

Western Sierra Charter School
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Open Session Board Meeting – 2:00 PM

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

The Western Sierra Charter Schools (WSCS) Board of Directors (Board) and employees of WSCS shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access this Board meeting may do so at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wscsfamily/live>

Members of the public who wish to make written comment to the Board for this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at:

<http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>

Members of the public who wish to make live, spoken comment during this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at: <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>. Public will remain muted until appropriate time. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupts the Board meeting.

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the WSCS Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-agenda-and-minutes.html> website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting at <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call to Establish Quorum
3. *Action: Special Meeting Agenda for August 11, 2021
4. *Action: Board Minutes from June 15, 2021 Board Meeting
5. Hearing of Persons Wishing to Address the Board
6. Written Communications (*if any*)
7. Public Hearing: Independent Study Policy

Open Public Hearing: No earlier than: 2:00 PM

In accordance with Section 11701 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, setting policy pursuant to Education Code section 51747, the Board shall consider, in a public hearing, the scope of its existing or prospective use of independent study as an instructional strategy, its purposes in authorizing independent study, and factors bearing specifically on the maximum realistic lengths of assignments and acceptable number of missed assignments for specific populations of pupils or adult education students. This policy shall reflect an awareness that excessive leniency in its terms can result in pupils falling so far behind their age peers as to increase, rather than decrease, the risk of their dropping out of school.

- 8. *Action: Independent Study Policy**
The Board shall consider adoption of an Independent Study Policy in accordance with the requirements of Education Code Section 51747.
- 9. Reports**
 - a). Executive Directors Report – Michael Cox
 - 1) Updates on school opening
- 10. Next Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 2:00 PM**
- 11. *Adjournment**

**Western Sierra Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 2:00 PM**

Meeting was conducted via Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live.

1. Call to Order

Brian Fulce called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

2. Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Quorum established.

Board Members Present: Margaret Den Hartog, Tamara Dent, Brian Fulce, Monika Moulin, Jacqueline Pucheu, Tiffany Schutz, Darin Soukup and Joyce Vind

Absent: None

WSCS Staff Present: Michael Cox, Eric Hagen, Jody Jeffers, and Mindy Klang

3. *Approve Board Meeting Agenda for June 15, 2021.

Approved

Motion: Darin Soukup

Second: Tamara Dent

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

4. *Approve Board Minutes from May 18, 2021 Board Meeting

Approved

Board Member Fulce suggested that the school year be added to item #18 in regards to the Executive Director's salary.

Motion: Tiffany Schutz

Second: Darin Soukup

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

5. Hearing of Persons Wishing to Address the Board

None

6. Written Communications (if any)

None

7. Thanks to Board Members Jackie Pucheu, Joyce Vind, and Margaret Den Hartog for their service!

8. *Approve warrant report for 5-12-2021 to 6-4-2021.

Approved

See printed report submitted by Mr. Jeffers. Clarification was given on counter #40 to the boards satisfaction.

Motion: Tamara Dent

Second: Margaret Den Hartog

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

9. *Approve 2021/2022 Budget for Mountain Home School

Approved

See printed handout. WSCS is expecting to receive 20-21 ADA funds. Revenue will be increasing for SY 21-22. There is a decrease in benefit expenditures due to staffing changes.

Motion: Darin Soukup

Second: Joyce Vind

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

10. *Approve 2021/2022 Budget for Glacier High School

Approved

See printout.

Motion: Margaret Den Hartog

Second: Tiffany Schutz

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

11. ***Approve 2021/2022 Budget for Endeavor Charter School**
Approved
See printout.
Motion: Tamara Dent Second: Darin Soukup Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
12. ***Approve 2021/2022 Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents (BOP) for Mountain Home School**
Approved
See printout.
Motion: Darin Soukup Second: Jacqueline Pucheu Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
13. ***Approve 2021/2022 Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents (BOP) for Glacier High School**
Approved
See printout.
Motion: Joyce Vind Second: Tiffany Schutz Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
14. ***Approve 2021/2022 Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents (BOP) for Endeavor Charter School**
Approved
See printout.
Motion: Jacqueline Pucheu Second: Darin Soukup Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
15. ***Approve EPA Resolution for 2021/22 SY #2020-2021-05 - Mountain Home School**
Approved
Education Protection Accounts (EPA) requires schools set aside certain dollar amounts for educating students.
Motion: Joyce Vind Second: Margaret Den Hartog Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
16. ***Approve EPA Resolution for 2021/22 SY #2020-2021-06 - Glacier High School**
Approved
Motion: Margaret Den Hartog Second: Darin Soukup Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
17. ***Approve EPA Resolution for 2021/22 SY #2020-2021-07 - Endeavor Charter School**
Approved
Motion: Darin Soukup Second: Tiffany Schutz Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
18. ***Approve Hiring of Julie Schiro as an ECS Advising Teacher and Katherine Burton as an ECS SPED Teacher.**
Approved
Motion: Joyce Vind Second: Margaret Den Hartog Vote: 7 yes, 0 no
19. ***Approve 2021-2022 Contract with 360 Accelerator**
Approved
See contract for details.
Motion: Tiffany Schutz Second: Jacqueline Pucheu Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

20. *Authorize Executive Director to purchase Chromebooks for students. Not to exceed \$275,000 total, in accordance with the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plans for MHS, GHS, and ECS.

Approved

Mr. Cox explained that WSCS will be purchasing 600 new Chromebooks for the 21-22 SY. They will be allocated to all three schools: MHSC-35%, GHS-15%, & ECS-48%. Initial quote is \$273,640.00 (additional quotes are being sought out). The funds are coming from the Extended Opportunities Grant. These are COVID Relief funds that WSCS wrote a plan to purchase Chromebooks for the students.

Motion: Jacqueline Pucheu

Second: Tamara Dent

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no

21. Reports

a). Executive Directors Report – Michael Cox

1) Update on AB 1316

This bill has been pulled from legislation for now.

2) School Program Updates – Graduations, ROV Competition

ROV Competition to be held in June this year.

3) Update on tentative 2021/22 School Operation Plan and Schedule

Expectations are that school operations will go back to normal. Not all details are in yet.

4) Proposed WSCS Board Meeting Dates for 2021-2022

Proposed dates have been agreed upon by the board members.

b). CBO Report – Jody Jeffers

1) Budget Update for 2020/21

See handout. Mr. Jeffers explained that keeping to a tight budget for the 20-21 SY has resulted in an overall increase of \$777,000.00

2) GHS Funding Determination

GHS will have a 2-year funding determination as compared to the past 5-year funding.

22. Next Scheduled Board Meeting TBD

Confirmed for Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

23. *Adjournment

Motion: Tamara Dent

Second: Joyce Vind

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of the Western Sierra Charter Schools, a California nonprofit public benefits corporation; that these minutes are of the special meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 15 2021.

Joyce Vind

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Diane Neulinger

WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY FOR ALL WSCS SCHOOLS

This policy replaces the prior Independent Study Board Policy that was originally adopted 9/4/08.

Western Sierra Charter Schools operates Mountain Home School Charter, Glacier High School Charter, and Endeavor Charter School (hereinafter, collectively the “Charter Schools”). The Charter Schools shall offer independent study to meet the educational needs of pupils enrolled in the Charter Schools. Independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate and is designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum. The Charter Schools shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to enable pupils to complete their independent study successfully. The following written policies have been adopted by the Western Sierra Charter Schools Board of Directors for implementation at Charter School:

1. For pupils in all grade levels and programs offered by the Charter Schools, the maximum length of time that may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the pupil must complete the assigned work shall be no more than twenty (20) school days.
2. The Principal or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interests of the pupil to remain in independent study upon the following triggers:
 - a. When a pupil fails to complete the following number of assignments during any period of twenty (20) school days:
 - i. For TK – Eighth grade students, four (4) assignments;
 - ii. For Ninth - Twelfth grade students, one (1) assignment per independent study subject
 - b. In the event Student’s educational progress falls below satisfactory levels as determined by the Charter School’s Response to Intervention (RTI) Process which considers all of the following indicators:
 - i. The pupil’s achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the pupil’s performance on applicable pupil-level measures of pupil achievement and pupil engagement set forth in Education Code Section 52060(d) paragraphs (4) and (5).
 - ii. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the pupil is working on assignments.
 - iii. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher.
 - iv. Progressing toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

A written record of the findings of any evaluation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be treated as a mandatory interim pupil record. The record shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the evaluation and, if the pupil transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

3. The Charter School shall provide content aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high school grade levels this shall include access to all courses offered by the Charter School for graduation and approved by the UC or CSU as credible under the A-G admissions criteria.
4. The Charter School has adopted tiered reengagement strategies for all pupils who are not generating attendance for more than three (3) school days or 60% of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of the written agreement pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(g). These procedures are as follow:
 - a. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled pupil;
 - b. Notification to parents or guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation;
 - c. Outreach from the Charter School to determine pupil needs including connection with health and social services as necessary;
 - d. When the evaluation described above under paragraph 2.b. is triggered to consider whether remaining in independent study is in the best interest of the pupil, a pupil-parent-educator conference shall be required to review a pupil's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the pupil's achievement and well-being. This conference shall be a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the pupil's written independent study agreement.
5. The following plan shall be in place in accordance with Education Code Section 51747(e) for synchronous instruction and live interaction:
 - a. For pupils in transitional kindergarten through grade 3, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for daily synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's assigned supervising teacher shall be as follows: Each Advising Teacher will offer the opportunity for daily synchronous, two-way instruction and personal interaction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication.
 - b. For pupils in grades 4-8, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for daily live interaction between the pupil and a certificated or non-certificated employee of the Charter School and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's assigned supervising teacher shall be as

follows: Each Advising Teacher will offer the opportunity for daily synchronous, two-way instruction and personal interaction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication.

- c. For pupils in grades 9-12, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's assigned supervising teacher shall be as follows: Each Advising Teacher will offer the opportunity for weekly synchronous, two-way instruction and personal interaction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication.
6. The following plan shall be utilized to transition pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days: WSCS Schools are independent study charter schools and do not provide any full-time, in-person instruction. Pupils who wish to return to in-person instruction may do so at any time by enrolling in their neighborhood District school. School personnel will assist with this process.
 7. A current written agreement shall be maintained on file for each independent study pupil, including but not limited to, all of the following:
 - a. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments, for reporting the pupil's academic progress, and for communicating with a pupil's parent or guardian regarding a pupil's academic progress.
 - b. The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
 - c. The specific resources, including materials and personnel, that will be made available to the pupil. These resources shall include confirming or providing access to all pupils to the connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work.
 - d. A statement of the policies adopted pursuant to Education Code Section 51747, subdivisions (a) and (b) regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a pupil's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether or not the pupil should be allowed to continue in independent study.
 - e. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the pupil's participation in independent study under the agreement. No independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer than one school year.
 - f. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the pupil upon completion.
 - g. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of pupils who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, individuals with exceptional needs in order

to be consistent with the pupil’s individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794), pupils in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports.

- h. The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate. In the case of a pupil who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Section 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the pupil through independent study only if the pupil is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
 - i. Each written agreement shall be signed, before the commencement of independent study, by the pupil, the pupil’s parent, legal guardian, or caregiver, if the pupil is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil. For purposes of this paragraph “caregiver” means a person who has met the requirements of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550) of Division 11 of the Family Code.
8. The Charter School shall comply with the Education Code sections 51745 through 51749.3 and the provisions of the Charter Schools Act of 1992 and the State Board of Education regulations adopted there under.
 9. The Executive Director of Schools shall establish regulations to implement these policies in accordance with the law.