
 - (3) Bernard K. Nunies clarified that there are reserve funds available, Interim CEO Jodie Cheff said that discussions will be ongoing with faculty/staff

(4) Sue Deuber said this budget issue is to be approached from a creative-problem solver and other WCS M&V perspective where all stakeholders are engaged but the ultimate choice is informed and decided by school administration and GSB

(5) Vice Chair Geschwind requested when a budget decision needs to be made, Chair Lam clarified that April/May is ideal deadline and requested that proposals are done at least 30-days in advance for review by Operations Committee and GSB

3. Operational/Cultural

a) Had to fix both fire alarm and plumbing at handwashing station

b) SLVC finished

c) 1 positive COVID case and pre-k had to be shut down temporarily

d) Mission & Vision Revision - GSB Approval

(1) Revised Mission: “Wai‘ālae Public Charter is a student-centered school that honors the whole child. It is committed to nurturing a **JOYFUL** community of learners who strive for excellence and innovation, empowering all members of the community to...

(2) Bernard K. Nunies explained M&V process where faculty/staff were engaged to ensure was aligned to the current WCS

(a) Interim CEO Jodie Cheff expressed this was only change requested by faculty/staff

(3) Bernard K. Nunies moves to accept the requested M&V language as presented by Interim CEO Jodie Cheff, seconded by Vice Chair Geschwind, unanimous GSB approval

III. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee (Chair Ballard)

1. GSB Student Representative - Timeline Update
 - a) Chair Ballard shared that the position description has been shared and will begin working with Mr. Harvey to clarify Student Representative role and position with an expected timeline of beginning in Fall 2022.
2. Ethics Commission Training - GSB Member Assigned Task
 - a) Chair Ballard shared that he will be sending an email with Ethics Commission training and should be completed by all GSB members and Certificate of Completion should be uploaded to GSB drive
3. Faculty Service on GSB - Recommendation
 - a) Chair Ballard shared outcome of conversation with Staff Attorney from Ethics Commission regarding faculty/staff service on GSB
 - (1) Staff Attorney advised that matters affecting employment is a narrow constriction and COI recusals for faculty/staff on GSB
 - b) PJ Foehr suggests that GSB seeks clarification from Ethics Commission on whether COI recusal is required for yearly CEO evaluation
 - (1) PJ Foehr clarified that he did not share opinion on whether faculty/staff should be heard at GSB
 - c) Sue Deuber shared that WCS should consider going above legal limit for faculty/staff service and that GSB has freedom to amend bylaws as GSB sees fit
 - d) Chair Lam inquired as to current charter schools in Hawai'i that are operating under ex-officio status
 - (1) Sue Deuber and PJ Foehr suggested SEEQS and Voyager
 - e) Keopu Reelitz shared that Governance Committee strongly desires teacher voice on GSB but is divided amongst whether ex-officio or voting status is best option
 - (1) Keopu Reelitz shared that COI is a personal violation and faculty/staff will be personally responsible for all fines and cannot be paid by GSB

- f) Chair Ballard shared that he is in strong support of returning voting rights and faculty/staff service on GSB given research and context on the ground at WCS to this point
 - (1) Chair Lam expressed concern that conversations with Attorney General and HSTA and nominating faculty/staff to GSB
- g) Bernard K. Nunies inquired as to whether ex-officio would still require COI recusals
 - (1) Sue Deuber shared that COI recusals would need to be established by GSB prior to onboarding faculty/staff via full voting rights or ex-officio status
 - (2) Vice Chair Geschwind sought a specific follow-up as to when recusal would be required
 - (a) Sue Deuber shared that in her opinion anything dealing with work conditions or supervisors would present a potential COI that should be recused
 - (b) Kristen Brummel shared that from experience faculty/staff are put in difficult positions when serving on GSB and could fester and create bitterness and conflict
- h) Chair Lam inquired with Interim CEO Jodie Cheff of reasons faculty/staff are seeking to serve on GSB in relation to prior GSB practices
 - (1) Interim CEO Jodie Cheff shared that she cannot speak to GSB and faculty/staff relationship, but shared that previously at WCS clear roles assigned where there was opportunity for dialogue and when there was not
- i) Chair Lam requests that Governance Committee explores what items would require COI recusal and what ex-officio or full service report for faculty/staff would look like
 - (1) Vice Chair Geschwind suggests that Governance Committee look into how other GSB's operate with faculty/staff
 - (2) Bernard K. Nunies shares that he does not see issue with faculty/staff service on GSB, as it has worked

before, so long as recusal COIs are developed and shared with serving members

4. Recruitment/Succession - Planning and Timeline Update
 - a) Tabled for March 2022.

B. Education Excellence Committee Report (Chair Geschwind)

1. No updates for GSB.

C. Healthy School Operations Committee Report (Chair Nunies)

1. Financial Report

- a) Chair Nunies shared an updated January budget with no call-outs, updated final per pupil payment likely to be an estimated \$330,00 with enrollment changes

- (1) Currently 2.6 months of available income for budget, if add in final per pupil spending will get through 4 months (May 2022) and budget deficit is imminent

2. Expansion Task Force - Roles and Process

- a) Chair Lam shared planning document and next steps for Expansion Task Force based on current progress of Operations Committee, faculty/staff, and Interim CEO Jodie Cheff

- (1) Draft document will be shared with current Expansion Task Force for further review and suggestions

IV. Executive Session

A. Personnel Updates:

1. GSB Member Andy Tomlinson has chosen to resign from GSB, effective immediately, for personal reasons

B. Union Relations - Updates

1. No updates to report.

C. CEO Search Committee - Updates and Next Steps

1. Chair Nunies shared that Mary Wenstrom has signed CEO contract
 2. Chair Nunies shared that community announcement of new CEO Mary Wenstrom has been drafted and will be sent on Friday (2/25) at noon
 3. Chair Lam shared that new CEO Mary Wenstrom would like to become involved in Committee Meetings from this point forward

4. Vice Chair Geschwind inquired as to new CEO Mary Wenstrom's role in developing SY 2022-2023 budget
 - a) Chair Nunies shared that new CEO may participate as much as she wishes to in process, but cannot be required as she is not an employee of WCS currently

V. Closing

- A. 7:52 PM: Governing School Board meeting adjourned.