WPFW- LSB Regular Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025

Teleconference via Zoom Washington, DC

Kamau Harris – Chair

Robert Gordon - Vice Chair

Thomas Chase - Treasurer

Ellen Williams Carter – Secretary

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Ι.	Bill Cu	ITT1S

2. Craig Green

3. Julie Hewitt

4. David Kiasi

5. Verna Avery Brown

6. Minerva Sanders

7. Michele Tingling-Clemmons

8. Wayne Bruce

9. Michael Byfield

10. Vanessa Dixon Briggs

11. Tony Leon

12. Mariah McClain

13. Robert Gordon

14. Ambrose Lane Jr.

15. Wanda Gnahoui

16. Violetta Diamond

17. Susan C Goodwin

18. Kamau Harris

19. Ron Pinchback

20. Thomas Chase non-voting

21. Ellen Carter non-voting

1. Call to Order started at 6:34 pm with Chair, Kamau Harris

2. Logins/Greetings/Roll Call

Excused Absences & Timekeepers

Excused Absences: Anita Irene Adams, Arthur Hyland, Michael Hersh and Dennis Williams

Resignation: Eric Ramey resigned.

Timekeeper: Robert Gordon

3. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Agenda approved

Minutes: The April 9, 2025, was in executive session per the bylaws regarding a personnel matter.

4. Management Report

Miyuki Williams Interim GM (A Report was submitted: Attachment A)

Katea Stitt, PD (A Report was submitted: Attachment B)

Sataria Joyner, Membership Report (A Report was submitted: Attachment C)

Miyuki Williams, IGM reported for Katea Stitt and Sataria Joyner. They were helping programmers pitch during the pledge drive.

Town Hall

Swag will be made available for individuals who attend the Town Hall. The IGM will report for all the departments as a result of the Pledge Drive. There will be two microphones.

Pledge Drive

The pledge Drive Goal is \$235,000 as of at today, we have raised \$138,000. Phone answers for Saturday and Sunday shows are needed. The station is trying to get more new members. We presented the 48th anniversary program and are planning to present a Jazz and Justice Festival on June 22.

Special Programming

Revolution of the mind: Unpacking the genius and torment of James Brown

Black Shinning Prince: Malcolm X at 100

Radio Free Palestine-77th Anniversary of the Nakba

5. Community Comment

- ➤ Bella De Soto stated that the IGM gave a great report. In addition, Bella said she was concerned about the proposed bylaws.
- ➤ Marsha said she feels that a discussion about the bylaws at the Town Hall is not the place to have the discussion. Secondly, she asked if the committee that is reviewing the 2025 report is coordinating with Pacifica.
- ➤ Carol Wolfley- Chair of KPFK LSB discussed the bylaws.
- ➤ Louis Wolf wants communication between unpaid staff and paid staff and wants the BOR/Grievance bill presented to everyone. Louis said that New Day is very undemocratic.

- ➤ Martha Peterson would like 2 PNB members to meet before presenting information about the proposed bylaws at the Town Hall. Additionally, she wanted to know how much funds were received from the 48th anniversary celebration. Miyuki said they made about \$2,000. Also, she wants to know if copies of the BOR/Grievance procedures were given to the LSB.
- **6. Finance Committee Report w/ Questions** (A Report was submitted attachment D)

Thomas Chase, Treasurer, Finance Committee Report

Finance Report

April 2025

Starting	Ending	
\$246,053	\$185,330	

May 2025

\$185,330 \$270,283

Outstanding expenses expected to be paid in the remainder of the

year include: ~\$20k for Verizon internet closeout for 1990 K St;

~\$80k for health benefits; and, ~\$21k for music licensing fees

7. **Relocation Committee Report** (A Report was submitted: Attachment E)

Relocation Committee, Chair, Dennis Williams was on travel.

Chair, Kamau Harris read his report.

8. Program Committee Report w/ Questions

Minerva Sanders, Chair, reported that the committee reviewed the grid. There were also questions about the Community Comment programs.

Motion

I move to postpone voting on the motion regarding the LSB show.

Vote: No 10 Yes 4 Abstention 2

Amended Motion from Mariah

I move that we have two LSB members host the show once, annually, with occasional LSB members as a guests on the show.

Vote: Unanimous

9. Community Outreach Committee Report w/ Questions (A Report was submitted: Attachment F)

Violetta Diamond, Chair, said

A Motion was presented regarding discussing the proposed bylaws during the Town Hall.

Motion

I move that a special meeting should be held to discuss the bylaws.

Vote: Unanimous

10. PNB Director's Report w/ Questions (A Report was submitted: Attachment G)

There was a discussion regarding the proposed bylaws. Minerva and Ron will present information regarding the bylaws at the Town Hall.

11. Unfinished Business

Board Retreat at DCTV (Member Michael Byfield)

Michael Byfield is trying to lock in a date for a one-day retreat.

12. New Business

- Proposals (Member Hersh) He was absent.
- <u>BOR/Grievance Procedures</u> (Member Leon)

BOR/Grievance Procedures Motion

I move that an email should be sent to the ED regarding making the BOR/Grievance Procedures available to unpaid staff.

BOR/Grievance Procedures:

Motion to add the BOR/Grievance Procedure to WPFW's Website & Communicate to Staff

Whereas: On September 11, 2024, at a public session of the WPFW Local Station Board Meeting

the WPFW LSB approved the final draft of the document developed by the Programming Committee in collaboration with The Programmers Task Force named "WPFW-LSB Programming Committee Volunteer Staff & Programmers Bill of Rights.

Whereas: WPFW, being a social force and beacon that has advocated and enlightened the public about social justice issues and democratic values for the last 47 years, needed a concrete system for due process.

Whereas: The document has not yet been broadcasted or made available to the volunteer staff and Programmers. Therefore, be it

Resolved: That the LSB request of the IGM or GM that she/he post the approved document along with the approved grievance form, in a manner which can be downloaded, on the WPFW website no later than January 31, 2025. As the website is currently configured, a suggested placement is on the drop-down menu under ABOUT US labeled Unpaid Staff Grievance Protocol. The submission form process should be configured so that program director and general manager, Local Station Board and Executive Director are copied for each filed grievance. Furthermore, be it

Resolved: That the LSB request of the IGM or GM that she/he distribute to all paid and unpaid staff communication introducing both documents and where they can be accessed no later than January 31, 2025.

- ➤ Parliamentarian & Board Funds (Member Kiasi) LSB members were instructed how to submit their funds.
- Anti-bullying & Communications Training- Julie Hewitt provided information about training that will be held during the June 11th LSB meeting by a mental health professional.

Motion

Two motions were presented to extend the meeting until 10:53pm.

Vote: Unanimous

May 2, 2025 Community Watch Show (Member Sanders)

It was established that the show was not a LSB show.

13. Action Items/Summary

- > Email to ED about BOR/Grievance Procedures:
- ➤ Anti bully training June 11th LSB Meeting
- Meeting regarding discussion of the bylaws at the Town Hall
- ➤ Looking for information from our special group regarding 2025
- ➤ Mike Byfield will get info about retreat

14. Adjourn 10:53pm

Attachment A

Interim General Manager's Report Miyuki Williams – WPFW 89.3 FM April 1, 2024 – **May 13, 2025**

Introduction

Over the past 13 months, I have had the honor and challenge of serving as Interim General Manager of WPFW. It has been a time of deep transition—marked by critical decisions, unexpected obstacles, and meaningful achievements. I assumed this role committed to WPFW's mission of being a beacon for jazz, justice, and community power. Today, I submit this report to account for the stewardship of our beloved station and to recognize the collective efforts that have kept us on the air and in the hearts of our listeners.

Key Accomplishments

1. Studio Relocation and Stabilization

- Oversaw the complex move from our longtime K Street home to a new location at Eckington Place.
- Negotiated a temporary lease extension and began groundwork to secure a permanent home.
- Ensured continuity of broadcast operations during physical transition with minimal interruption.

2. Fundraising and Financial Progress

- Led six major on-air fund drives, despite growing donor fatigue and economic uncertainty.
- Re-established relationships with major donors and cultivated new sustainers.
 - Expanded Development Team with Major Donors (Craig Williams), Bequeathments (Arthur Hyland) and Events Coordinator (Robyn Holden)
- Successfully executed our 48th Anniversary Celebration with significant community and financial support.

3. Programming and Mission Integrity

- Maintained and defended our commitment to independent media, culturally rooted music, and social justice programming—especially in politically volatile times.
- Responded to external threats and misinformation with firm, ethical messaging and legal support when needed.
- Introduced new programming that elevated voices of youth, returning citizens, and cultural activists.

4. Human Resource Management

- Managed a team of deeply committed, yet sometimes under-supported staff and volunteers.
- Addressed significant internal HR challenges with transparency and discipline, including the dismissal of personnel not in compliance with station protocols.
- Implemented clearer internal communication practices and advocated for staff evaluations and job clarity.

5. Community Engagement & Outreach

Represented WPFW publicly at key events, media forums, and civic gatherings.

- Forged new partnerships, including proposals for collaboration with SiriusXM and Montgomery University.
- Welcomed new and returning volunteers, mentors, and youth participants—keeping WPFW vibrant and intergenerational.

Challenges Faced

- Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities: The station was impacted by cyberattacks affecting pledge processing and communications. Recovery required technical, financial, and reputational repair.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** WPFW continues to operate with limited equipment, aging technology, and an over-reliance on manual labor from volunteers.
- **Labor and Union Complexity:** As a union-protected shop, disciplinary and hiring procedures required sensitive and often time-consuming navigation.
- **Fatigue and Burnout:** The small team and extended crisis management led to sustained overwork, including on the part of management.

Reflections & Lessons

This past year has reaffirmed the necessity—and fragility—of independent media. WPFW is not just a station; it is a movement, a community institution, and a sacred trust. I have learned that clarity, consistency, and compassion are indispensable in leadership, especially during times of scarcity and change.

Looking Ahead

I recommend the following priorities for the station's next chapter:

Secure a Long-Term Lease or Purchase Agreement to provide operational stability.

- **Invest in Technological Infrastructure**, including broadcast equipment, remote capabilities, and cybersecurity upgrades.
- Increase Sustainer Base and major donor cultivation to reduce reliance on seasonal drives.
- Implement Regular Staff Evaluations and update job descriptions to improve morale and accountability.
- Expand Youth and Community Engagement to ensure a dynamic, diverse, and futureready WPFW.

Gratitude

I extend my deep gratitude to our listeners, programmers, staff, Local Station Board, Pacifica leadership, and countless volunteers. Thank you for allowing me to serve WPFW in this time of great need and even greater possibility.

Still we rise.

With respect and resolve, Miyuki Williams

Attachment B

Katea Stitt, PD

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

MAY 2025

In addition to regular PD duties, the projects listed below were also spearheaded by me, and are now underway or still manifesting:

SPRING PLEDGE DRIVE

We are in our Spring Pledge Drive. It's moving very well. Programmers are utilizing the theme and expressing the urgency of supporting WPFW within the current climate in new and wonderful ways! The theme and narrative are as follows:

WPFW presents 48 Years of Defending Truth, Justice and Culture, our Spring membership drive beginning with James Brown's birthday, May 3rd and closing with the centennial birthday of Malcolm X on May 19.

Whether a new listener or current member, this is your opportunity to contribute to the growth of an institution that stands resolute in the face of injustice and the erasure of culture by amplifying the voices of scholars, artists, and activists whose work centers the humanity of all people, but whose voices are often marginalized by the mainstream press.

That's 48 Years of Defending Truth, Justice, and Culture on WPFW, May 3rd through the 19th...building a better world one broadcast at a time!

PROGRAMMER EVALUATIONS

Programmer evaluations were completed and submitted to iGM and Pacifica ED on April 30. Will share google doc with CAB and LSB Programming Committee members.

PROGRAMMERS QUARTERLY MEETING

Facilitated a successful 1st Quarter 2025 Programmers Meeting on Thursday, April 17, 7pm, where we discuss all things WPFW, and check-in with one another on varous issues.

RETURNING WPFW APP

Continued to work on getting WPFW established as an iOS and Google Play Developer; the Apple Developer account is completed, but we continue to have issue with securing Google Play Developer status; have submitted inquiry to Google Play support; the app is key to building a younger and geographically broad audience; the app also has the potential to create a new revenue stream.

SOCIAL MEDIA INITIATIVE

We continue to work closely with Kwadjo to primarily brand WPFW by telling our story, both historical and contemporary; highlighting regular and special programming; and educating on what listener-supported radio and WPFW are, their significance, and how to support us through compelling visual and video content. Please check out and share our Instagram profile – WPFWDC. By doing this, you'll be helping grow WPFW! We utilized the IG campaign to amplify our James Brown special, which got significant engagement, and will utilize it for Radio Free Palestine and Malcolm X centennial programming. We also used Mariah video promoting upcoming LSB Town Hall as a reel on IG, and it too enjoyed significant engagement; finally, Kwadjo has created a series of reels (videos) titled Moments in Jazz and Justice featuring iconic Jazz musicians speaking about, or performing a piece that spoke to social justice. They are wonderful. Look out to them.

48TH ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Produced a very successful event featuring Navasha Daya and her trio; poets and WPFW Programmers Zein El-Amine and Esther Iverem; DJ James Funk on the ones and twos; and a surprise performance by Captain Fly!
- Created and provided descriptive language for 3 annual WPFW awards:
 The Jazz and Justice Award this award honors a Programmer whose dedication and service to, and longevity with, WPFW is unparalleled. This year's recipient is Von Martin, who literally dropped the needle putting us on the air in 1977, and who has always lifted WPFW up in his work on and off the air.

The Lorne Cress Love Award – this intergenerational award honoring both a veteran and younger activist – whose work has been in service to uplifting the condition of marginalized people. This year's award will be presented to Joyce Ladner (Dorie Ladner's sister) for her heroic civil rights activism in the South, and LaToysha Brown, who like Joyce hails from the Mississippi Delta, and is continuing the work of the Ladner sisters in the South as Executive Director of the Freedom Project Network. Their mission is to build community and power alongside young Mississippians by providing holistic and liberatory education. Lorne Cress Love was a member of SNCC volunteering in the deep South and a tireless champion of Black liberation throughout the African Diaspora.

The Askia Muhammad Award – this award honors an artist from any discipline who uses their work and platform in service to social justice and the liberation of all people. Our inaugural recipient is Ayanna Gregory, who tirelessly uses her voice and legacy to raise awareness. Askia Muhammad was an award-winning journalist, poet, and activist.

FREE SCREENING OF SOUNDTRACK TO A COUP D'ETAT IN TAKOMA PARK

Partnered with Friends of the Congo, Africa World Now Project, and Institute of Musical Traditions to produce and present a free screening and post-screening panel of this movie to commemorate International Jazz Day. We had about 70 people attend at Seekers Curch in Takoma Park. Post-screening panelists were Dr. Greg Carr and Samuel Yagasi, from the city of Kisangani, Founder of Gova and the Basandja Coalition, located in the DRC.

UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING:

REVOLUTION OF THE MIND: UNPACKING THE GENIUS AND TORMENT OF JAMES BROWN

We began our Spring Pledge Drive on May 3, with honoring the birthdate of James Joseph Brown, suggested by Programmer Scooter Magruder. The contributions of all the Programmers were stellar - presenting his music, delving into his complicated and tumultuous family history and sometimes troubling behavior, and celebrating his artistic and entrepreneurial legacy and his activism. Brown believed in Black economic empowerment as a pathway to Black liberation. All of this was highlighted and made for an extremely strong financial start to the pledge drive.

BLACK SHINING PRINCE: MALCOM X AT 100

We close our Spring Pledge Drive on May 19 by celebrating and unpacking the life and legacy of one of the most brilliant and charismatic intellectuals and Pan-Africanists of the 20th Century on his centennial. The teachings, speeches and writings of el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz continue to impact, inform, and guide millions around the world in their quest for liberation. The title is a reference to Ossie Davis' eulogy of Malcolm X where he referred to him as "our own Black shining prince." We will offer a WPFW curated Malcolm Lives downloadable gift, exclusively available only on that day.

<u>RADIO FREE PALESTINE – 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAKBA</u>

Thursday May 15th marks the 77th anniversary of the ongoing Palestinian Nakba, or catastrophe, and the people's resistance. Radio Free Palestine is special programming marking this day, and will run from 8am until 7pm on WPFW and stations across North America to air programming

from radio stations and producers across 5 continents. There will be separate streams in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Our presentation will be in English, and include discussions, speeches, music, poetry and updates on the ongoing genocide and resistance. Content is being contributed by a number of WPFW Programmers, Brigade member Cody Valentine, Palestinian Youth Movement DC, and Producers from CKDU (Halifax, Nova Scotia); KBOO (Portland, Oregon), both of which are also carrying it along with CFRC (Kingston, Ontario).

WPFW became the Executive Producer of the English language stream when Founder and Producer, Laith Marouf who worked with the Canadian stations before having to return to his home country of Lebanon after October 2023, where his family still lives. Because of WPFW's contribution of both content and carriage for several years, he asked if I/we would take the lead to ensure the continuation of the English language stream since he was no longer to carry it from Lebanon. He is an excellent and well-respected journalist, and like so many in Lebanon, has been having an increasingly difficult time due to the Israeli governments bombing of the country. This year's program is especially poignant given the utter and unrelenting devastation and decimation of the Palestinian people we've witnessed over 17 months. This special dedicated to the resilient spirit of Laith, and the Palestinian people.

PSAS AND PROMOS

I continuously write, edit, choose music for all PSAs and Promos, with production assistance from our engineers.

OTHER DUTIES

Coordinating Subs

Curating additional and/or special programming

Board-Oping when necessary

Correspondence and phone calls with Listeners as necessary

Other duties as assigned or required.

Attachment C

LSB Meeting May May 14, 2025 Membership Report

Pledge Drive May 3-19, 2025 (17 days) The Goal is \$235,000

- Achieved as of 1:01pm on Sunday, May 11th: 46.5% = \$107,867
- We kicked off the drive with James Brown's Birthday celebration on May 3rd. It was well received by the audience.
- May 19, 2025 is the last day of the pledge drive an
- d we will be recognizing the Centennial of Malcolm X's birth through special programming.
- Vinnie asks that you email him at wpfw.org to sign up to answer phones for Saturday(May 17) if you are available before the town hall. There are also tabling opportunities for Capital House Music Festival on May 24th. More info about the event is at caphousefest.com. Again, reach out to Vinnie to sign up.
- We still have a big need for new and sustaining members. They will be necessary for our continued growth. Help spread the word about WPFW 89.3FM and encourage people to donate.

How to Donate

- o Call 202 588.9739 or 800 222.9739
- o Click Donate Now at wpfwfm.org
- CashApp \$WPFWFM
- Text to Donate: Send the letters WPFWFM to the number 801801

Town Hall Announcements

May 7th Eblast Available here:

https://t.e2ma.net/webview/7egbhn/224d55c81e8a1ed0177abad7123f80c2

May 14th Eblast Scheduled

Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance

Save the Dates:

At this time, the Summer Pledge Drive is August 3-16, 2025

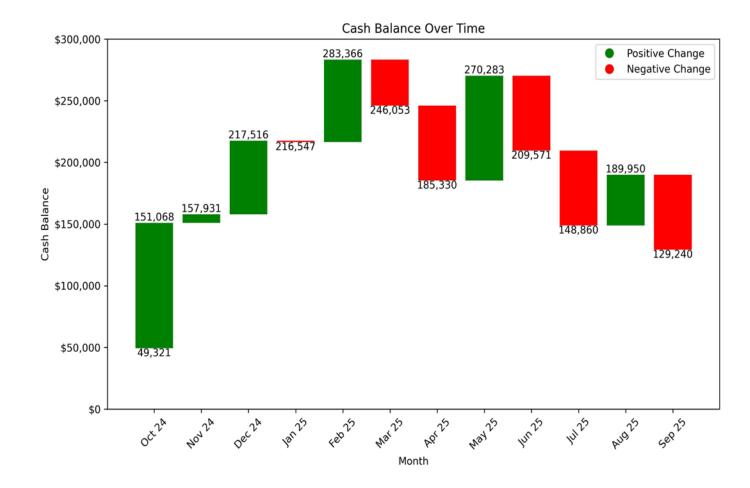
Attachment D

Finance Committee Report

Finance Report

<u>April 2025</u>	
Starting	Ending
\$246,053	\$185,330
May 2025	
\$185,330	\$270,283

Outstanding expenses expected to be paid in the remainder of the year include: ~\$20k for Verizon internet closeout for 1990 K St; ~\$80k for health benefits; and, ~\$21k for music licensing fees



Attachment E

Relocation Report

WPFW Relocation Committee

May 2025 report

The Relocation Committee met on Zoom on May 7. No official business was conducted, although Secretary Adele Stan, a nonvoting member, announced that she will be inactive until September.

Most of the meeting involved explanation and discussion of recent actions by the Pacifica National Board. The PNB has passed a resolution that its leadership claims finalizes a change in

the Foundation's bylaws; some Directors and the leadership of WPFW's LSB dispute the finality of the changes, which would significantly reduce the scope and authority of all Pacifica LSBs.

Members of the Relocation Committee voiced some concern about the future status of the LSB and the feasibility of acquiring a property under the proposed changes. All present agreed, however, to continue to meet and explore options.

Attachment F

Community Outreach Committee

Community Outreach Report for May 14, 2025

The Outreach Committee has focused it's efforts towards planning and preparing for the upcoming Townhall Meeting on Saturday, May 17th at the New Bethany Baptist Church, 1300 10th Street, N.W.

We would like to see you all at the Townhall!

The Committee is requesting that LSB members donate at least \$10 to defray the cost of refreshments and a donation for the church. Committee Members have historically donated their money to make this, and other events, a success. Additionally, there is no line item in the budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Peace,

The Outreach Committee

Attachment G

PNB Report

PNB Directors Report for May 14, 2025 WPFW LSB Meeting

Since our last written report on February 12th, there were 6 PNB meetings scheduled: on Feb 20th, Mar 6th, Mar 13th, Mar 27th, Apr 3rd, and May 1st. The report-outs from closed sessions are directly below. A summary of the minutes from the open sessions follow below. Note: the minutes from the May 1st meeting have not yet been approved by the PNB.

Feb 20th:

The PNB met in executive session to hear proprietary advice from legal counsel related to Project 2025.

March 6th:

The PNB met in executive session for the purpose of discussing the confidential legal matter of Pacifica v. New Day, and passed the following motion:

Moved that the Pacifica National Board set a date for an Executive Session follow up PNB meeting on March 13, 2025, giving authorization for our Pacifica Executive Director Stephanie Wells, Pacifica National Board Chair Susan Young, Pacifica National Board Vice Chair Minerva Sanders, and Pacifica National Board Secretary Julie Hewitt, to investigate and engage in communications with attorneys and others as needed about preparation for possible mediation and settlement of the case Pacifica Vs. New Day and to present their findings and recommendations to the PNB at the March 13, 2025 meeting.

March 13th:

The PNB met in executive session to discuss the confidential legal matters of mediation and potential settlement agreement and to direct and authorize the Pacifica Executive Director and National Board Officers to engage and work with a licensed California attorney to prepare, present and sign a settlement agreement for the case Pacifica v. New Day Pacifica in court ordered mediation and to the court.

March 27th:

Quorum not achieved, so no report-out.

April 3rd:

The PNB ratifies the settlement agreement in Pacifica v. NDP et al. signed by parties in court ordered mediation including the adoption of revised bylaws that will be posted to pacifica.org and discussed personnel matters of a confidential nature.

May 1st:

Though scheduled, no executive session was held because the open session ran past time certain to adjourn.

Minutes summaries:

Feb 20th: Upside down meeting (executive then open session). Motion ratifying elections of directors to PNB standing committees passed [Audit: Minerva Sanders; Coordinating: Ron Pinchback; Finance: Dennis Williams; Governance: Julie Hewitt, WPFW.] Motion appointing

Affiliate Representative Directors to certain PNB committees passed. Motion naming PNB Chair as ex officio member of PNB committees passed.

Mar 6th: Passed a motion to meet once a month on 1st Thursday (except for 2nd Thurs in July). Motion to also meet on Mar 13th passed. Standing committee reports. Discussion of nondisclosure agreement (to be continued).

Mar 13th: No open session.

Mar 27th: Special meeting called by Directors Carter, Gellert, Pinchback, Roberts, Sagurton, Steinberg and Williams. Quorum not achieved.

Apr 3rd: Upside down meeting. Executive Director report. Standing committee reports. Discussion of nondisclosure agreement (to be continued).

May 1st: Training on board responsibilities and behavior. Training on anti-bullying and communications. Minutes approval. Standing committee reports. Executive Director report.