



**May Meeting Minutes for the
Board of Trustees of DC Scholars Public Charter School (DCSPCS)**

Thursday, May 26, 2022

4:30 pm via Zoom

<https://dcscholars-org.zoom.us/j/91599418376?pwd=R25YY1daNWdMaEIUd0ZDV0ZBRkIMZz09>

Board Members Present: Bob Weinberg, Evan Piekara, Crystal Williams (until 5:27 PM), Tikia Thompson, Laura Fitzgerald, Janelle Suggs, Jackie Lendsey (4:38 PM), Andrew Ellenbogen (4:55 PM).

Board Members Absent: Robert Patterson, Maegan Marcano, Shantania Williams.

Guests: Vickie Ho (EdOps), Dionne Dabelow (EdOps) (until 5:31 PM).

DC Scholars Staff Present: Business Manager Emily Stone, Executive Coach Jennifer Leonard, Head of School Amy Helms, Director of Finance and Operations Kimberly Lucas.

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review
 - a. Mr. Weinberg called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm after taking roll call to determine the presence of a quorum.

- II. Chair Updates
 - a. Mr. Weinberg acknowledged Kimberly Lucas, Director of Finance and Operations, to introduce herself to the Board.
 - b. Mr. Weinberg announced that Maegan Marcano will join the Governance Committee, effective next month, while awaiting the re-activation of the Development Committee.
 - c. Mr. Weinberg announced that Tikia Thompson will be a member of the Academic Committee, effective next month.

- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. April 28, 2022 Meeting

Mr. Piekara made a motion to approve the April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Suggs seconded. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- IV. Governance Committee Report
 - a. At the recommendation of the Governance Committee, and after discussion, Ms. C. Williams made a motion to approve the SY22-23 School Calendar. Mr. Piekara seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.
 - b. The Governance Committee Chair Ms. C. Williams made an oral presentation on the governance items on the agenda: Board Member Pipeline, Board Member Training, Open Meeting Updates, Board Meetings for SY22-23. Discussion followed.

- V. Academic Committee Report



- a. The Academic Committee Chair Ms. Fitzgerald provided an oral report related to the Academic Committee meeting materials included in the packet.

VI. Finance Committee Report

- a. March 2022 Financials

Mrs. Leonard provided an overview of the March 2022 financials included in the board materials. Discussion followed.

- b. SY22-23 Budget Presentation

Mr. Ellenbogen provided an oral report related to the Budget Presentation included in the board materials. Discussion Followed.

Vote for Approval: Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the SY22-23 Budget. Ms. Lendsey seconded. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- c. Contracts: Vote for Approval

- i. Payroll Network

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Payroll Network (FY22) contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- ii. Reliance Standard

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Reliance Standard (FY22) contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- iii. EdOps Finance

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the EdOps Finance contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- iv. Jones, Maresca, & McQuade

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Jones, Maresca, & McQuade contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- v. Preferred Meals

Mrs. Leonard provided an update on the Preferred Meals contract and the announcement from the company that they will discontinue offering vended meals after June 30, 2022. Mrs. Leonard outlined the course to be



followed to secure another vendor to provide meals. There is no longer a contract with this vendor for the Board to approve.

vi. End to End Solutions

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the End-to-End Solutions contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

vii. Teach for America

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Teach for America contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

viii. Y&S Technology

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Y&S Technology contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

ix. ACS/Inspiroz

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mr. Weinberg disclosed that the President of Inspiroz, Mr. Lars Beck, served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Scholar Academies when DC Scholars was founded in 2012, as part of the Scholar Academies network of charter schools. Scholar Academies dissolved in 2016 and discontinued management of DC Scholars at that time. Mr. Beck has not had any formal affiliation or leadership role with the school since October 2016.

To ensure that the contract was fair market value to the school, DC Scholars did an RFP for these services in spring 2021 and Inspiroz was the most competitive vendor in service offerings and price. That contract had one-year option renewal with a 3% increase, which the Board deems fair to the school given rising costs for all vendors. Mr. Weinberg stated that Board should acknowledge and waive the Conflict of Interest to proceed with this contract.

Vote for Approval

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the ACS Inspiroz contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

x. Leonard & Associates Mrs. Leonard was recused from the meeting.



Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mr. Weinberg disclosed that Jennifer Leonard served as Executive Director of DC Scholars Community Schools, the management company of DC Scholars during school years 2017-18 and 2018-19. She then served as Executive Director of DC Scholars PCS, when it was an independent LEA, during school years 2019-20 and 2020-21. As key personnel, she is considered a conflicting interest party in connection with the Leonard & Associates contract.

To ensure that the contract was fair market value to the school, DC Scholars did an RFP for these services in spring 2021 and Leonard & Associates was the most competitive vendor in service offerings and price. The Board renewed this contract for SY22-23 at an 8% increase, which is consistent with the compensation raises for staff members, who score highly effective on their annual performance review evaluation in SY21-22. Mr. Weinberg stated that Board should acknowledge and waive the Conflict of Interest to proceed with this contract.

Vote for Approval

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Leonard & Associates contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

Mrs. Leonard returned to the meeting.

xi. Growth MindEd Consulting

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mr. Weinberg disclosed that Nicole Bryan served as Interim Head of School of DC Scholars PCS during school years 2018-19, 2019-20, and parts of 2020-21 and SY2021-22 (summer 2021, as result of the Head of School's parental leave). As key personnel, she is considered a conflicting interest party in connection with the Growth MindEd Consulting contract.

To ensure that the contract was fair market value to the school, DC Scholars did an RFP for these services in spring 2021 and 2022. Growth MindEd Consulting was the most competitive vendor in service offerings and price for both years. The Board accepted a compensation increase of 8% for SY22-23, which is consistent with the compensation raises for staff members, who score highly effective on their annual performance review evaluation in SY21-22. Mr. Weinberg stated that Board should acknowledge and waive the Conflict of Interest to proceed with this contract.

Vote for Approval

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion,



Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Growth MindEd Consulting contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

xii. LiftED Consulting

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the LiftED Consulting contract. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

VII. Head of School's Report

- a. Ms. Helms provided an oral report on the following:
 - i. May 2022 Visit from Executive Director of DC PCSB Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis;
 - ii. SY21-22 Staff Morale and Climate;
 - iii. SY22-23 Staff Retention & Hiring;
 - iv. EOY Priorities;
 - v. SY22-23 Enrollment Targets;
 - vi. SY22-23 Strategic Planning;
 - vii. Summer Priorities, including Leader and Teacher Professional Development.
- b. Ms. Helms responded to questions and comments from the Board.

VIII. Closing

- a. Mr. Weinberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.
- b. Mr. Weinberg thanked the board members for their participation.

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at open.govoffice@dc.gov.