WOLCS Board: Sharmain Matlock-Turner, President; Ava Willis-Barksdale, Vice President; David R. Bright, Treasurer, Nicole McLaurin, Secretary, Wes Somerville, Uva Coles, Irv Brockington, Dr. Linda Fleisher, Julian Thompson, Wendy Thomas.

WOLCS Staff: Dr. Debbera Peoples-Lee, Sheila Royal-Moses, Michele Jones, Charletta Zeigler

Guests: Peter Costa, Business Manager – Santilli & Thomson, Eric Strauss, Auditor - Withum Smith & Brown

Recorder: Tamara Jackson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:32am. Tamara Jackson completed Roll Call.

Attendees: Irv Brockington, Julian Thompson, Dr. Linda Fleisher, Uva Coles, Ava Willis-Barksdale, David R. Bright, Nicole McLaurin, Wendy Thomas.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Monday, September 24, 2018
Motion for Approval made by Wes Somerville Seconded by David R. Bright Passed Unanimously

Finance and Budget Committee Report: Introduced by David R. Bright, Chair
Peter Costa reviewed the financial summary for October 2018. Mr. Costa stated that the finance committee held its meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2018. Mr. Costa stated that the budget was based on 1129, and as of today we are at 1045. We must re-evaluate the budget if the enrollment numbers do not increase. Ms. Costa introduced the Auditor Mr. Eric Strauss, from Withum Smith & Brown and he presented the finding from the 2018 Financial Audit report.

Report from the Auditor:
Mr. Eric Strauss from WithumSmith+Brown presented a summary of the audit of WOLCS financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2018. The Finance & Audit Committee completed a review of the audit findings prior to this meeting. The Board of Trustees was provided with a copy of the audit report for review and consideration.

The outcome of the audit was positive. There were no management letters comments, or any internal control or client issues reported. All of which were unmodified opinions for financial statements for the year end of June 30, 2018; compliance with requirements applicable to each major program and an unqualified report on internal controls; there were no issues under Government Auditing Reporting.

The Independent Auditors' Report, in the opinion of WithumSmith+Brown, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WOLCS as of June 30, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Overall there were no findings and the audit received clean opinions.

Revenues: Received are current as of October 31, 2018.
• The enrollment in the 2018-19 Adopted Budget was as follows:
  o Regular Ed students 995 and Special Ed students 130 for a total of 1,125
• The current Revised Budget Enrollment is as follows:
  o Regular Ed students 906 and Special Ed students 129 for a total of 1,035
• The actual School District rates for 18-19 are as follows:
  o Regular Ed $9,099
  o Special Ed $29,300
• The Working Budget Rates for 18-19 are as follows:
  o Regular Ed $8,900
  o Special Ed $281300
Expenses:
• All expenses are posted as of October 2018, there aren't any major discrepancies at this time.

Balance Sheet: INTERNAL STATEMENT
• Cash as of October 2018 approximately 2.5M
• Cash shows 77 days cash on hand

Resolutions:

Resolution #22-18/19 Approval of Audit 2017-18
Motion for Approval made David R. Bright Seconded by Wes Somerville Passed Unanimously

Resolution #23-18/19 Contract for Mercado’s Landscaping & Tree Service, LLC
Motion for Approval made Wes Somerville Seconded by David R. Bright Passed Unanimously

Resolution #24-18/19 Contract for Arlene Morris
Motion for Approval made Wes Somerville Seconded by David R. Bright Passed Unanimously

Resolution #25-18/19 Contract for Harriet Zozofsky
Motion for Approval made Wes Somerville Seconded by David R. Bright Passed Unanimously

Resolution #26-18/19 Contract for Shaneka Briggs
Motion for Approval made Wes Somerville Seconded by David R. Bright Passed Unanimously

Resolution # 27-18/19 New Hires & Resignations
Motion for Approval made Wes Somerville Seconded by David R. Bright Passed Unanimously

Committee Reports:

Personnel & Compensation Committee Report: Presented by Sheila Royal-Moses, (Ava Willis-Barksdale, Chair)
Ms. Moses reported that we are off to a great start with teacher retention and recruitment and are very excited about the promising possibilities for the 2018-2019 school year. However, it is noted that WOLCS had some challenging years to date with regards to teacher recruitment and retention. Over the years, teacher exit interviews and annual surveys have helped identify 3 critical challenges: salaries, student behavior and student/teacher relationships. For the 2018-2019 school year, WOLCS has filled 14 teacher vacancies and 3 administrative vacancies.

Ms. Moses added that the new salary scale has helped WOLCS compete for talent in this tough market, and she is thrilled to report that we have started the new school year having hired 7 new teachers with experience ranging from 5 to 20 years, 3 administrators with experience ranging from 10 to 20 years, and rehired 4 teachers who were the school's most talented during their tenure at WOLCS.

We have contracted experts and agencies to provide targeted professional development for the 2018-2019 school year. This initiative will assist our efforts to improve teacher capacity with students suffering from trauma issues, as well as their ability to build and sustain deeper student/teacher relationships through training focused on race and racial bias.

This year has been one of our best starts in 3 years, with a major highlight being that we have filled all our vacancies, and we have done so with seasoned instructional leaders, as well as talented teachers that we believe are more than capable of having a positive and measurable impact on student success. We are off to a great start and we are very excited about the promising possibilities for the 2018-2019 school year!

Resource & Development Committee Report: Presented by Michele Jones (Wes Somerville, Chair)
Ms. Jones spoke briefly about the recent development and fundraising committee meeting which was held on November 14, 2018. The attendee’s discussed the strategic goals for 2018-2019: establishing relationships with city, state, and school district officials, opportunities for collaboration, fundraising ideas, and completing the educational improvement tax credit program application. They also reviewed action items and next steps and finally confirming the date for the spring event.
Academic Affairs Committee Report: Presented by Charletta Zeigler (Sharmain Matlock-Turner, Chair)

Ms. Zeigler presented the PSSA Cohort Trend Data report 2015-2018. This data is significant because this is when the test changed to Common Core. Ms. Zeigler's key findings include that in ELA, the cohort that started taking the common core aligned with the PSSA is stronger than those who believe this is because there are less gaps than those who participated in the common core PSSA for the first time in a grade higher than 3rd grade. In 2018 3rd grade scored 50%; we want to watch them and push them; they have the capacity to do better on the future test. Key finding in math shows that students are struggling and looking at the research, we have to look at math different and understand the new shifts in math. Ms. Zeigler is going to continue to review the cohort data with her team and work on strategies to increase our overall student achievement and growth.

Governance & Nominating Committee Presented by Sharmain Matlock-Turner, Chair

No Report

CEO Report

Dr. Lee started her report with some unfortunate news. For the first time in WOLCS’ history, an incident occurred on Tuesday, October 9th, where a parent slapped a teacher on our school premises, and later threatened the safety of our principal, Charletta Zeigler—due to her belief that her first-grade son was being called a liar about how Epi Pens were found in his bookbag at his after-school facility. The police and our legal counsel were notified, and subsequently, the parent was excluded from our premises, and a few days later a warrant was issued for her arrest. The case now rests with the District Attorney’s Office. A letter was sent out to all WOLCS parents and guardians informing them of the incident and emphasizing that conduct of this nature seriously compromises both the educational and physical welfare of our students and staff, and will not be accepted, under any circumstances.

The WOLCS Executive Leadership Council convened on October 30th as an advisory body to the CEO charged with assisting WOLCS to raise its profile and visibility in the region; to develop strategic alliances, partnerships, and joint ventures with regional businesses and/or educational institutions; and to engage with families of our students, connect with alumni, and cultivate funders and individual donors. We are proud to welcome three new members: Rebecca Powers, Director of Corporate, Foundation & Government Relations at Chestnut Hill College, Rick Woelfel, News Reporter for The Leader & Review, and Rochelle Peterson-Ansari, Director of Placement & Partnerships at LaSalle University.

WOLCS is in training to become a Pennsylvania Certified Safety Committee for Workplace Safety. The committee consists of nine school members including human resources, administrative, teaching, security, custodial, and cafeteria staff, and is being chaired by Jane Lewis, our Human Resources Specialist. Based on amendments made to the PA Workers’ Compensation Act in 1993, as an employer who is granted Certification, we would be eligible to receive a 5% discount on our Workers’ Compensation Insurance premium annually. Also, the 21st Century Grant with Foundations Inc has been extended for three additional years, through 2024 (would have ended 2021). Foundations, Inc. in partnership with West Oak Lane Charter School offers the Innovation Station-Where Minds Explore afterschool programs which provides academic enrichment, 21st century skills development, physical recreation, and nutrition to students 12 hours per week during the school year. WOLCS hosted the State Review of the grant program on November 15th and the review went extremely well. A special thanks goes to Christina Lucera, our Literacy Coach & Project Coordinator for the 21st Century Grant at WOLCS. WOLCS has joined the Philadelphia Charters for Excellence (PCE). PCE is an association of high-performing public charter schools, and represents, supports, and connects charter schools that commit to holding themselves accountable to high standards of academic performance, fiscal management, and transparency in operations and public governance.

Our community service project for Thanksgiving is focused on acknowledging a very dedicated grandparent volunteer. Staff wore pink and raised money during Breast Cancer Awareness week in late October. Ms. Dorsey has consistently volunteered at WOLCS for many years and has assisted wherever and whenever needed. She is the epitome of Parent Involvement at its BEST! Ms. Dorsey has been challenged with malignant cancer that has prevented her from volunteering. The school community has joined together to uplift her spirits and to thank her for her service by sending a personal care basket filled with uplifting items and personal notes of encouragement.

We are proud to announce that 27 (82%) of our 33 retained teachers received the Excellence in Education (EEP) Bonus for the 2017-2018 school year. 16 (59%) received the Bonus for Reading and 11 (41%) received the Bonus for Math. Of the total 27 awards, 9 (33%) of the teachers received bonuses for both reading and math.
Congratulations to our students who were welcomed into the 2018-2019 Scholars Club at the Induction Dinner on October 4th. Our Board Member Uva Coles delivered a passionate & motivational message to the students & their families. Dr. Lee is also proud to announce our partnership with LaSalle University’s Education Department. WOLCS serves as a Pre-Service Teacher Placement Site for students in the education program to observe and assist WOLCS teachers. In return, WOLCS teachers serve as mentors. The goal is to provide early exposure to prospective teachers in the areas of teaching and learning.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:33am

Motion for Approval made by: Wes Somerville Second by: Nicole McLaurin

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2019 6:00pm-8:00pm, at West Oak Lane Charter School.