COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2025

MEMBERS' PRESENT
Ms. Lynn Brinson
Mr. Doug Brown
Mr. Mitchell Fagler
Mr. Zac Frye (Vice Chair)
Ms. Angela Hooks
Ms. Stefanie Mason (Secretary/Treasurer)
Mr. Ben Patterson
Mr. Ken Warnock (Chair)

MEMBERS' ABSENT
Mr. Aubrey Jones

EDGE STAFF
Mr. Chip Fleming (On-Site Coordinator)
Dr. Glenn Deibert (Strategic Initiatives Consultant)

GUESTS
Ms. Sonya Wilson (Southeastern Technical College, Dean)
Mr. Kendall Hadden (Emanuel County School System, Work-based Learning Coordinator)
Ms. Ivy Terwilliger (Swainsboro - Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce)

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
The EDGE College and Career Academy (CCA) Board of Directors met Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 1:30p.m. Mr. Ken Warnock called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. A quorum of voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Upon a motion to approve by Mr. Doug Brown, a second by Mr. Zac Frye, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Upon a motion to approve by Mr. Zac Frye, a second by Mr. Mitchell Fagler, minutes of the August 20, 2025, EDGE Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION(S) / BOARD TRAINING

Work Based Learning & VISION 2020 (Mr. Ken Warnock)

Mr. Ken Warnock spoke to the EDGE Board Members regarding the critical need for a strong work based learning (Youth Apprenticeship) program to support our local business and industry partners. He outlined the previous program, VISION 2020, and how that program made a positive impact for our school system, local businesses and our youth.

The VISION 2020 program was initiated in 2015, focused on B/C students, and was based upon the Certified Manufacturing Specialist program offered by TCSG institutions. When the program was later revised to focus on the bottom 15% of high schools, the majority of the students washed out of the program. The program was realigned to once again focus on B/C students, and most of the students were once again successful seeing an increase in student GPA and attendance. Due to multiple reasons, the program became inactive.

With the development of the EDGE College and Career Academy, Mr. Warnock asked the EDGE Board of Directors to consider a new work-based learning initiative that will develop the current skill sets (and future skill sets) needed by local business and industry. Some of the skill sets identified by the Board members included forklift training, blueprint reading, and various technology skills.

Ms. Mason added that Mr. Fleming will assist Mr. Hadden with work-based learning beginning this spring and will be attending some work-based learning training this summer. Mr. Warnock added that if work-based learning is very targeted towards local needs, there will not be a need for a separate program like VISION 2020.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of using the time currently dedicated to the Small Business Management certificate program (pre-semester and post-semester days) when STC is not open, but classes are being held by the Emanuel County School System. Dr. Deibert stated the primary drawback to this concept would be teaching non-credit courses instead of credit courses that generate dual enrollment tuition through the Small Business Management program which helps fund these classes. If a source of revenue could be secured, this would be a great alternative for EDGE students.

Strategic Planning (Dr. Glenn Deibert)

Dr. Glenn Deibert discussed the importance of a strong strategic plan and how the EDGE Board should connect the strategic plan to the Emanuel County System's strategic plan, Georgia College and Career Academy Certification Manual, and local workforce development needs. Relevant pages from the Georgia College and Career Academy Certification Manual were displayed that included the five certification and assurance standards as well as the section on documentation and standards alignment.

At the conclusion of the presentation/training, the Board of Directors decided to move forward at this time and formulate an EDGE College and Career Academy strategic plan.

ON-SITE COORDINATOR'S / CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Governor Kemp's Workforce Summit

Two EDGE College and Career Academy Board members, Ms. Angela Hooks and Mr. Mitchell Fagler, attended Governor Kemp's Workforce Development Summit as well as Chip Fleming, the EDGE OnSite Coordinator. Ms. Hooks provided a brief overview of the major concepts discussed at the summit, which included several strategic initiatives, Georgia being the Top State for Business and the new plan for Georgia being the Top State for Talent. Other highlights included panel discussions centered around specific companies outlining their specific needs and partnering with local educational entities to fill those needs.

EDGE Board Member Training (Update)

Dr. Deibert reminded the Board of the first year's training requirements (7 hours) and subsequent years training requirements (5 hours) required by Senate Bill 348. A spreadsheet outlining this year's training hours was distributed to each board member.

Curriculum Discussion (Robotics/Mechatronics)

On November 13, 2025, members of the Emanuel County School System and Southeastern Technical College met for a debriefing of fall semester to discuss what worked well this first semester and what areas can be improved upon. For the most part, it was a very smooth and successful first semester.

One major item of discussion was the need for additional program offerings. Currently, the status of each previously discussed new program offering is outlined below.

Small Business Management (approved)
Welding Blueprint Reading (approved)
Heavy Equipment Operator (in approval process)
Basic sUAS-Drone Technology (in approval process)
Firefighter I (under consideration)
Education Paraprofessional (under consideration)
Emergency Medical Responder (under consideration)
Basic Timber Harvesting (under consideration)
Robotics/Mechatronics (under consideration)

On October 29th Mr. Chip Flemming met with a Technical Training Aids representative at EDGE. Afterwards, both went to Nordson to see first-hand the equipment one of our local employers utilizes in robotics and mechatronics. In addition to Robotics/Mechatronics, the Board discussed the potential need for a workflow, logistics and material handling type of certificate program.

FY2026 Strategic Plan

Mr. Warnock asked for volunteers who would like to work on an initial draft of an EDGE College and Career Academy strategic plan. The following board members agreed to serve:

Dr. Glenn Deibert	Mr. Doug Brown
Mr. Chip Flemming	Mr. Ken Warnock
Ms. Angela Hooks	

Peach Education Tax Credit (STC Foundation & Proposed Fund-Raising Projects)

Mr. Ken Warnock updated the Board of Directors on the Peach Education Tax Credit initiative. The Lunch and Learn being sponsored by the Swainsboro – Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority on November 20, 2025, was cancelled due to a low response rate. Ms. Lynn Brinson recommended that a joint community session (Lunch and Learn) be scheduled for the Peach Education Tax Credit, Georgia Heart and GOAL in order to secure a bigger audience and inform the public how they can help support our local businesses and school system. Ms. Lynn Brinson added that the most successful communities have buy-in from their local accountants.

Tour of EDGE

Mr. Chip Flemming provided a brief tour of building 6 where most of the EDGE College and Career Academy students take their dual enrollment classes.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Ken Warnock brought up the possibility of having some Career Exploration days for high school and EDGE College and Career Academy students. Ms. Stafanie Mason and Chip Flemming stated EDGE is already in the process of providing specific targeted areas on Fridays for EDGE students to attend local industries. More consideration and discussions will take place on this topic.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47p.m.

Submitted by:

Ms. Stefanie Mason, Treasurer/Secretary