



WMHT Public Media
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**WMHT Educational Telecommunications
WMHT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020**

A Meeting of the WMHT Board of Trustees was held on June 18, 2020 via a zoom visual and audio conference call. Kathleen Jimino, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Present

Kathy Jimino	Annemarie Lanese
Robert Altman	Steady Moono
Don Applys	Susan Novotny
Bridget Ball Shaw	Karen Opalka
Karen Carpenter-Palumbo	Mary Ellen Piche
Gloria DeSole	Harry Rutledge
Doris Fischer Malesardi	Viki Sand
Mona Golub	Kelly Smith
Susan Kress	Teresa Zielinski
John Kolb	

Excused

Martin Mbugua	Lee A. McElroy Jr
	Shelby Schneider

Also Attending

WMHT Staff: Sandra Beer, Val Belden, Virginia Claus, MaryAnn Cooper, Mary Gribulis, George Hauenstein, Ann Madeo, Julie Raskin, Joseph Tovares, and Chris Wienk.

Call to Order

Ms. Jimino called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

***Consent Agenda
Items***

On a motion by Mr. Rutledge seconded by Ms. Piche the consent agenda of minutes and notes listed below was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Minutes and Notes

- May 4, 2020 CAB Arts & Culture Subcommittee
- May 18, 2020 Civic and Public Affairs Subcommittee
- May 21, 2020 Board Meeting
- May 20, 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting
- June 1, 2020 CAB Children and Education Subcommittee
- June 10, 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting
- June 15, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting
- June 15, 2020 Community Advisory Board
- June 16, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting

***Strategic Planning
Committee***

Ms. Sand introduced the work that the strategic planning committee have done with the senior staff. Though the committee started the year looking at a 3-year plan, it was changed to a one year plan due to the disruption of the COVID pandemic. As a result there is a particular 90 day focus for this proposed plan.

The proposed plan is built on the past plan, as a one year extension, using the same primary sections, with additional aspirational goals for WMHT.

On a motion by Ms. Sand seconded by Mr. Applys the board unanimously approved the 1 year Strategic Plan as presented.

Audit Committee

Ms. Novotny has selected Martin Mbugua will serve as the chair of the Audit Committee. The committee agreed to renew the contract with Bonadio, for the audit and preparation of the 990 and Char500.

President's Report

Mr. Altman noted that he expects WMHT and all the communities that we serve to emerge from the current time fundamentally changed.

Since the board last met in May, WMHT has been working on how to re-open the office while continuing our 3 key areas of service: public affairs, culture, and kids/education.

The COVID crisis has increased the interest in coverage of state government and Dan Clark has been producing content on a daily basis. We have been very strongly supported by PBS in the past weeks as they have rolled out new content and brought back old programs on the issues of racism, policing and inequality in our country. There is more special programming still to come in the weeks ahead.

Our cultural focus has moved forward with its new AHA! videos, titled Art in Residence, featuring commentary from local artists and cultural institutions. WMHT is working to support these organizations as they are separated from their audiences.

Home Classroom cooperative project with the Cap Region BOCES has been continuing to support the at-home learning of our pre-K through 12th graders. The response from parents and educators has been heartening.

On radio, WEXT has been having a great number of in-home concerts and zoom gatherings. WMHT-FM has also begun hosting zoom gatherings and putting together special broadcasts focused on our local presenting organizations.

Though we are legally an "essential business" and never officially shut down, we have been out of the office since mid-March. We will do an initial, slow opening starting with some of next week's New York NOW, and opening to more staff as of July 6. We anticipate that most staff will continue work from home throughout the summer. We have a first paid client coming back to the studio in July.

Chair's Report

Ms. Jimino thanked Mr. Altman and the entire staff of WMHT for continuing and then supplementing the programs and services throughout this pandemic. It is clear that people have stepped up across the board.

Ms. Jimino noted that we are nearing the end of the fiscal year and wants to be sure that all trustees make a donation so that there is a 100% board participation.

As we move toward a new normal, Ms. Jimino asks Mr. Altman and the staff to ask for the board's assistance to help with what new partnerships. Addressing the trustees, she asks that they think about how to bring people in their circles to the station as potential supporters.

Executive Session

On a motion by Ms. Ball Shaw seconded by Mr. Moono the board unanimously approved moving into executive session at 4:45pm, to discuss personnel and proprietary financial matters.

On a motion by Mr. Rutledge seconded by Ms. Opalka the board unanimously approved moving out of executive session.

On a motion by Mr. Rutledge, seconded by Ms. Sand, the board unanimously approved the Fiscal 2021 Operating and Capital budgets as presented.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Sand seconded by Ms. Piche the board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 5:35pm.