



Wesley International Academy

Emergency Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 6:00 PM EST

Location

211 Memorial Drive Atlanta, GA 30312

The Wesley International Academy Board of Directors will meet at 6:00pm on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 in the Media Center of the school located at 211 Memorial Dr., Atlanta, GA 30312. This emergency meeting is being held in order to consider an urgent charter renewal application process matter presented by the Georgia Department of Education.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			6:00 PM
Opening Items			
A. Record Attendance and Guests		Thomas Ryan-Lawrence	5 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Beth Gay	2 m
II. Executive Director Updates			6:07 PM
A. Public Comments	FYI	Thomas Ryan-Lawrence	5 m

Public comments are encouraged and must remain in accordance with WIA policies and procedures. The board allows any stakeholder an open forum to state their comments during any regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Board of Directors.

- Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.
- This is not a question and answer session, but rather an opportunity for stakeholders to share their thoughts and opinions in a respectful manner.
- Those wishing to comment should sign up in advance of the meeting via https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1F-1HHyOAtNISLHxyfyZ9e_a3DPZZBCX7bubkbqZ9nIY/viewform. **Please note, online sign up will close fifteen minutes before the start of the meeting.** Those wishing to speak that have not signed up online in advance of the meeting may sign up in person prior to the beginning of the board meeting.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>• In the interest of time, <i>all policies and procedures, specifically time limits, will be strictly enforced.</i></p>			

B. Mellonie Rollo	FYI	Beth Gay	2 m
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Mother of first grader wishes to address concerns regarding the letter from the board of education.

III. Governance Committee 6:14 PM

A. Review and approve Response to the GaDOE request for clarification	Vote	Mazie Lynn Causey	30 m
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Review and approve response to the Georgia Department of Education's February 21, 2018 Request for Clarification regarding Wesley International Academy's Charter Renewal Application.

Once approved by the BOD, the response will be hand delivered to the GaDOE on March 7, 2018.

IV. Closing Items 6:44 PM

A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote		
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Coversheet

Review and approve Response to the GaDOE request for clarification

Section: III. Governance Committee
Item: A. Review and approve Response to the GaDOE request for clarification
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Wesley International Academy Clarifications Ltr 2018-02-21.pdf



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

February 21, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & U.S. MAIL

Elizabeth W. Gay
Governing Board Chair
Wesley International Academy
211 Memorial Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30312

RE: Wesley International Academy Charter Renewal Petition

Dear Ms. Gay:

Thank you for submitting a charter renewal petition on behalf of Wesley International Academy (hereinafter "WIA"). The District Flexibility and Charter Schools Division of the Georgia Department of Education (hereinafter "the Department") completed its review of your application materials, including the 2017 annual report and the information presented by you and your colleagues during the panel interview at our offices on February 9, 2018. Although your petition satisfied most of the requisite criteria, we identified some areas that require clarification and/or supplemental information before we may present it to the State Board of Education with a recommendation for charter contract renewal approval.

In reviewing the disciplinary data provided by WIA, the Department is concerned that Black/African American students received out-of-school suspensions at a rate significantly higher than any other racial subgroup. WIA's application referenced the Positive Behavior Support Model (hereinafter "PBS") as part of WIA's behavior management philosophy and strategies. During the panel interview, WIA discussed implementing the restorative justice model, utilizing Second Step, initiating in-school suspensions and providing teachers and staff with training on classroom management as strategies to address the racial disproportionality of out-of-school suspensions. WIA also described how at least some members of the governing board were unaware of the school's suspension data until they began completing the charter renewal application. We request that WIA provide the Department with a written supplemental statement to the renewal application by no later than **Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 5pm** with the following:

1. Explanation of how WIA has used and how WIA will use PBS in conjunction with a restorative justice model to inform WIA's disciplinary program.
 - a. Include timeline for implementation of PBS and restorative justice.

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February 13, 2018
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2. Explanation of how the governing board will stay informed of the school's disciplinary data and practices going forward.
3. Explanation of how the governing board will hold the staff and administration accountable for implementing the strategies described above to address the racial disparity in out-of-school suspensions.
 - a. Include any corrective actions the governing board will take as a part of the accountability process.
 - b. Include a timeline for each corrective action.

As the Department stated during the panel interview, we are concerned that the number of low-income students at WIA does not reflect that of the attendance zone WIA serves at large. The Department understands that WIA intends to use a weighted lottery and has set a goal of increasing the percentage of low-income students comprising WIA's student body to 65%. We request that WIA provide the Department with a written supplemental statement to the renewal application by no later than **Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 5pm** with the following:

4. Date when goal of 65% low-income student body is set to be achieved.
5. Recruitment plan of action to increase the low-income student population of WIA while maintaining WIA's high student retention rate over the next five years.
 - a. Includes dates when each action of the plan will be completed and who will be responsible for implementing each action.
 - b. Include how the governing board of WIA will oversee the action plan and hold WIA staff and administration accountable for adhering to it.

For WIA's petition to be presented at the March 21-22, 2018 State Board of Education (hereinafter "SBOE") meetings with a recommendation for approval, the Department must receive the requested information by the above-stated dates. If you need more time to respond, please let us know by **Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 5pm**. Please note that a response time extension is fine, but that SBOE consideration of your new charter contract would be moved to the May 2018 meetings because there is no SBOE meeting during the month of April 2018.

Please also note that if you elect not to comply with the requests for clarification and supplemental information included in this letter, you may withdraw your petition from consideration or the petition will be presented by the Department to the State Board of Education with a recommendation for denial. If you do not wish to provide the requested information and withdraw the petition, please also let us know in writing by **Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 5pm**.

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Feel free to contact me at fblack@doe.k12.ga.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Francesca Black
Division Attorney

Cc: Gayle Burnett, Executive Director of Innovation, Atlanta Public Schools
Jason Marshall, Executive Director, Wesley International Academy
Louis Erste, Associate Superintendent, Policy, Charter Schools, District Flexibility and Governmental Affairs
Allen Mueller, Director Charter School's Division