

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 20, 2026

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School (the "School") was held on August 20, 2026 by videoconference. The meeting was called to order at 10:42 a.m. by Richard Levine, Chair.

Trustees Present (by videoconference):

Richard Levine, Chair

Michael A. Russo, Vice Chair, Secretary and Chair, Audit and Finance Committee

Dana Jackson

Trustees Absent:

Evgenia Soldatos

Lawrence Ng

Also Present:

Ronald Tabano, Chief Executive Officer

Kareema Watkins, Chief Operating Officer

Digant Bahl, Accounting Solutions

Karen Drezner, Leveraging Leaders

3 of **5** seated Trustees were present, which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business. All Trustees participated by videoconference, and the physical locations from which they participated were published in advance of the meeting in accordance with Public Officers Law § 103-a.

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Russo and seconded by Dana Jackson to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2026 meeting of the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Russo and seconded by Dana Jackson to approve the agenda for the August 20, 2026 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Financial Report — Unaudited Financial Statements

Mr. Bahl presented the unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. He reported that the School submitted its final enrollment reconciliation at approximately 326 students, against an internal projection of 335, resulting in a downward adjustment of approximately \$200,000 in

per-pupil revenue. He advised that this was the only material change from the prior presentation to the Board.

Mr. Bahl reported 121 days of cash on hand and a current ratio reflecting current assets of approximately \$4.2 million against current liabilities of approximately \$1.7 million. Receivables consist principally of Title funds, the 21st Century grant and New York State legislative grants. Liabilities include accounts payable, accrued expenses (including audit), accrued summer payroll for instructional staff, deferred revenue of approximately \$502,000 representing funds subject to repayment if the 326-student reconciliation is accepted, and approximately \$30,000 in restricted contributions pending satisfaction of donor conditions. Total revenue was approximately \$10.16 million against projected expenses of approximately \$11.1 million, producing a shortfall of approximately \$962,000.

Mr. Bahl advised that the draft audit will be delivered before November 1, 2026, and that he will endeavor to deliver it in advance of the October meeting so that the Board may act on it at that time. In response to a question from Mr. Russo, Mr. Bahl reported that no audit findings have been identified to date and that the audit remains at an early stage.

4. Academic Program and Summer Session Report

Mr. Tabano reported that the summer session concluded on August 19, 2026. Every student scheduled to sit for a Regents examination passed, with particularly strong results in English. Summer examination volume was lower than in prior years because a greater number of students passed in June: approximately eleven students sat for one examination, seven for another, and three for mathematics, compared with approximately forty-five science and sixty English examinations administered in June. Teachers were finalizing grades and marks and would conclude the session on August 21, 2026.

Mr. Tabano and Ms. Watkins reported approximately fifteen August graduates, bringing the total for the year to approximately sixty. Mr. Tabano further advised that a new science Regents examination in Biology takes effect in the coming year and will apply to students who did not sit for the Living Environment examination. Mr. Russo asked whether the summer session represented the final requirements for students who had graduated in June, and Ms. Watkins confirmed that the August cohort comprised approximately fifteen graduates. Mr. Russo asked whether the total for the year was 55 (previously reported), and Mr. Tabano confirmed approximately sixty graduates for the year.

5. Report of the Chief Operating Officer

Renewal Condition 3 — Attendance and MTSS Plan.

Ms. Watkins reported that the attendance and multi-tiered system of supports plan required under Renewal Condition 3 is due to the authorizer by close of business on August 31, 2026. In response to a question from Mr. Russo as to whether the incoming Chief Executive Officer would need to review the annual report, Ms. Watkins confirmed that Ms. Jacobson will have access to it, and explained that the first submission requires the enrollment figure recorded in ATS as of June 30 in order to maintain

consistency across all reporting and that there will be another submission in November where she takes the work of the accounting staff and other information for an additional submission and supplies it to DOE (each year).

Enrollment and Recruitment.

Ms. Watkins reported current enrollment of 401 students recorded in PowerSchool: 88 in grade 9, 70 in grade 10, 183 in grade 11 and 60 in grade 12. Records in PowerSchool and ATS have been reconciled over the summer. Case managers conducted home visits and outreach to students not enrolled in the summer session in order to support retention. Ms. Watkins advised that retention, rather than application volume, is the principal enrollment challenge, that the current cohort entered high school during the pandemic, and that the School is examining scheduling and program accommodations for students who are working or parenting. She indicated that she will present updated figures at the September meeting and that the Board may need to consider whether a material revision is warranted with respect to grade 9 enrollment.

Mr. Tabano observed that students entering at age seventeen with fewer than ten credits have historically shown a low completion rate notwithstanding intensive supports, that most transfer schools do not enroll grade 9 students, and that the question of whether the School continues to serve that population — and whether the authorizer evaluates it on an appropriate basis — is a governance judgment the Board will need to address, particularly in connection with campus consolidation planning.

Attendance and Enrollment Systems.

Ms. Watkins reported that purchase orders have been submitted for SchoolMint and PureData. SchoolMint is expected to increase the School's visibility to families searching for placements, support application tracking and recruitment trend analysis, and reduce manual enrollment outreach by staff. The second application supports analysis of chronic absenteeism trends. The application integrates with PowerSchool and aggregates chronic absenteeism trends to support data-informed intervention. Logins were received during the week of the meeting and implementation is anticipated for September. Ms. Watkins will report on implementation at the September meeting.

Distraction-Free Policy Report.

Ms. Watkins presented the annual report on the School's distraction-free policy, including data on device confiscations and warnings across both campuses, and described the School's use of restorative rather than punitive responses. Upon approval, the report will be posted to the School's website and submitted to the New York State Education Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Russo to approve the distraction-free policy report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Reporting Requirements.

Ms. Watkins reported that the first submission of the annual report, comprising school and enrollment data as of June 30, 2026, was filed timely and that the New York City Department of Education has confirmed receipt. The second submission, due November 2, 2026, will include the audited financial statements, budget, any audit findings and any corrective action plan, and will be filed with the Department and uploaded to the Charter School Information Portal. Ms. Watkins will circulate both submissions to the Board for its records. Mr. Russo noted that the enrollment figure recorded in ATS as of June 30 was elevated relative to the reconciliation figure.

Compliance Reporting.

Ms. Watkins reported that she, Mr. Levine and Mr. Russo attended the authorizer's compliance session, and that the Department has introduced beginning-, mid- and end-of-year benchmark reporting requirements. For the current year the School must administer benchmark assessments to all students and submit assessment data, a written data analysis and reflection, and a corrective action plan by September 15, 2026. Ms. Watkins advised that benchmark administration can be accommodated during student orientation in the first days of school, and that the analysis and action plan represent the principal burden. The Department has not provided a template or examples. Ms. Watkins will circulate the compliance reporting calendar and the session materials to the Board and will separate instructional from operational compliance obligations for the incoming Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Russo observed that the new requirement appears to compel an individual plan for each student, consistent with an approach the Board had already been considering (discussed in CEO interview process), though in a more standardized form. Ms. Watkins concurred.

Mr. Levine observed that the requirements appeared well organized and that the Board should review the materials with the incoming Chief Executive Officer and the search consultant, and should request examples from the Department and the NYC Charter School Center.

6. Report on the Chief Executive Officer Search

Ms. Drezner introduced herself and reported on the search process conducted at the Board's direction. She conducted discovery with the Board and staff, refined the position description, and established a rating framework and rubric against which applicants were evaluated. She screened more than twenty applicants and conducted initial screens, following which the Executive Committee conducted two rounds of interviews with a group of finalists numbering approximately five. The Board identified a preferred candidate, who then met with Mr. Tabano, and an offer was extended.

Mr. Levine reported that the finalist is Valerie Jacobson, who has served at Williamsburg Charter High School for approximately seventeen years in a range of roles, most recently as Principal. Mr. Russo noted that Ms. Jacobson has held financial, operational and instructional leadership roles, and has led a substantially larger school facing comparable enrollment, retention and graduation challenges. Ms.

Drezner advised that she will remain engaged as a consultant through approximately December 2026 to support the transition.

7. Resolution — Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Levine read the following resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School

Appointment of Chief Executive Officer August 20, 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees conducted a search for a Chief Executive Officer, screening applicants against a board-approved framework; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that Valerie Jacobson possesses the qualifications, experience, and leadership capacity required to lead the School during the term of its Fifth Renewal Charter; and

WHEREAS, the School's charter renewal, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, includes binding conditions requiring stable executive leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby appoints Valerie Jacobson as Chief Executive Officer of John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School, effective August 24, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer shall report to the Board of Trustees, with the Chair serving as the Board's primary point of contact, and shall have authority over the daily operations, personnel, and academic program of the School, subject to the Board's oversight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all School employees, including all officers and administrators of the School, shall report to the Chief Executive Officer or to such positions as the Chief Executive Officer designates, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer is designated as the School's primary point of contact with the New York City Department of Education and the New York State Education Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs that notice of this appointment be provided to the School's authorizer within the applicable timeframe.

Mr. Russo asked if any further discussion is needed. Ms. Jackson replied no, that she was good with the process and discussion. A motion was made by Mr. Levine and seconded by Mr. Russo to adopt the resolution. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Resolution — Conclusion of Service as Chief Executive Officer and Designation as Trustee

Mr. Levine read the following resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School

Conclusion of Service as Chief Executive Officer and Designation as Trustee August 20, 2026

WHEREAS, Ronald Tabano has served leading John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School since its founding, including as Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, the School's Fifth Renewal Charter, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the service of Ronald Tabano as Chief Executive Officer of John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School concludes effective August 31, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective August 24, 2026, final operational authority over the School's staff, programs, and finances rests with the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective September 1, 2026, Mr. Tabano shall continue his service to the School as a member of the Board of Trustees and shall not serve as an officer of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Tabano shall serve without compensation and shall hold no employment, consulting, or contractual relationship with the School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Tabano has expressed his willingness to support the transition and to serve the School in this capacity, and the Board records its gratitude for his service to the students of John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs that notice of this change in the School's leadership and Board composition be provided to the School's authorizer within the applicable timeframe, and that any charter revision request required as a result be submitted for classification and approval.

There was no further discussion and a motion was made by Mr. Russo and seconded by Mr. Levine to adopt the resolution. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Transition and Onboarding

Mr. Levine reported that Ms. Jacobson will be on site on Monday, August 24, 2026 for orientation, and that Ms. Watkins, Ms. Drezner and Mr. Levine, among others, will attend. Ms. Drezner advised that Ms. Jacobson will arrive at approximately 8:30 a.m. Mr. Levine will communicate the appointment to School staff. He noted that Board communication regarding the search had been limited at the request of the candidate's prior employer pending notification of that school.

10. Other Business

In response to a question from Mr. Levine, Mr. Russo reported that the Morgan Stanley matter is progressing, that the School is seeking recovery of approximately \$600,000 in earnings, that counsel is working through the required documentation, and that individual Trustee signatures will be required. The matter will be taken up at the September meeting.

11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The Board calendar provides for regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Levine to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:33 a.m.