

Woodbury Leadership Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 6, 2020



Directors Onsite: Jessica Erickson, Mandi Folks, Shannon Kelly, Natalie Sjoberg, Jolene Skordahl

Directors Attending Virtually: Jason Livingston

Directors Absent: None

Administration/Advisors Attending Virtually: Dr Kathleen Mortensen (Executive Director)

Others in Attendance: WLA parents and staff

1. Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call

1.1 Meeting Call to Order

Ms Folks called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

1.2 Roll Call

Ms Baumann took roll call.

2. WLA Mission and Vision

Ms Sjoberg read the WLA Mission and Vision Statements.

3. Approval of Agenda/Meeting Minutes

3.1 Approval of Meeting Agenda

Mr Livingston moved “to approve the meeting agenda for Thursday, August 6, 2020.” Ms Sjoberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms Erickson, Ms Folks, Mr Livingston, Ms Sjoberg, and Ms Skordahl voted for the motion; there were no votes against. Ms Kelly abstained. Motion passed.

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Ms Folks asked if there were any conflicts of interest for items on the agenda. None were noted.

5. Public Comment

5.1 Delegation of Public Comment Items

Numerous WLA staff and parents spoke about the start of the school year and the significance of the decision on WLA students, families and staff. Speakers requested the Board to take into account the various stakeholder’s input and to keep in mind the safety of students and staff, as well as their educational and emotional needs. Ms Folks suggested most comments will be addressed in tonight’s meeting. Ms Mortensen will follow up with responses to individuals for items not addressed.

6. Board and Administration Reports

6.1 Governance Committee (Covid-19 Policy first reading)

Ms Erickson reminded the Board that a draft Covid-19 Policy was included in the prior meeting’s Board packet, but was not put into 1st reading.

Ms Erickson moved “to place the Covid-19 Policy into first reading.” Ms Skordahl seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms Erickson, Ms Folks, Ms Kelly, Ms Sjoberg, Mr Livingston and Ms Skordahl voted for the motion; there were no votes against. Motion passed.

7. Board Training, Discussion and Business

Ms Mortensen shared a summary of the MN Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21. The plan provides for three learning models:

- In Person Learning for all students when minimal to moderate community spread is occurring
- Hybrid Learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits when moderate community spread is occurring
- Distance Learning only when substantial community spread is occurring

Ms Folks shared that the Safe Learning Plan provides five recommended school scenarios based on 14-day Covid-19 County case rates, stating that Washington County is currently at 14.84 per 10,000 people. Based on this rate, the recommended option is opening with Elementary students In Person Learning and Middle School students Hybrid Learning. This is a starting point for discussion, but other things must be considered, such as classroom size and building occupancy rates. Schools are allowed to open at a more restrictive model and are required to offer Distance Learning to families that request it.

7.1 Parent Survey Results

Overall, parent's preferences were 37% Fully Online Learning and 63% Onsite Learning, with percentages varying by grade.

7.2 Staff Survey Results

Staff were surveyed for their preferences, with 16% preferring to work remotely, 19% would prefer to work onsite, 47% would like a hybrid version, and the remaining % did not respond.

81% of those responding stated that they were OK with working onsite, with safety precautions.

7.3 Hybrid Model Discussion and 7.4 Discussion of having all students K-5 on site M-Th or M-F, with grades 6-8 on alternating days

Ms Mortensen reviewed other factors for the Board to consider when determining the model to open school in the fall, including:

- Safety measures
- Facilities considerations, especially classroom size
- Bandwidth capacity
- Social & Emotional needs, which differ by grades/ages
- Academic needs, which differ by grade

Taking into consideration survey results and other factors, Ms Folks shared three models for Board consideration as options to open WLA in the fall:

- Model A – All Kindergarten thru Grade 8 students onsite
- Model B – Kindergarten thru Grade 5 alternating days Monday thru Thursday, Grades 6-8 all students on site Monday thru Thursday, with Friday online for all
- Model C – All grades alternating Monday thru Thursday, with Friday online for all

Full Distance Learning would be made available under all models. Depending on how county Covid-19 case counts change, instruction may change to a more restrictive model under any of the models.

She shared a description of what each model would look like for the school, and pros and cons of each model. There was significant discussion of the models: how the models would work, the pros and cons, benefits and risks, complications of delivery by teachers, additional resources needed and the difference in impact on families, students, staff and learning.

Ms Folks motioned "to start the 2020-2021 school year using Model B." Ms Skordahl seconded the motion.

There was further discussion about modifying Model B to include younger students who tend to struggle more with online instruction. Ms Folks rescinded her motion.

Mr Livingston moved "to approve modified option B, which calls for K thru 2 onsite Monday thru Thursday, 3 thru 5 Hybrid Learning, and 6 thru 8 onsite Monday thru Thursday and with the caveat that WLA will continually monitor and make necessary changes as appropriate based on state guidelines."

Seconded by Ms Erickson. A roll call vote was taken: Ms Erickson, Ms Folks, Ms Kelly, Mr Livingston, and Ms Skordahl voted for the motion; Ms Sjoberg voted against. Motion passed.

8. Board Communication & Future Items

8.1 Board Communication/Future Agenda Items – Reflection

Ms Folks reflected that selecting a model to open with in the fall was difficult, but allows WLA staff and families to move forward and plan. Ms Mortensen shared that the Board was not required to approve the model of reopening in the fall, but she appreciated the Board collaboration and welcomed their involvement in the decision.

Ms Mortensen shared that WLA plans to hold an Open House prior to the start of school, with the format being by appointment, offered both onsite and virtually.

9. Housekeeping

Next regularly scheduled WLA Board of Directors Meeting

Ms Folks stated the next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the gym at 8089 Globe Drive, Woodbury, MN. Participation will be available both onsite and through a Zoom option.

12. Adjournment

Ms Kelly moved “to adjourn.” Ms Sjoberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms Erickson, Ms Folks, Ms Kelly, Mr Livingston, Ms Sjoberg and Ms Skordahl voted for the motion; there were no votes against. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.