



Walden Board of Trustees Minutes

Walden is a place where social, emotional, and academic growth are valued equally, a place where students see possibilities, make meaningful choices, take risks, and emerge with a stronger sense of identity, belonging and purpose. It is a place where critical thought, creativity and independence are nurtured; where empathy, cultural awareness and tolerance are valued. We champion student choice and autonomy, authentic research and project work. Our purpose is to develop competent, self-motivated learners dedicated to making positive contributions to society.

8/18/2021

Wednesday

Asynchronous Meeting

Please check in between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Invited:

➤ Matt Turner ➤ Jeremy Knee ➤ Andy Ash ➤ Breanne Moore ➤ Hilary Hungerford
➤ Jen Knapp ➤ Jodi McCombs ➤ Diana West ➤ Lois Bobo ➤ Sharon Beecroft ➤
Hannah West

In attendance: ➤ Matt Turner ➤ Jeremy Knee ➤ Andy Ash ➤ Breanne Moore ➤
Hilary Hungerford ➤ Jen Knapp ➤ Jodi McCombs ➤ Diana West ➤ Lois Bobo ➤
Sharon Beecroft ➤ Hannah West

Meeting called to order: 3:00 p.m.

Calendar Dates:

Upcoming Schedule:

Proposed (all at 3:00 p.m.):

November 13

January 15

March 11

May 13

June 17

[Walden Calendar 2021-22](#)

Agenda:

1. It is proposed that we approve the [minutes from the June 30, board meeting](#).

All in favor (Yay or Nay):

- **Matt Turner Yay**
- **Jeremy Knee Yea**
- **Breanne Moore yay**
- **Hilary Hungerford YAY**
- **Andy Ash - Yay**
- **Jodi McCombs - Yay**
- **Jennifer Knapp- yay**

Log comments and/or respond to comments here (optional):

2. Approvals:

- a. **ESSER III Plan:** Walden is scheduled to receive \$480,000 from the Federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), adopted March 11, 2021 by the U.S. Treasury. Walden's administrators and finance committee met over the summer to discuss our school's greatest needs related to the pandemic. We drafted this initial plan and sought stakeholder comment on our proposed use of funds. We received five comments and suggestions which have been considered in this current draft. It is now up to the board to approve the plan and/or make recommended changes.

- Discussion: Please add and comment on any changes the board would like to implement. If suggestions are added, administration will incorporate the suggestion(s) and resend the plan to you for your approval:

Note: We have had minimal public comment since we invited parents and teachers to read and comment on our ESSER III plan on August 4th. Most comments were supportive. The following suggestions for revisions were made and should be considered by the board:

- 1) *One parent suggested that we fund more outdoor activities. Administration agrees and proposes that we devote funding from our 21st Century grant for more outdoor opportunities (this would not affect the ESSER III Plan).*
- 2) *One parent was unsatisfied with our communications systems and thought that we should allocate funding for better communications (she suggested that she could fill a position to manage this) . Administration has already added support in the ESSER III grant to fund a limited position to help update our website and to keep it current. We do not feel that we have additional funding for a communications position at the school. We already have multiple systems of communication available and feel that a website that is kept more current would fill most gaps. It's worth noting that this is a parent who is new to the school this year. We will reach out to better understand her perspective. This has been a challenging summer and it may be that we did not communicate with families as frequently as we have in the past.*

- 3) *Finally, one parent expressed concern that her gifted child fell behind academically last year and suggested that we allocate funding to provide tutoring for gifted as well as at-risk students. Administration realized that our proposal left a strong impression that any paraprofessional support that we add will be to support students at-risk for academic failure. In fact, these support personnel provide assistance to any student who requires help. The support that paraprofessionals provide is offered during class. It is not offered as private tutoring outside of school hours. We **do**, however, provide math and literacy support after school and will continue to do so. This support is open to all Walden students and is often used by gifted students. We can potentially bolster that support with ESSER funding if we shift funding from another ESSER III program. We recognize that we have a need for more academic counseling support for students who are preparing for college. We are not sure that this would be an appropriate use for ESSER III (which was intended to address covid-related issues), but this might be worth a discussion.*
- 4) *Finally, our own special education K-8 director expressed a need for a social worker to serve our special education students. Administration recognizes the need for far more social work/mental health support for our students. This is why we proposed adding a part time mental health/social work professional through this ESSER III plan. We are concerned, however, about assigning a social worker exclusively to special education. We are working to provide an inclusive environment and would like to provide support to any student with needs, regardless of ability. We do have IDEA funding related to the American Relief Plan that could be allocated for additional special education support for this upcoming school year. We can also allocate a larger portion of ESSER funding to social work support if this is what the board deems most urgent. Again, we would have to decide to shift money away from one of the other Goals/proposals.*

Please note that we can submit this grant proposal now (it is due in three weeks), then make revisions as we better understand the needs that we are facing. Because this is a two-year proposal, USBE understands that there are likely to be revisions along the way.

It is proposed that we approve the ESSER III Plan pending revisions or “as is” if no additional suggestions are noted. All in favor (Yay or Nay):

- Matt Turner Yay
- Jeremy Knee Yea
- Breanne Moore yay
- Hilary Hungerford YAY
- Andy Ash - Yay
- Jodi McCombs - Yay
- Jennifer Knapp- yay

- b. **Early Learning Plan:** Each year, the elementary program sets 2 goals for K-3 literacy improvement that are approved by the state. Beginning in 2022/23, we will add math goals as well. Once these goals are approved by the state, they go to our local school board for your approval. Please direct any questions to Lois (lois@waldenschool.us). **It is proposed that we approve the 2021/22 Early Learning Plan. All in favor (Yay or Nay):**

- Matt Turner Yay
- Jeremy Knee - Yea
- Breanne Moore yay
- Hilary Hungerford YAY
- Andy Ash - Yay
- Jodi McCombs - Yay

- Jennifer Knapp- yay

- Please log comments and/or respond to comments here (optional):

3. [Health Data Review](#): State law states that a local school board shall review, every two years, county data on the following: teen pregnancy, child sexual abuse and sexually transmitted disease and infections. In addition, the local board shall review the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported within jurisdiction of the local school board. Sharon has provided [this information](#) for you to review at your own convenience.

Comments or Questions:

Meeting adjourned at: 5:00 PM

Board Members and Assignments

- Matt Turner -- Interim Chair/ Standing Vice Chair
- Jennifer Knapp—Chief Financial Officer
- Diana West – Treasurer – non-voting
- Lois Bobo — School Executive Director – non-voting
- Sharon Beecroft – Board Member at large – non-voting
- Jeremy Knee – Compliance Advisor/Training
- Hilary Hungerford – Board Member at large
- Breanne Moore – PCC Chair
- Hannah West—Board Member at large
- Andy Ash – Board Parent Appointee
- Jodi McCombs —Board Member at large

The Walden Board of Trustees serves as the curriculum review committee and the School Land Trust committee

Open Position – Secretary

Walden
School
of Liberal
Arts



Sign Up for Public Comment (limit 3 minutes per person, 10 minutes total)

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**