Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 6:30

Location: 6015 North Main Street Columbia, SC 29203

or

Via Zoom

Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86452760198

1. Call to Order/Welcome[time] (Beckye Barnes, Acting Board Chair)
2. Board Member Attendance: (Renae Martin, Secretary)

3. Roll Call (Renae Martin, Secretary)
    a. Beckye Barnes -Present
    b. Ashleigh Dowey -Present
    c. Ashley Anderson -Absent
    d. James McCall -Present (late)
    e. Allison Leo -Present
    f. Janet Robinson -Absent
    g. Robin Peterson -Present (late)
    h. Ann Cheatam -Absent
    i. Priscilla Martin -Present
4. Approval of the 4/16/26 Agenda: Approved
    a. Motion: Allison Leo
    b. Second: Renae Martin
    Motion Carries
5. Approval of the 3/19/26 Minutes:
    a. Motion: Ashleigh Dowey
    b. Second: Allison Leo
    c. Motion Carries
6. Executive Session 6:50
    Motion: Allison Leo
    Second: Ashleigh Dowey
    a. Item – Personnel Issues
7. Executive Directors Report:

Minutes Prepared by: Ashleigh Dowey, Acting Board Secretary

i. Financial update - Melanie (Director) reports school is financially stable and continues to improve, HVAC repairs will be a significant expense, annual audit is underway and budget will be finalized and presented to board as soon as it is available which will be followed up by a special meeting and vote by the board.

ii. Third-grade student growth was described as phenomenal, summer school will be dependent on math results and may be very small or unnecessary,

iii. Melanie provided updates on upcoming end of year events. Field day, Carowinds trip for 8th grade, graduation (Board member James McCall to speak)

8. Election results

a. Beckye Barnes and Ashleigh Dowey were voted back on to the board

Two appointed seats will be filled through an open application and interview process. Applications will be accepted for approximately one month; candidates will present at the June board meeting. The board voted unanimously (6 yes votes) to proceed with this process

b. Budget Budget will be finalized soon and distributed to the board prior to a special meeting for review and vote. Melanie briefly mentioned that the school's improved financial standing opens options for refinancing and bond options which will be prepared by Varys for future board review.

c. Executive Director Evaluation – PDAP vs. Custom Tool- The board agreed that PDAP is not the most suitable tool for evaluating Melanie's role. Beckye will obtain Lancaster's evaluation tool or work with the board to develop a custom evaluation instrument which will be goal-based and reflect the full scope of Melanie's responsibilities

d. Melanie announced the adoption of a new curriculum for the upcoming school year. PACE secured IMSC, an Orton-Gillingham-based curriculum that requires an invitation to access. It will be used in elementary grades to strengthen reading instruction. IMSC will be implemented in elementary grades starting next school year as an additional layer to existing reading instruction

e. Enrollment target is 215 students, with aspirations for more. Teacher recruitment is ongoing; Melanie is prioritizing mission-aligned candidates

9. Adjourned at 7:39

a. Motion: Allison Leo

b. Second: James McCall

Minutes Prepared by: Ashleigh Dowey, Acting Board Secretary

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