

WINTER SPORTS SCHOOL IN PARK CITY
APPROVED BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Board of Trustees

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2025, 5:00 PM, @ Winter Sports School Campus, Room 2

ATTENDANCE

Board Member	In Person	Zoom
Abi Wright- Grissom		Present
Bud Canaday	Absent	
Christie Hind		Present
Dylan Rothwell	Present	
Jennifer Eaton	Absent	
Missy Kelly	Absent	
Nick Penze	Present	
Thomas Cooke	Present	
Tim Gaylord	Present	
Whalen Louis	Present	

Non-Board members present: Tess Miner-Ferra, Casey Holmes & Megan Altman via Zoom

I. Welcome and Introductions

Whalen Louis initiated the board meeting on 4.9.25 at 5:07, Room 2 of the Winter Sports School.

II. Governance Committee Update & (Whalen & Abi)

Abi Wright-Grissom discussed interviewing a potential new board member whom she described as a phenomenal addition to the board. The entire governance committee was impressed by her credentials and enthusiasm for the Winter School and its mission. Although she will not officially begin until the June Board Meeting, she is already researching a number of topics relevant to WSS Operations, especially technology and education.

III. *Potential Motion:* Approval of new trustee, Holland Lincoln

First Motion to approve	Tim Gaylord
Second Motion to approve	Nick Penze

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

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

Whalen Louis	X	

IV. **Potential Motion:** Approval of minutes from the February 12, 2025 meeting: [WSS DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes 2.12.25.docx](#)

First Motion to approve	Tim Gaylord
Second Motion to approve	Nick Penze

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

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

V. Financial update (Casey, Bud, Tess)

Tess provided an overview of the school's financial health. Interest income was again highlighted as significant and above budget forecasts, along with fundraising. Out-of-state tuition for current students was not reflected in the updated information. Line 131 showed continued funding from the state for teacher education. The Winter Sports School purchased a new math curriculum program, and the new math textbooks and software will be capitalized over the life of the assets. State funding for charter schools increased for the current year and for the next, with indications that this would be an ongoing process. Casey discussed the impact of federal funding on school operations and mentioned that the effect was minimal. He also highlighted the balance sheet and pointed out that the school building and land were recorded at the original purchase price and not updated for current market values.

VI. Head of School Report (Tess)

VII. Megan Altman provided an overview of current enrollment numbers, emphasizing that students and their families are committing much later in the calendar than has been typical in previous years. Current firm enrollment surpasses last year's figures. Enrollment continues to trend in a positive direction. Tess shared information about the School Land Trust Plan, a state program the school uses to increase the number of Teacher Assistants in every class where student numbers exceed 20. The Board agreed this program is beneficial and approved the plan. Similarly, the Board approved the Health and Human Sexuality materials following a discussion. WSS found the Planned Parenthood Teen instructors and their curriculum to be incredibly valuable and believed a similar program would be available in the next calendar year. Charter School funding was increased this year by the State Government, which Tess highlighted as another positive trend from the State of Utah towards more equitable funding for Charter Schools alongside traditional public schools. Part of this discussion focused on statewide school funding data that provides valuable insights for comparisons across school districts, particularly regarding average teacher salaries and staffing levels.

Tess continued discussing additional state laws impacting school operations. Topics covered included school safety requirements, approved flags that can be displayed, school-based counseling, school fees, and the Phone-Free School bill. The Phone-Free Schools bill sparked the most discussion due to its impact on daily operations. The school's current policies already align with the bill's provisions, but Tess emphasized that this

bill could serve as a catalyst for enhancing our current policy towards a school environment free of phones and other digital devices. Jonathan Haight's influential book on the impacts of phones and digital devices, along with the benefits of removing them from the school environment, was also discussed.

Tess Miner-Farra pivoted to address the school's decision not to participate in the State's Mental Health Screening Program. The Board agreed that participating again would be problematic, as this State plan is too challenging to implement in the school. Tess suggested a different option involving a Sharp survey as a potential way to study mental health on a school-wide basis. Board members acknowledged the importance of mental health and that the school should have a policy regarding its approach to supporting students as needed. Tess explained this was already covered by the conduct code, but they would explore ways the Winter Sports School could enhance education and adopt a proactive approach to mental health services.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was another topic presented by Tess. She attended multiple education seminars during the months the Winter School was not in session and returned with actionable information on addressing the impact of AI in schools. She concluded her report by discussing school safety requirements from the state and the role she has assumed to comply with those provisions. She has already completed a concealed weapons course, and the Board agreed that consistent outreach to local police departments should be a priority.

VIII. *Potential Motion:* Approval of [2025-2026 WSS Land Trust Plan](#)

First Motion to approve	Abi Wright-Grissom	
Second Motion to approve	Nick Penze	

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

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

IX. *Potential Motion:* Approval of [2025 Health & Human Sexuality Materials Review Committee Recommendations](#)

First Motion to approve	Thomas Cooke	
Second Motion to approve	Abi Wright-Grissom	

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

Board Member	YES	NO
Abi Wright- Grissom	X	
Bud Canaday	NA	
Christie Hind	X	
Dylan Rothwell	X	
Jennifer Eaton	NA	
Missy Kelly	NA	

Nick Penze	X	
Thomas Cooke	X	
Tim Gaylord	X	
Whalen Louis	X	

X. **Potential Motion:** Determination of WSS as Mental Health Screening as a Participating or Non-Participating School for 2025-2026.

First Motion to approve	Dylan Rothwell
Second Motion to approve	Tim Gaylord

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

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

XI. **Potential Motion:** Approval of updated [2025-2026 WSS Salary Schedule](#) to reflect the increase in ESA approved by Utah legislature in the 2025 session.

First Motion to approve	Nick Penze
Second Motion to approve	Abi Wright-Grissom

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

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

XII. Board Training: Review & Self Assessment of UNA Standards of Ethics & reaffirmation of these standards as a governing board.

First Motion to approve	Thomas Cooke	
Second Motion to approve	Tim Gaylord	

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

Board Member	YES	NO
Abi Wright- Grissom	X	
Bud Canaday	NA	
Christie Hind	NA left at 6:30	
Dylan Rothwell	X	
Jennifer Eaton	NA	
Missy Kelly	NA	
Nick Penze	X	
Thomas Cooke	X	
Tim Gaylord	X	
Whalen Louis	X	

XIII. Committee Updates, as needed (Whalen, Tim, Jen)

Nick penze provided an update on fundraising efforts for the school expansion. He acknowledged that the recent federal tariffs and anticipated increases in building material costs and services were not ideal for expansion. Whalen noted that weekly fundraising meetings were especially beneficial as they related to grant applications and deadlines. The board continued to discuss the school's expansion needs and wanted to explore the value of the school property.

XIV. Board Chair update (Whalen) - Whalen had no additional information.

XV. Public comment - no public present

XVI. **Potential Motion:** Hold a closed session to discuss an individual's character, professional competence, or physical or mental health.

First Motion to approve a closed session	Thomas Cooke	
Second Motion to approve	Nick Penze	

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

Board Member	YES	NO
Abi Wright- Grissom	X	
Bud Canaday	NA	
Christie Hind	NA	

Dylan Rothwell	X	
Jennifer Eaton	NA	
Missy Kelly	NA	
Nick Penze	X	
Thomas Cooke	NA left at 6:38	
Tim Gaylord	X	
Whalen Louis	X	

Trustees entered closed session to discuss the compensation agreement for the Head of School for SY25

First Motion to approve Closing of the closed session	Nick Penze
Second Motion to approve	Thomas Cooke

ALL IN FAVOR VOTE

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

XVII. Adjourn

Nick Penze made the first motion to adjourn. Abi Wright – Grissom second, Unanimous board approval.