



“The World Is Our Family”
A North Carolina Public Charter School

CAROLINA
International School

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026

Meeting Purpose: Regular Scheduled Meeting

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Prepared by: Bob Gorham (Secretary for Board)

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Camela Ford, Bill Jackson, Bob Gorham, Darryl Wilson
Vermaine Shelton

Board Members Not in Attendance:

Others: Dr. Paul Bryant, (Head of Schools), LaKisha Donaldson, Dr. Nabil, Christina Bonner, Ms. Clark, Ms. Henderson (12 attendees noted at start of meeting)

Welcome and Call to Order – Dr. Camela Ford

CIS Mission and Values – Read by Dr. Paul Bryant

Grade Level Service Project Report - Chanel Henderson

- Reviewed Mission of Student Ambassador Program – Reviewed Mission Statement & Motto: Serve First.
- Had student ambassador as guests – Abdurahman Alothman & Alexis Ceron Avilla
- Next year Mentor Match Program.
- Bring better awareness to CIS International curriculum.
- Safety Patrol Service.
- High School lunchtime clubs.
- Award and Recognition program – Six students graduating with blue & gold cords.

Secretary Report - Bob Gorham

- Minutes of February 19, 2026 BOD Minutes submitted for approval. No changes. Motion by Bob Gorham to have approved, 2nd by Bill Jackson, to have posted to CIS website. No Objections.

Facilities Committee Report – Bill Jackson (Chair) Committee met on March 19th at 11 a.m. via Teams –Attendees Bob Gorham, Paul Bryant, Bill Jackson, John White, Dr. Ford (see notes included in HOS Report)

- ***Pond and dam maintenance*** ongoing to meet state and county standards; flood impact modeling in progress.
- ***Pond pump and sprinkler system*** is inoperable due to winter damage; full replacement deferred to **Summer 2026**.
- ***Full roof replacement*** under evaluation; deferred to **Spring/Summer 2027** pending budget decisions.
- ***First-floor water fountain replacements*** underway, with initial phase scheduled for completion by **March 20**.
- ***Minor HS bathroom damage*** repaired (\$350, work completed).
- ***Dry pond annual maintenance*** is 50% complete and on track to finish by **March 25**.
- ***Atrium lighting replacements*** completed.
- ***Greenhouse***

Finance Committee Report – (Chair, Bob Gorham) – Members present Paul Bryant, Dr. Ford, Phyllis Rahilly, William Van Hook

- Meeting held March 19th at 10 am via Zoom call
- William Van Hook led us through the February cash account reconciliations. All accounts have been reconciled.
- Bob Gorham to sign off on treasury reconciliation documents.
- Cash on Hand is \$4.57 Million, – 189.38 days which is above the cash position of many other medium size charter schools as a benchmark.
- Unrestricted Cash on hand is showing \$3.0 million Healthy balance is better than average for schools for mid-size charter school. Overall cash position is showing a good financial condition for mid-year, but there is a need to be concerned about spending when looking at budget.
- There is a YTD deficit when you compare Revenues vs. Expenses
- Revenues are on Forecast for \$9,123,735
- Facilities budget at 73% of spend and appears to be on budget.
- Projected EOY surplus is expected to better than forecast.
- When we look at the Variance vs., Budget, Revenues are below budget, while expense are above budget. There are more expected revenues coming from surrounding counties that have not been received. More state funds coming in April.
- State Revenue is primary driver of budgeted revenue and was most affected by the lower than expected enrollment. Local revenue sources to be forthcoming.
- On the expense side, Salaries are the largest expense (over budget) that will need to be monitored Teacher salaries at 71% of spend. Use of substitutes is driving up spending.
- Expense categories that are higher bases on where we are in the year are the Technology (120%)..

- Student Transportation continues to be in need of additional finance support. CIS will be applying for grant monies. Currently at 89% of budgeted spend. Additional bus expense.
- Need to have a 1-3 year project plan
- Annual Fund Raising Drive to raise additional \$10,000. On-going awareness. BOD members encouraged to participate.
- Planning for Budget for fiscal 2027 – Will need to be conservative due to projected ADM.
- April finance committee meeting to review preliminary budget.
- Review Standard and Poor Global Credit Report provided by HOS. Outlook is stable Credit Rating downgraded from BB+ to BB.

Head of School Report –Dr. Paul Bryant (*Report submitted to BOD- reference for details*)

- **Enrollment & Retention**
 - *Current enrollment stands at **741 students**, with a **projected 800 students for 2026–2027**.*
 - ***285 applications** received for 2026–2027, with **163 students accepted** and **120 completed registrations**.*
 - ***Registration completion rate is ~74%**, a significant improvement over **~51% at the same time last year**, indicating stronger early family commitment.*
 - ***Intent-to-return results are strong:***
 - ***539 students confirmed returning***
 - ***4 undecided***
 - ***2 not returning***
 - *Applications are pacing behind last year **due to an earlier lottery timeline**, not reduced interest.*
- **Facilities & Maintenance** (*See Committee Report referenced above*)
- **Finance & Human Resources**
 - ***February 2026 operating budget: \$9,031,606.19***
 - ***Projected year-end surplus (FY 25–26): \$21,647.49***
 - ***S&P Global credit review** completed; results included in the Head of School's report.*
 - ***26–27 budget draft in development**, with guidance to budget flat (no revenue increase assumed).*
 - *Local fund accounts receivable are current, except **\$15,678.59** from Guilford, Lincoln, and Kannapolis counties.*
 - ***Faculty and staff intent-to-return forms** distributed, due **March 13, 2026**.*
 - ***Open positions** include MS/HS Band, MS Art, and substitute teachers.*
- **S&P Credit Report Highlights**
 - Credit rating: Downgraded from BB+ to BB
 - Outlook: Improved from Negative to Stable
 - Days cash on hand: Decreased from 125 to 110 days
 - Operating deficits: Continued pressure (3 years)

- Enrollment: Increased from 765 to 788 students
- Academic rating: Improved from D to C
- **Charter status: Renewed through 2031**

Academic Services

- School Health & Operations
- Red Cross blood drive held February 12.
- Reminders issued regarding medication authorization and illness exclusion (24 hours symptom-free).

Dates to Remember

- **Spring Break: April 3–10, 2026**
- **Next Board Meeting: April 23, 2026**

Principal's Report – Principal Lakisha Donaldson (Provided through HOS report)

- **Assessments completed:**
 - Grade 4 students participated in **NAEP (Reading & Math)**.
 - High school juniors completed the **ACT**.
- **Instructional staff data review** meetings held March 11, focusing on winter assessment results and spring projections.
- Emphasis on **vertical and horizontal alignment**, defining student readiness, and improving rigor and consistency.
- **Key dates:**
 - Third Quarter Ends: **March 13, 2026**
 - Teacher Workday: **March 16, 2026**
 - Grades 3–8 State Testing: **March 23 – April 2, 2026**
- **Saturday Academic Boot Camps** scheduled for **March 28, April 18, and May 2**.
- **Read Across America Reading Fair** for K–5 on **March 27**.

Teachers Rep Report (School Happenings) – Ms. Donaldson (replaced for Ms. King)

- **Elementary School Engagement**
 - Celebrated the **100th Day of School** with a themed parade.
 - Elementary students showcased creative outfits while parading through the middle and high schools.
 - Upper-grade students participated by cheering and encouraging school spirit.
- **6th Grade Science (Ms. Wingfield)**
 - Students built **electrical circuits** as part of a hands-on science lesson.
 - Learned concepts of **closed-loop and parallel circuits**, identifying power sources, conductors, and controllers.

- Activities used batteries, wires, switches, and lights to reinforce practical understanding.
- **6th Grade Math (Ms. King)**
 - Students completed a project to **open and operate a school supply store**.
 - Covered standards in **expressions/equations, statistics, and probability**.
 - Project components included:
 - Pricing items and creating expressions to model sales.
 - Recording 8 days of sales data to calculate statistical measures and create box plots.
 - Conducting surveys and calculating probabilities and projected sales.
 - Individual assessments included EOG-style questions and written justifications.
- **7th Grade Math (Ms. King)**
 - Students designed a **sports complex** using math concepts and AI-generated data.
 - Focus areas included **geometry, expressions/equations, and statistics**.
 - Key activities:
 - Cost analysis for construction, operations, and revenue.
 - Scale drawings of buildings with calculated areas.
 - Class-wide geometry lesson on circles using an outdoor field.
 - Surveys, percentage calculations, and scatter plots analyzing advertising and attendance.
 - Culminated with individual EOG-style assessments and written reflections.
- **Student Work Showcase**
 - Displayed completed **6th and 7th grade math project papers**, highlighting academic rigor and student effort
- **High School ELA (Mr. Jones)**
 - Students conducted in-depth research analyzing **race, gender, and identity** in literature and popular culture.
 - Integrated film, text, music, and periodical analysis.
 - Students created and performed a **“Spoken Word” presentation** to demonstrate learning.
 - Project ranked in the **top 10% of instructional depth** in the teacher’s career based on Bloom’s Taxonomy.
- **High School Athletics – Track & Field (Coach Davis)**
 - Carolina International High School track team competed in a **Pre-Conference Meet**.
 - Notable achievements:
 - Girls 4x100 Relay – **1st Place**
 - Girls 4x200 Relay – **1st Place**
 - Girls 4x400 Relay – **2nd Place**
 - Jaylen Spencer – **3rd Place (Long Jump)**
 - Peyton Summerour – **3rd Place (800m)**
 - Recognized student athletes for dedication and performance

PTSO Report – Christine Bonner (President) –

- Reported on Dress Down Day
- Tax Exempt Status for PTSO
- Food Truck Fridays coming.
- Book Fair – March 16th – 20th
- Spring Fling – 3-21 – 11 am to 2 pm
- Upcoming events: Flag football (parents v. teachers),

Old Business

- **Motion** by Bill Jackson to accept proposal for BOD Student Achievement Award and Recognition worth \$500.00 . 2nd by Bob Gorham. No Objections. **Application deadline is April 20th.**

New Business

- No New Business

Open Comments - 3 minutes per person.

- No Comments.

Closed Session – No closed session items.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Bill Jackson, 2nd by Bob Gorham - No objections. Meeting adjourned @ 7:31 p.m.