APPROVED

Washington Latin

Minutes

Washington Latin board fall retreat @ Cooper Campus - Oct 2025

@ Anna Julia Cooper Campus

Date and Time
Tuesday October 7, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Location
@ Anna Julia Cooper Campus

Directors Present
B. Williams-Kief, C. McFadgion (remote), E. Paisner, F. Perera, K. Merritt, L. Rucker, M. Yeager, P. Jayachandran, S. Angus (remote)

Directors Absent
A. Zachariah

Guests Present
Abigail Huston, C. Gifford, D. Smith, E. Moussa, G. Izurieta, J. Kelly, K. Cromwell, K. Roberts, L. Chia, P. Anderson, Rakim Brooks

I. Lunch with students, board members and leaders

A. Catered lunch/informal conversation groups in MS building

The following people were present for the optional lunch (and conversation) session.

Anaka Osborne
Jeffrey McCreight
Josie Adolf

Diana Smith
Ewing Moussa
Peter Anderson

Brendan Willaims-Kief
Elizabeth Paisner
Fabiana Perera
Ken Merritt
Lisa Rucker
Margie Yeager
Priya Jayachandran

Rakim Brooks

II. Soaking in The Latin Way

A. Tours of MS and US buildings

The board members had a tour of the Anna Julia Cooper Campus.

B. Classroom Visits

The board members were divided into 2 groups and they visited/observed various classrooms with student ambassadors Claire Polli and Breon Wortham.

III. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Merritt called a meeting of the board of directors of Washington Latin to order on Tuesday Oct 7, 2025 at 2:30 PM.

C. Welcome And Framing

Ken Merritt welcomed everybody to the first in person board session for SY25/26 at the newly opened Anna Julia Cooper Campus at 4301 Harewood Rd NE WDC 20017. There were 2 board candidates present - Rakim Brooks and Abigail Huston - who introduced themselves, followed by a Q&A session with the board.

Rakim Brooks left.

D.

Approve Minutes

B. Williams-Kief made a motion to approve the minutes from Washington Latin board meeting - Aug 2025 on 08-28-25.
E. Paisner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Jayachandran	Aye
L. Rucker	Aye
K. Merritt	Aye
S. Angus	Aye
B. Williams-Kief	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
A. Zachariah	Absent
E. Paisner	Aye
M. Yeager	Aye
F. Perera	Aye

E. Approve Consent Agenda

B. Williams-Kief made a motion to approve the consent agenda.
M. Yeager seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

K. Merritt	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
F. Perera	Aye
M. Yeager	Aye
A. Zachariah	Absent
L. Rucker	Aye
B. Williams-Kief	Aye
S. Angus	Aye
E. Paisner	Aye
P. Jayachandran	Aye

IV. Board Business

A. Deep Dive Topic - Schools Program And Performance

Caroline Gifford gave a presentation on the academic performance of both campuses, focusing on the SY24/25 DC CAPE results.

Starting SY26/27, DC will transition to using (SBAC) Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium instead of PARCC as the basis for DC CAPE. The new assessment will be DC CAPE 2.0. When Common Core Standards were initially implemented, two major assessments (PARCC and SBAC) were launched as a means to assess learning on

those standards. When PARCC was discontinued by many jurisdictions, DC continued to offer it under the new designation of DC CAPE. This change took place in 2023.

B. Finance Update

Geovanna Izurieta shared the June 2025 Financials and provided the current financial update.

C. Governance Committee

Lisa Rucker asked the board to vote on the following.

1. To accept the revised bylaws

2. To confirm Aswathi Zachariah as Governance Committee chair and (ex officio) secretary of the board - and Lisa Rucker as SPP Committee chair

P. Jayachandran made a motion to accept the revised bylaws.
E. Paisner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

K. Merritt	Aye
P. Jayachandran	Aye
L. Rucker	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
B. Williams-Kief	Aye
A. Zachariah	Absent
S. Angus	Aye
M. Yeager	Aye
E. Paisner	Aye
F. Perera	Aye

F. Perera made a motion to to confirm Aswathi Zachariah as Governance Committee chair and (ex officio) secretary of the board - and Lisa Rucker as SPP Committee chair.
B. Williams-Kief seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Williams-Kief	Aye
E. Paisner	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
L. Rucker	Aye
M. Yeager	Aye
S. Angus	Aye
P. Jayachandran	Aye

Roll Call

K. Merritt	Aye
A. Zachariah	Absent
F. Perera	Aye

All board members signed and submitted their BOY paperwork.

Abigail Huston left.

There was discussion about the (2) board candidates who were present and future potential candidates.

It was suggested that the search for future board candidates could include the following -
. alumni board members
. candidates with development experience
. candidates with for profit connections

V. Engagement with strategic challenges

A. "The Strategic War Room"

Jimmy Kelly arrived.

Everybody was divided into 3 groups. The 3 groups were presented with 3 different hypothetical strategic challenges and asked to develop their responses to their given "threat".

. immediate actions (first 30 days)
. medium-term strategy (3-6 months)
. resource allocation decisions
. stakeholder communication plan
. one "bold" move that turns the "threat" into opportunity

B. The Innovation Lab

Each group presented their "battle plan" strategy.

VI. Closing Items

A. Wrap-Up/Takeaways

Engagement With Strategic Priorities

GROUP A

incubate
PG (post graduate) year
veteran-novice peer mentoring

GROUP B
teacher task force

GROUP C
visioning session
budget engagement
help to nurture ethos of stewardship

B. Adjourn Meeting

F. Perera made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
B. Williams-Kief seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Yeager	Aye
A. Zachariah	Absent
K. Merritt	Aye
S. Angus	Aye
B. Williams-Kief	Aye
E. Paisner	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
P. Jayachandran	Aye
L. Rucker	Aye
F. Perera	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Chia

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 opengovoffice@dc.gov."