

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022 6PM, WLS HEADQUARTERS

Committee members attending: Karen Zevin, Andrea Bober, Susan Morduch, Francis Okelo
WLS staff attending: Terry Kirchner

The meeting discussion started at 6:00 p.m. by Karen Zevin, Chair.

Discussion included incorporating WLS mission, vision, and strategy into Board meetings and everyday WLS work. Terry Kirchner stated that the staff will write about their execution of mission, vision and strategy in monthly reports and that the PLDA will be apprised of WLS strategy and the upcoming meeting. It was also recognized that the DEI audit fits within the strategy and as it was recently completed, the substance and consequences of the audit will be discussed at the next Board meeting. (For example, the audit highlighted some things in the employee handbook and onboard practicing that need revising.) Other possible ways of incorporating the mission, vision and strategy into WLS activities that were mentioned include:

- The possibility of hiring a communication specialist who could help WLS communicate activities and the mission, vision and strategy.
- Ensuring budget discussions revolve around executing on the strategy.
- Each Board committee will be asked to review the mission, vision and strategy and see how it relates to their activities and what might need to be included in order to effectively execute on the strategy.

The exec team discussed ways that the Board can get to know each other better given our long period of Zoom meetings. A 'retreat' was discussed and agreed upon. The focus will be on reconfirming our commitment to WLS. The 'retreat' will probably be a separate dinner meeting some time in September.

Open meeting requirements were also discussed. No decision was made. The consensus of the group was that in person meetings were preferred. Additionally, in order to easily accommodate these meetings with no additional expenses, it would be preferred to require that all attend and that call-ins will not have voting privileges. However, the exec team also agreed that we need to have this discussion with the full board and hear other opinions and perspectives.

The Exec Team also agreed that all Board members should read the packet in advance and send their questions to Terry Kirchner/Karen Zevin in advance of the meetings. The question can then be asked at the meeting, but WLS will be better prepared to answer it.

Finally, the Exec Team discussed issues concerning banning books and intellectual freedom and what was being done to combat groups who wanted to control book choice. Given the Board's position on intellectual and book choice freedom, this is an issue the Board president feels the WLS Board should monitor. United Book Bans Group was again mentioned as a group supporting Intellectual Freedom. Terry Kirchner will talk about this group and the issue at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zevin