



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

COMMITTEE: Board of Trustees **MEETING DATE:** February 12, 2025, 5:00 PM, @ Zoom Electronic Meeting

Board Member	In Person	Zoom
Abi Wright- Grissom		Absent
Bud Canaday		Absent
Christie Hind		Present
Dylan Rothwell		Present
Jennifer Eaton		Present
Missy Kelly		Absent
Nick Penze		Present
Thomas Cooke		Present
Tim Gaylord		Present
Whalen Louis		Present
Others present: Tess Miner-Farra, Megan Altman, Casey Holmes		

I. Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Whalen Louis welcomed the board and the others into the 2025 season and looked ahead to the start of school this April. He highlighted the continued success of recent WSS graduates on the FIS Alpine Race Circuit and the positive association with the school. He then discussed the board meeting minutes from the last meeting and sought approval.

II. **Potential Motion:** Approval of draft minutes from December 18, 2024

First Motion to approve	Thomas Cooke
Second Motion to approve	Nick Penze

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

Board Member	YES	NO
Abi Wright- Grissom	NA	
Bud Canaday	NA	
Christie Hind	YES	
Dylan Rothwell	YES	
Jennifer Eaton	YES	
Missy Kelly	NA	
Nick Penze	YES	
Thomas Cooke	YES	
Tim Gaylord	YES	
Whalen Louis	YES	

III. Financial update (Casey, Bud, Tess)

Casey Holmes highlighted the school’s solid financial footing. Interest income continued to provide funds to the school in excess of projections, as were the contributions from parents and community members for the annual and capital campaigns. The board was interested in the impact of the current administration on the federal funds the school received and was relieved to learn that the impact would not be catastrophic. Tess Miner-Farra discussed a change to the summary financial page to reflect the revenue and expenses associated with Capital Campaign, and that they were not reflected in net income number and %, but that the change did allow a more comprehensive of the financial condition of the school for the board.

IV. Head of School Report (Tess)

- Annual Board Reporting: Attendance, Behavior, Math Competency, Student Achievement

Tess Miner-Farra presented the Board with a thorough overview of the school environment. She began by highlighting the positive increase in attendance among all students, noting that the overall attendance rate of 86% was consistently approaching the goal of 90%. This encouraging development was followed by a discussion of behavioral issues with a few students that continued to require time, patience, and effort from teachers and administrators. Tess observed that 94% of incidents and 97% of the major behavioral incidents, as defined by the state of Utah, involved boys in the 9th and 10th grades, with most of these cases involving only two to four students from the entire school. Demonstrating the patience and empathy that make Tess an excellent Head of School, she commented that these students would be returning and that she was working with their parents to help them become more positive members of the school community.

Student achievement in Math and English, as measured by state tests, including the UA+ for 9th and 10th grade and the ACT for 11th grade, formed the core of Tess Miner-Farra’s presentation. It was noted that WSS proficiency levels continue to surpass the state averages and those of many school districts in the state, including Park City High School. The Board appreciated this news and the consistent high-level results. Tess emphasized her determination to continue pushing students to improve their math and English literacy, especially reading comprehension.

V. **Potential Motion:** Approval of 2023-2024 School Land Trust Final Report

First Motion to approve	Dylan Rothwell
Second Motion to approve	Christie Hind

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

Board Member	YES	NO
Abi Wright- Grissom	NA	
Bud Canaday	NA	
Christie Hind	Yes	
Dylan Rothwell	Yes	
Jennifer Eaton	Yes	
Missy Kelly	NA	
Nick Penze	Yes	
Thomas Cooke	Yes	
Tim Gaylord	Yes	
Whalen Louis	Yes	

VI. **Potential Motion:** Approval of proposed updated WSS Graduation Requirements Policy

The board had a lengthy discussion about one of the proposed updates to the policy – limiting online courses that mirrored in-person courses offered by WSS to 6 credits. The concern was that the cap on total credits restricted options for families and student-athletes. The majority of the board agreed with Tess Miner-Farra’s position that unless students were being educated by WSS teachers for the majority of their high school years, it didn’t make

sense for them to receive a WSS diploma instead of a more general Utah State diploma. The board agreed to revisit the matter after clarifying the exact language of the change, either in a special meeting or in the upcoming April BOT Meeting.

- VII. Board Training: Review of Governing Board responsibilities, timeline, and steps in the School LAND Trust planning and implementation process: [Responsibilities for Charter Boards that oversee the creation of Charter Trust Land Councils.](#)

Board Member	BOT Watched Training Video	
	YES	
Abi Wright- Grissom	YES	
Bud Canaday	YES	
Christie Hind		
Dylan Rothwell	YES	
Jennifer Eaton		
Missy Kelly		
Nick Penze	YES	
Thomas Cooke		
Tim Gaylord		
Whalen Louis	YES	

- VIII. Reaching New Peaks Committee updates (Whalen/Nick)

Nick Penze provided a brief overview of the Capital Fund's financial balance and the prospects for securing larger donations toward the goal of school expansion. Another First Tracks day at Park City Mountain Resort was highlighted as a great opportunity to strengthen relationships and recognize and thank families who had been generous donors. The current grant pipeline was discussed, and it was noted that a major grant foundation no longer had the same employees, necessitating increased outreach to inform the new staff about WSS's efforts and stellar attributes.

- IX. Board Chair update (Whalen)

Whalen Louis provided an update on the current status of WSS, emphasizing the positive aspects of community support, increased enrollment numbers, and growing interest across all grade levels. Last year's graduation ceremony and event were highlighted as significant for community building around the school, offering graduating seniors recognition and support. It was agreed that a similar style event should be established for the incoming 9th-grade class to strengthen the sense of school community from the outset. The update concluded with a discussion about a potential new board member, her impressive work experience, and young children who were planning on attending the school in a few years.

- X. Public comment

No Public present

- XI. **Potential Motion:** Close session to discuss an individual's character, professional competence, or physical or mental health.

Not Applicable

- XII. Adjourn

Tim Gaylord gave the first motion to adjourn. Nick Penze seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.