The Washington International School Board of Trustees is a fiduciary body, charged with ensuring the long-term success of the School.

Pursuant to its bylaws, the WIS Board elects trustees, as is the case with a large majority of US independent schools. The Board may have up to 21 trustees. The Board typically is at or near its full capacity. Trustees serve for three-year terms. The Board may elect trustees for two consecutive terms. The Board may extend the Chair’s tenure for up to three additional years.

The Board meets as a whole nine times per year and conducts much of its business through standing committees and ad hoc task forces. Most trustees are assigned to one of WIS’s Board committees or task forces, each of which meets monthly in anticipation of the full Board meeting. Information on the Board committees can be found here.

The Board has charged its Governance Committee with, among other responsibilities, nominating trustee candidates for election by the full Board. In selecting candidates, the Governance Committee considers a number of factors, including the potential candidate’s:

- Passion for WIS’s mission.
- Understanding of the challenges facing WIS as an independent school, the need to balance tradeoffs in assessing those challenges, and the importance of strategic planning, financial oversight, and philanthropy in meeting those challenges.
- Willingness to embrace the role of trustee as a School steward and strategist, not as a School operator.
- Understanding that a trustee owes fiduciary duties to the School and does not represent any constituency.
- Ability to commit substantial time and specific dates to Board-related activities. 100% attendance at Board and assigned committee/task force meetings is expected, and trustees must dedicate time to prepare for those meetings. A high level of participation at other WIS events is strongly encouraged.
• Potential for eventually taking on a leadership role (e.g., as an officer, as a committee/sub-committee/task force chair, or as an organizer of an event/initiative).
• Involvement in WIS philanthropy.
• Possession of skills that will aid the Board in fulfilling its functions.
• Commitment to disclosing any conflicts of interest and maintaining confidentiality.

The Governance Committee also considers the ongoing evolution of the Board’s composition, as trustees rotate on and off, and in doing so seeks to: maintain relevant expertise or experience among its members, promote diversity, and sustain a mix of current WIS parents, past WIS parents, alumni, and others.

Board committees are made up of trustee members. In addition, non-trustees are invited to participate in certain committees or task forces, typically for two-year terms. Non-trustee participants are considered based on their expertise, experience and interest, and the strategic needs of the committees at a given time.

Alexia von Lipsey is the current chair of the Governance Committee. Please direct any inquiries regarding this process or potential Board membership/committee participation to Alexia.