



Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 18, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
Location: In Person at the Address Below

WISH Community School (6-8)/WISH Academy High School
7400 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045*

*Secondary location available for teleconference access to the board meeting at the WISH Community School (TK-5), 6550 W. 80th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045

and Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 829 8091 3041

Password: JqU5rN¹

Scan the QR Code with your phone to join the meeting on Zoom:



I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Raj Makwana called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members: Miles Remer, Suzanne Madison Goldstein, Raj Makwana, Julie Grimm, Dr. Victoria Graf, Fernando Guerra, Dr. Mary McCullough, Ben Tysch (arrived at 5:13pm), Karina Fedasz (arrived at 6:14pm)

Staff/Guests: Jennie Brook, Dr. Shawna Draxton, Janine Bielski

Absent: None

Zoom Participants

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| Mike Johnston, ExED | Mariah Johnson, psychology intern |

¹ Please see Notice No. 2 at the end of this agenda for complete public access information. Please note that in compliance with the Brown Act, as modified by AB 361, the physical locations of individual participants are omitted.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

New board president Raj Makwana thanked the board and community for trusting him in this new role, to Dr. Mary McCullough and Suzanne Madison Goldstein for executive committee onboarding, board member Miles Remer for guidance and support in the president transition. Raj shared the 4 corners to be mindful of contributing to any analysis as a full data driven mindset, direct immersion in the WISH TK-12 eco system, collaboration with all stakeholders advocating for the groups that we serve across the TK-12 programs and consultation with subject matter experts. Raj also thanked Dr Draxton, Janine and Jennie for putting board materials together.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION, INCLUDING COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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| Item 1: | Executive Director Monthly Report |
| Description: | Comprehensive monthly report to the board on all operational and organizational matters, including academic achievement, climate and culture, human capital, health and safety, SSC and WCA, WCA Leadership, LCAP, WASC |
| Purpose: | Information and Discussion |
| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |
| Materials: | To Be Distributed |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | Principals Update, Handbook redlines, policies review and approval, ELOP vendors will come to the November board meeting, grant service agreements include CTEIG and UCLA Math Lab (using remainder of DEI state grant funds), schoolwide and administrator goals (principals look to hold teachers and themselves accountable to progress), Global Impact invitation by V. Graf and K. Wright to Portugal in November. School of Education research support initiative thanks to Dr. McCullough. WASC and Site Review one-sheeter has already been reviewed within academic achievement. Upcoming events are WHAM, Community Ed Night, Bands and Brews, Homecoming, CIF Sports Agreement (board has reviewed). Prop 39 waiting for an alternative agreement, everyone is doing well on their shared campuses, and submitting mid-cycle reports in July. School Site Council meetings are scheduled quarterly and the first one occurred recently. Staffing is complete, excellent launch with Principal Hollis. PD Goals continue to be math and school culture. |
| Item #2: | Principals Update |
| Description: | Update from Principal Oney, Principal Lohith-Clarke and Principal Hollis |
| Purpose: | Discussion |

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| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |
| Materials: | None |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | <p>Middle School Principal Lohith-Clarke shared what a great start to the 25-26 school year it has been (WEB leaders with activities and events, BOY assessments completed at 99%, student council new elections, fully staffed etc.) Principal Lohith-Clarke provided detailed slides with assessment data (see slides in board documents) High School Principal Hollis welcomed everyone, provided info re her professional background (New Girls Academy leader, triple credentialed, taught in OH and PA). Highlighted ADB, LINK, Senior Activities, Movies (bigger/better/bolder), sports updates. CTE pathways are off to a great start! Principal Hollis presented detailed slides with NWEA assessment data for Math and ELA AP passage rate exceeded the global average in 2025. Continues to end each academic school year with 100% graduation rate with 95% A-G participation. California's graduation rate is 86.4%; 44.7% A-G graduation rate. WISH Academy's UC acceptance rate (2022) is 79%.</p> <p>Elementary School Principal Oney will join next month to report on elementary school data.</p> |

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| Item #3: | Extended Learning Opportunity Vendor Update |
| Description: | Update from Jolene Doucette, West LA Extended Day and Casey Wilson, Evolution Sports |
| Purpose: | Discussion |
| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |
| Materials: | None |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | Item tabled until November, Ms. Doucette and Ms. Casey will present to the board. |

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| Item #4: | Finance Updates |
| Description: | Review of June financials |
| Purpose: | Board Informative |
| Presented By: | Ben Tysch/ExED |
| Materials: | To Be Distributed |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | <p>P2 ADA was 40.34 below budget, resulting in a \$534K decrease in LCFF Revenue. \$85K of restricted one-time funds were recognized in FY24/25. An additional \$877K remains available to spend through FY27/28. As of June 30, the balance of the loan from the Community School to the High School was \$500K.</p> <p>\$1.68M of ERC tax credit revenues were recognized in FY24/25, which includes \$1.53M in claims that were approved by the IRS in summer 2025. The \$170K quarter that was denied by the IRS, and is currently under appeal has not yet been recognized. As of June</p> |

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| | 2025, WISH achieved \$808K or 99.4% of its \$813K fundraising goal. |
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| Item #5: | Committee Updates |
| Description: | Audit Committee Curriculum Committee Executive Committee Finance Committee Facilities Committee |
| Purpose: | Board Informative |
| Presented By: | Committee Chairs |
| Materials: | To Be Distributed |
| Est. Time: | 15 min |
| Minutes: | Audit Committee - No updates Curriculum Committee - First meeting of the year with Dr. Mary McCullough and Dr. Shawna Draxton. Impressed with instructional cycles that run every 5 weeks, working with outside folks to stay on task. DFS (distance from standards) Verified Data evaluation on 10 mos of growth using iReady at ES/MS and NWEA at HS. Executive Committee - Items to discuss in closed session Finance Committee - Nothing in addition to what was discussed earlier Facilities Committee - reviewing prior work and information, looking at enrollment, different ways to explore campus options, grant opportunities |

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| Item #6: | Legislative and General Updates |
| Description: | Review of legal and legislative updates impacting charter governance (if any). |
| Purpose: | Board Informative |
| Presented By: | Suzanne Madison Goldstein |
| Materials: | To Be Distributed |
| Est. Time: | 30 min |
| Minutes: | Nothing that hasn't already been covered. |

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| Item #7: | Development/WISHForward Updates |
| Description: | Review of the development team's work and fundraising/planning regarding the same |
| Purpose: | Board Informative |
| Presented By: | Karina Fedasz |
| Materials: | N/A |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |
| Minutes: | Our key events for this year are, and which committee are working on regularly include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Gala 2026 : to be held on March 21, 2026 • Annual Golf Tournament 2026 : to be held on May 4, 2026 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party Book events : First up will be the Dads Poker Night to raise funds for WISH Annual Giving on September 25th, brainstormed other ideas like a pickleball tournament for January or February, and candlemaking night |
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| Item #8: | CA School Dashboard Indicators and DFS Metric |
| Description: | Discuss CA Dashboard items/academic accountability |
| Purpose: | Board Informative |
| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |
| Materials: | CA Dashboard for WISH Community and Academy |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |
| Minutes: | DFS Analysis was done by renewal partner. Average used to determine how students are performing against the standards. Discussed what is DFS, CCSA Snapshot from 23-24 and Renewal Tracks information. |

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| Item #9: | CalSAAS Monitoring |
| Description: | Ongoing monitoring and responses to any exceptions identified by the CTC |
| Purpose: | Discussion |
| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | Tabled until the next month's meeting. |

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| Item #10: | Compliance Monitoring |
| Description: | Ongoing monitoring and responses to any updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates re: additional compliance matters |
| Purpose: | Review and Discussion |
| Presented By: | Suzanne Madison Goldstein |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | Tabled until the next month's meeting. |

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| Item #11: | Board Retreat for 2025-26 |
| Description: | Planning this year's board retreat |
| Purpose: | Review and Discussion |
| Presented By: | Raj Makwana |
| Materials: | None |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |
| Minutes: | Tabled until the next month's meeting. |

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| Item #12: | Charter Renewal |
| Description: | Timeline, Options for Merging Charters, Renewal Tracks |
| Purpose: | Review and Discussion |
| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |

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| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | A separate meeting will be held to further discuss this item. |

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| Item #13: | Board Policy Review 2025 |
| Description: | Policy spreadsheet |
| Purpose: | Review and Discussion |
| Presented By: | Dr. Shawna Draxton |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 10 min |
| Minutes: | Tabled until the next month's meeting. |

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS: Items for action below are assigned by the Board at the meeting to be adopted by a single vote. Any item may be pulled off consent for further discussion by any Board Member at any time before action is taken.

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| Item #1: | Approval of Board Minutes from July 1, 2025 |
| Description: | Review and approve July 1, 2025 special meeting minutes |
| Purpose: | Vote |
| Presented By: | Suzanne Madison Goldstein |
| Materials: | July Special Board Meeting Minutes |
| Est. Time: | 2 min |

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| Item #2: | Approval of Board Minutes from August 7, 2025 |
| Description: | Review and approve the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes |
| Purpose: | Vote |
| Presented By: | Suzanne Madison Goldstein |
| Materials: | August Meeting Minutes |
| Est. Time: | 2 min |

Miles Remer moved to approve the items on the consent agenda, Karina Fedasz seconded. The items passed unanimously 9-0-0-0-0 (Y - Remer, Goldstein, Graf, Grimm, Fedasz, Guerra, Makwana, McCullough, Tysch, N - 0, Absent - 0, Abstain - 0, Zoom - 0)

B. ACTION ITEMS:

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| Item #1: | FY24/25 Unaudited Actual Financial Report for WISH Community School |
| Description: | Review and vote on unaudited actuals for WISH Community |
| Purpose: | Oversight |
| Presented By: | Ben Tysch/ExED |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |

Discussed above.

Karina Fedasz moved to approve this item, Miles Remer seconded. The item passed unanimously 8-0-0-1-0 (Y - Remer, Graf, Fedasz, Makwana, McCullough, Goldstein, Guerra, Tysch, N - 0, Absent - 0, Abstain - Grimm, Zoom - 0)

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| Item #2: | FY24/25 Unaudited Actual Financial Report for WISH Academy High School |
| Description: | Review and vote on unaudited actuals for WISH Academy |
| Purpose: | Oversight |
| Presented By: | Ben Tysch/ExED |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |

Miles Remer moved to approve this item, Ben Tysch seconded. The item passed unanimously 8-0-0-1-0 (Y - Remer, Graf, Fedasz, Makwana, McCullough, Goldstein, Guerra, Tysch, N - 0, Absent - 0, Abstain - Grimm, Zoom - 0)

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| Item #3: | CL 500 Declaration of Need for WISH Community School |
| Description: | Declaration of need for fully qualified educators |
| Purpose: | Board Approval Needed |
| Presented By: | Jennie Brook |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |

WISH has new teachers from out of state, so emergency CLAD (Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development) certificates are needed.

Dr. Vicki Graf moved to approve this item, Julie Grimm seconded. The item passed unanimously 9-0-0-0-0 (Y - Remer, Graf, Fedasz, Makwana, McCullough, Goldstein, Guerra, Grimm, Tysch, N - 0, Absent - 0, Abstain - 0, Zoom - 0)

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| Item #4: | CL 500 Declaration of Need for WISH Academy High School |
| Description: | Declaration of need for fully qualified educators |
| Purpose: | Board Approval Needed |
| Presented By: | Jennie Brook |
| Materials: | Board Folder |
| Est. Time: | 5 min |

Miles Remer moved to approve this item, Ben Tysch seconded. The item passed unanimously 9-0-0-0-0 (Y - Remer, Graf, Fedasz, Makwana, McCullough, Goldstein, Guerra, Grimm, Tysch, N - 0, Absent - 0, Abstain - 0, Zoom - 0)

VI. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

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| Item #1: | Pending Litigation and/or Conference with Legal Counsel |
| Description: | <u>Conference with legal counsel re pending action</u> – OAH Case No. 2025060201 Closed session subject to: California Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2), 54956.9(d)(4), 54956.9(e)(2), 54956.9(e)(5) |

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| Purpose: | Information and Discussion of Pending Litigation and/or Conference with Legal Counsel |
| Presented By: | Suzanne Madison Goldstein, with counsel from YMC |
| Materials: | N/A |
| Est. Time | 10 min |

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| Item #2: | Personnel Matter: Executive Committee Report Concluding ED Eval Cycle |
| Description: | Purpose and Authority: Performance Evaluation – Executive Director Closed session pursuant to California Government Code section 54957(b) |
| Purpose: | The Executive Committee to share its report and accompanying evaluation materials with full board (delayed from August 2025) |
| Presented By: | Dr. Mary McCullough and the Executive Committee |
| Materials: | N/A |
| Est. Time: | 15 min |

The Board entered closed session at 7:19 pm. The board came out of closed session at 7:34 pm. Board President Makwana reported out as follows:

Item #1: The Board voted to approve/ratify the settlement that had been reached in this matter. A public summary of the key terms will be approved at the next meeting. The item passed unanimously 9-0-0-0-0 (Y - Remer, Graf, Fedasz, Makwana, McCullough, Goldstein, Guerra, Grimm, Tysch, N - 0, Absent - 0, Abstain - 0, Zoom - 0)

Item #2: No action taken.

IX ADJOURNMENT:

Board President Raj Makwana adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.