

Washington Yu Ying BOT Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2022 6:30-8:30

BOT Members : Rob Anderson, Liza Douglas, Paige Hoffman, Marcus Hurley, Amy Lee, Darren Riley, Wendy Rueda, Jose Sousa, Michelle Stuntz, Abi Sze-Levine, Jevon Walton, Lemar White, Kelly Yee, Maquita Alexander (Staff)

Virtual (Zoom)

BOT Attendees: Rob Anderson, Liza Douglas, Paige Hoffman, Marcus Hurley, Amy Lee, Darren Riley, Wendy Rueda, Jose Sousa, Abi Sze-Levine, Jevon Walton, Lemar White, Kelly Yee, Maquita Alexander (Staff), Melissa Volpe (Staff)

Guests Present: Geoff Brown

Members of Public On Call: Andrew Shields, John Glover, Paul Fraioli

Absent (with notes):

Absent (without notes): Michelle Stuntz

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly Yee at 6:31 p.m. EST.

The meeting commenced with an overview of the public agenda.

Jose Sousa provided an update on the Washington Yu Ying Gala which will take place on May 14, 2022 at Catholic University. All members of the Board are encouraged to attend. Proceeds from the gala fund important school initiatives such as professional development and resources for teachers.

Board members were encouraged to review the Management Report - specifically the update on the classroom assessment.

ITEMS REQUIRING VOTING

[Approval of March 2022 Draft Minutes](#)

No changes to the minutes were proposed by Board Members. A motion to approve the March 2022 minutes was raised by Robert Anderson and seconded by Lemar White. All Board Members present unanimously voted to approve the minutes as presented.

[Yu Ying 990 - Geoff Brown - Ed Opps](#)

Geoff Brown from Ed Ops provided an update on the Form 990, an annual tax form that nonprofits must file. WYY does not owe anything, but it is a recurring item. The 990 is due by May 15, 2022, and must be approved by the Board before it can be e-filed. There are no dramatic shifts in the submission from last year, but full details can be found in the annual audit.

- o Q: Is it possible to see a comparison to 2019, as the school may receive similar requests from funders in the future. A: Total expenses in FY19 were \$10.3M, as compared to \$10.8M. This shift makes sense when we account for inflation and salary increases.

Jevon Walton raised a motion to approve the Form 990 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Lemar White and approved by all voting members of the Board.

Committee Updates

Finance Committee Update - Amy Lee

Trustee Amy Lee provided an overview of the March 2022 financials. The school ended March with a net income of \$158K - this is \$108k better than projected for the month. There is an unrealized investment loss of \$81K due to recent market volatility. The increase is due to the significantly better than budget federal grant revenue recognition.

The forecast net income of \$226k is \$133k less than budgeted. The variance is due to higher spending than budgeted, particularly on health insurance, student food services, and the write-off of loan costs with refinancing. These are offset by higher than budgeted revenue due to additional local and federal COVID relief funding.

We forecast the school's year ending cash balance as \$12.25m, \$342k below budget. There is \$13M cash on hand.

The Governance Committee Updates were presented by Trustee Darren Riley.

The committee met virtually in March 2022, and the next meeting will be April 27, 2022. The committee will send an email out later in the month to recruit new members. There may be a focus on identifying a board member with a strong financial background.

The Executive Search Committee Updates were presented by Chairperson Kelly Yee.

To date, there have been 47 applications received and 6 are interviewing with the Board. Board members will be asked to prioritize attending interviews the second and third week of May.

- Q: If I wanted to nominate someone who may have applied, how does that work? A: Please refer the candidate to the search firm to ensure an equitable process.
- Q: Will the Board interview all candidates or just finalists? A: We will ideally have 3 finalists.
- Q: How can we increase communication with the community about the process? We are aiming to update comms following board meetings. Wendy has drafted an email update. We also recently reviewed two sets of survey results - one with staff and one with the broader community following the listening sessions in March 2022. The results shared a summary of facts and trends that would be useful for future communications. The search process is not intended to be closed to the Board, we want folks to have insight into the process and would be happy to respond to any ideas.

Public Comments:

- Paul Fraioli shared public comments and submitted testimony which has been attached to these minutes in Appendix A.
- Andrew Shields submitted testimony which has been attached to these minutes in Appendix B.

Agenda

A motion was raised for the Board to move to a closed session to hold a strategic conversation about WYY by Kelly Yee and seconded by Jevon Walton.

The Board returned to an open session and no new topics were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 EST.

Appendix A: Public Statement by Yu Ying parent Paul Fraioli

On March 28, 2022, the school announced major changes to its COVID-19 policies. I am writing to express my disagreement with these changes.

Yu Ying has chosen to disregard both the spirit and the letter of the public-health guidelines released in February 2022 by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and those released in March by DC Health. **The policies the school imposed on March 28 – and those regarding indoor masking that went into effect on April 25 – are arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable.**

It is not clear to me that these policies are consistent with Yu Ying's mission statement or its charter. And to the extent that they exclude children from school at higher rates than other DC public schools – which appears to be what they were designed to do – these policies may also be inconsistent with local and federal laws, including those pertaining to equal access to education.

On February 25, the CDC director released new national public-health guidance regarding COVID-19. She said that:

“Now, as the virus continues to circulate in our communities, we must focus our metrics beyond just cases in the community and direct our efforts toward protecting people at high risk for severe illness and preventing COVID 19 from overwhelming our hospitals and our healthcare systems. *This new framework moves beyond just looking at cases and test positivity* to evaluate factors that reflect the severity of disease, including hospitalizations and hospital capacity, and helps to determine whether the level of COVID 19 and severe disease are low, medium, or high in a community.” (Emphasis added)

But Yu Ying has decided that it is not moving beyond looking at cases. On April 25, it began using a hard case cut-off in isolation to determine whether indoor masking is required or optional. (If there are 200 or more new weekly COVID-19 cases in DC per 100,000 people, indoor masks are required at Yu Ying.) This directly contradicts CDC and DC Health guidance, which recommends indoor masking only when the DC Community Level is “High”, based on a combination case numbers, new hospital admissions, and the percent of staffed inpatient hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. If past case levels are any guide to future case levels, this Yu Ying policy will increase the number of days in which indoor masking is required by 150%.

On April 22, Yu Ying announced that masks would not become optional as planned on April 25 for one reason: the weekly DC case rate is 214 per 100,000, according to the CDC. Simply put, had 100 fewer people in DC received a confirmed COVID diagnosis over the last week, masks would have become optional. Meanwhile, DC hospitals are not strained: new hospital admissions (0) and beds occupied (2%) remain at record low levels.

Additionally, when DC's Community Level is “High”, the school will re-impose an outdoor mask mandate on students, which has not been recommended by the CDC for well over a year, and it will continue to impose a travel quarantine on unvaccinated students, including all pre-K students, which is not recommended by DC Health or OSSE.

School leaders have defended their decision to impose health restrictions beyond those recommended by public-health officials because of staff preferences. But the argument that staff preferences should force the school both to exclude children from public school and to impose indoor and outdoor mask requirements significantly more restrictive than those recommended by local and national public-health officials is, to put it simply, bad. As of April 12, 2022, masks are required in only 16 of the 500 largest school districts in the country (3.2%). (<https://about.bur.bio.com/school-mask-policies-by-state/>). And in fact, there are probably few if any districts nationwide beyond this 16 with mask mandates still in place. In DCPS – where masks have been optional for weeks to no obvious detrimental effect – 35,000 students just took rapid tests following spring break and there was a positivity rate of only 0.5%. Lastly, Yu Ying has a staff vaccination rate of 100% and an eligible student vaccination rate of over 80%.

School leaders stated that DC Health and OSSE have “left it up to schools to make their own policies based on their community”. But this is an empty rhetorical gesture used by OSSE in communicating with school leaders. Yu Ying has always been required to meet the minimum health and safety standards described by DC Health, and it has always exceeded these standards in areas such as testing. Decisions about COVID-19 policies are not “up to schools” now any more than they have been in the past. But by adopting these new policies, Executive Director Maquita Alexander and Director of Teaching and Learning Amy Quinn have directly contradicted a commitment they made to families at an Admin Coffee in February: namely, that they would adopt the mask guidelines recommended by DC Health and not go “above and beyond” the minimum required. I ask that the school honor this commitment for the remainder of this school year, and, critically, for the next school year as well.

Appendix B: Public Statement by Yu Ying parent Andrew Shields

So after waiting for weeks for YY to catch up (even to DCPS, let alone the rest of the nation), the administration finally published guidance for mask wearing that was markedly more conservative and out of step with the CDC recommendations.

Four-plus weeks later, our kids are literally just waiting for them to follow their own guidance. The administration is presently relying on a DC website (coronavirus.dc.gov) that isn't being updated in a timely manner, and its outdated information is being used by this administration to justify still more delays. Despite Maquita's email on Friday afternoon, **DC rates as low community level of transmission, not medium, as stated.**

Using the NYT dashboards, we can see that DC's 7-day average case count, as of Sunday, is 198 per 100k (200 being the limit) and the hospitalization metric is nowhere near the relevant thresholds. DC Health is supposed to update their status every Sunday, but the webpage (here on Tuesday) remains static - with its data only being good through the 16th. NYT's site, of course, remains up to date and with more granular details and is thus the better source for data.

If Yu Ying is going to rely on a more rigorous standard than the rest of the District - let alone the nation, then it has a responsibility to make sure that its guidance is actually meeting stated goals - which means, in this case, using the best available data. Otherwise they're just offering a fake path forward. And for what?

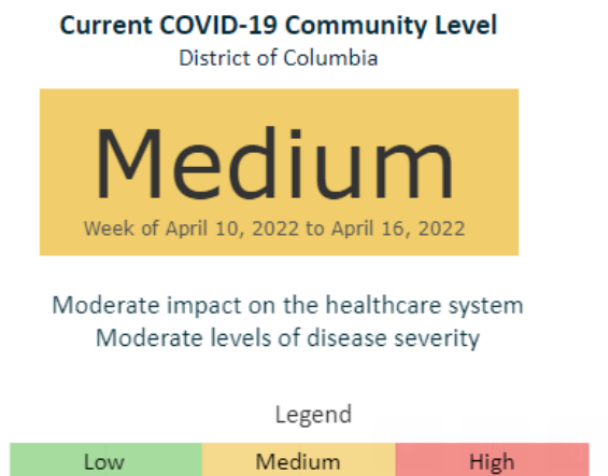
Our tacit policies of perpetual masking are harmful to kids. (It's harmful to adults, too!) We continue to ignore the harms being visited upon our kids' social, emotional and developmental well-being

based on a fig-leaf rationale that we're somehow mitigating a risk to them - especially when we're not actually, meaningfully mitigating what little risk there is.

I implore the board to bring reason to this situation - compel the administration to adjust its protocols to line up with the same CDC and DC Health policies - keeping in mind that these are the same entities that the Yu Ying administration held as the basis for all their other policies to heretofore. Failing that, this board can and should compel them to abide by their own guidance even when (or especially when) the official sources are updating inconsistently.

Regards,
Andrew Shields
Father of Kiera (1st) and Wesley (PK3)

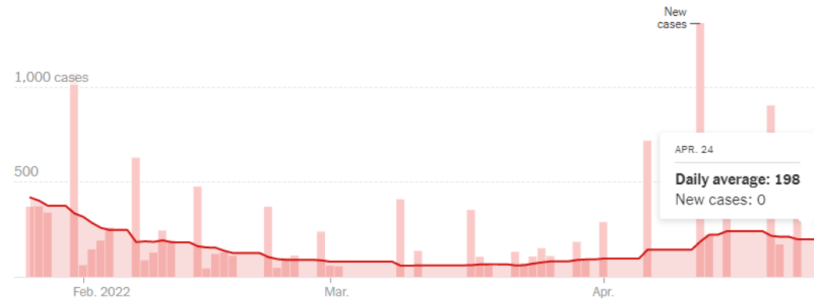
[Coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov) screenshot as of 6:41PM Tuesday 4/26:



NYT Dashboard, same time:

New reported cases

All time Last 90 days



These are days with a reporting anomaly. Read more [here](#).

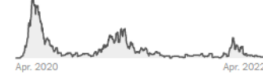
Test positivity rate



Hospitalized



Deaths



DAILY AVG. ON APR. 25

14-DAY CHANGE

TOTAL REPORTED

Cases	198	+38%	141,355
-------	-----	------	---------