

APPROVED MINUTES
Wyatt Academy Board Meeting
Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Location: Principal's Office
& GoogleMeet

Moderator: Lyle Whitney
Chat Monitor: Aisha Lloyd
Notes: Terry Usry

Attendees:

[virtual attendees are noted with a "(v)"]

Board: Aisha Lloyd, Alicia, Wendy Renee (v), Joseph Sanches, Terry Usry, Lyle Whitney

Guests: Brandon Chrisp (v), Delano Duncan (v), Maria Estrada, Melody Means, Megan Nyce, Lisa Stuhlmiller

5:00-5:13 Welcome & Celebrations (Lyle Whitney)

5:13-5:42 Budget & Finance (Brandon Chrisp)

- August Financials

238 days cash on hand is higher than a charter school perhaps should. Will address this later in the presentation.

Budget was based on 244 enrollment; current enrollment at time of this financial report was 235; today enrollment is 245 per Maria.

Mill Levy funds for property improvements only will be used to help with the \$46K spent on improvements

- Financial Forecast

Reviewed P&L for last 5 years:

In 20/21: school operated at a loss

In 2021/2022: profit increased and continued to increase each year since
Fund balance also increased every year since

The fund balance should not be too big, because in theory, the funds are there to improve the school and the student experience.

The board is authorized to vote on using the fund for one-time costs.

According to Brandon, the recommended fund balance is 15% of the former year's total expenses. That would equal \$622,000. Wyatt's fund balance now is \$2.4 mil.

Salary and benefits hold about 68% of the expense budget.
This is close to the 70% max recommended.

Lyle summarized: We have a healthy buffer, but we could consider spending several hundred dollars toward school improvements and still remain in a healthy financial position.

Maria asked if we could use some extra funds for things for the classrooms, like rugs, furniture and computers. Brandon said yes and suggested that administration create a wish list.

Megan reminded everyone that we need to stick with what is currently budgeted, but during the budget revision process, the board can increase funds to certain categories.

5:42 -5:43 Public Comment

none

5:43 - 5:46 Board Business

- Vote to approve minutes from 8/21 Board Meeting (Terry)

Terry moved to approve August minutes

Aisha seconded

Motion passed

- Fundraising Committee Update (Aisha)

Over \$76K raised in grants this year. See grant tracker for details on grants won and grants lost.

National grants are much harder; grants that support DEI and cultural are less available.

Trends - Grants for food security and clothing seem to be easier to secure while grants for things like curriculum are more competitive.

5:47-6:13 Strategic Planning Discussion (Aisha)

- Document Framework

Aisha reviewed the strategic plan framework spreadsheet.

Next Step: Review the 9 potential focal points for the 1-5 year strategic plan and decide as a team which 4 to 5 we focus on for Wyatt's strategic plan.

Brainstorming and discussion favored these priorities:

1. Community Engagement
2. Model and Branding
3. Academic Growth and Success (note: Melody suggests we focus on achievement over growth as that's how schools are universally compared.)
4. Financial Stability
5. Governance

Discussion on Community Engagement: What does this mean to the leadership team this year?

Increase visibility

Community Support

Family engagement - this is most important to staff this year

Melody: no PAW right now, but parent attendance at recent events is better than in the past.

Are we providing opportunities for parent involvement? How do we engage, bring them in?

Aisha recommends we review the research by Dr. Karen Mapp which focuses on how schools can better engage with families.

6:14-6:30 Updates from Lead Team (Melody, Lisa, Sarah and Maria)

- Celebrations

Community rock garden (part of STEAM curriculum)

One collab project a month to improve art in hallways

Switched back to DOJO - families like it better

- Enrollment Update

As of today enrollment is 245. This is higher than Wyatt has EVER been!

90-91% attendance is average for this time of year.

The school leadership team is working hard to engage with families to ensure they have what is needed for students to come every day.

Several new families this year found out about Wyatt by word of mouth.

What can we do to build on this and continue to attract new families?

1. PR, advertising
 2. New messaging - Cody from Denver Families is helping us with new messaging using data on how we support and grow students of color. Lyle will share progress on this in the next few weeks.
 3. Reach out to foster families - DHS may be able to help with this
- October Count

Maria reviewed the preparations made for October count.

6:31 Adjourn