APPROVED

Washington Latin

Minutes

Washington Latin board meeting - Jan 2026

via ZOOM webinar

Date and Time
Friday January 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Location
via ZOOM webinar
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9G_60hi7RbK36FVsMD3KVA

Directors Present
A. Huston (remote), A. Zachariah (remote), B. Williams-Kief (remote), C. McFadgion (remote), E. Paisner (remote), F. Perera (remote), K. Merritt (remote), L. Rucker (remote), M. Yeager (remote), P. Jayachandran (remote), R. Brooks (remote)

Directors Absent
S. Angus, Z. Berte

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
E. Paisner, F. Perera, P. Jayachandran, R. Brooks

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned
R. Brooks

Guests Present
E. Moussa (remote), G. Izurieta (remote), L. Chia (remote), P. Anderson (remote), T. Porter (remote)

I. 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 Friday Jan 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

C. Opening Remarks

Ken Merritt welcomed everybody to the first board meeting of the new (2026) calendar year.

II. The Latin Way Moment

A. Share a story, quote, or recent experience that brought "The Latin Way" to life for you.

Aswathi Zachariah highlighted the successful basketball season.

Financial Literacy (FL) is a required class in order to graduate. Recently, the FL students enthusiastically welcomed a few outside guests.

- Ken Merritt and son
- Eagle Bank representative

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes

A. Zachariah made a motion to approve the minutes from Washington Latin board meeting - Nov 2025 on 11-13-25.
L. Rucker seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

K. Merritt	Aye
A. Zachariah	Aye
P. Jayachandran	Absent
A. Huston	Aye
Z. Berte	Absent
L. Rucker	Aye
R. Brooks	Aye

Roll Call

M. Yeager	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
S. Angus	Absent
F. Perera	Absent
B. Williams-Kief	Aye
E. Paisner	Absent

B. LEA Executive Report

WLPCS received PLATINUM level for AP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL 2025 from COLLEGE BOARD in all 3 categories.

- college culture - percentage of seniors who took an AP during their time in high school
- college credit - percentage of seniors who passed at least one AP class
- college optimization - percentage of seniors who took 5 or more AP classes

IV. Accountability Check-in

A. Latest Financials

Geovanna Izurieta reported the following financial update.

- projected revenue is higher than budget
- expenses are higher than budget
- forecasted cash position is above budget - with a gain year over year

Starting this year, both campuses have the same food vendor and food is partially prepared in house at AJC. The quality of the food has improved resulting in an increased popularity of the food.

The finance team was commended for keeping WLPCS in good financial health.

R. Brooks left.
F. Perera arrived.

Tom Porter gave a brief project update about the Anna Julia Cooper Campus.

B. Risk Monitoring Report

Peter Anderson mentioned that there is an uptick in students who have been brought to the attention of the mental health team. There is also an increase in the number of evaluation requests for accommodations by 11th graders and 12th graders.

A new H1B visa requirement is an issue of concern. WLPCS is not likely to hire H1B visa candidates because the new fee is prohibitive.

E. Paisner arrived.

C. Governance Check In

There are currently 13 board members on the WLPCS board. The maximum is 15 board members. There are a few candidates being considered for the remaining 2 vacancies.

The WLPCS board handbook needs to be reviewed/updated.

V. Deep Dive: Development and Community Affairs

A. Public Phase of Capital Campaign

So far, approximately 85% of the Capital Campaign goal has been raised. The Capital Campaign completion target is Jun 2026. With less than 6 months, a current challenge is the need to accelerate momentum.

The proposed public phase strategy is a 3 phase approach from Jan to Jun that features a pre-launch, a public launch, and momentum to celebration.

The board can help in the following ways.

- personal giving (target - 100% participation)
- network activation (target - identify 3+ prospects and make 1+ direct ask)
- storytelling and advocacy
- event participation (target - 50%+ board attendance at launch event)
- strategic guidance

WLPCS is looking for at least one more board member to serve as (co) board champion with Margie Yeager.

B. Development And Community Affairs Report

R. Brooks left.
P. Jayachandran arrived.

In appreciation of a generous donation from a former board member, one of the science laboratories at AJC will be named in their honor.

WLPCS would be open to offering naming opportunities to past major contributors.

M. Yeager made a motion to accept the generous donation from a former board member and name one of the science labotaries at AJC in their honor.
A. Zachariah seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

There was a suggestion to involve/engage the Parent Faculty Association (PFA) to help reach the Capital Campaign target.

C. Advocacy Challenges

Peter Anderson discussed a few advocacy challenges.

VI. Open Space

A. Various topics

R. Brooks arrived.

ASPIRE is the DCPCSB academic accountability system. According to the ASPIRE framework, all 3 schools show growth.

The COGNIA REPORT for WLPCS highlighted some successes. The next Accreditation Engagement Review is 2028-2029.

Peter Anderson spoke briefly about the status of athletics at WLPCS. Two proposals were received in response to the athletics masterplan Request For Information (RFI).

There was a comment about the demograhic shift at WLPCS. Enrollment is down for students identifying as African American. Enrollment is up for students identifying as 2 or more races. WLPCS is intentionally diverse by design.

VII. Closing Items

A. Review decisions made and action steps

TO DO :
Who will volunteer to be (co) board champion with Margie Yeager?

B. Preview upcoming meetings and school events

Board members are encouraged to attend any of the various upcoming WLPCS events. There will be a play THE LARAMIE PROJECT next week at 2nd St on Jan 22/23/24.

The board would like to invite Bob Eleby-El (Director of Athletics) to talk about athletics at a future board meeting.

WLPCS has new swag that is available for purchase on the website.
https://latinpcs.org/2026/01/get-your-latin-gear/

C. Adjourn Meeting

K. Merritt made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
M. Yeager seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
R. Brooks	Aye
E. Paisner	Aye
A. Zachariah	Aye
C. McFadgion	Aye
K. Merritt	Aye
F. Perera	Aye
Z. Berte	Absent
L. Rucker	Aye
A. Huston	Aye
M. Yeager	Aye
P. Jayachandran	Absent
B. Williams-Kief	Aye

Roll Call

S. Angus Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

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."