EDGE
Educate • Develop • Grow • Emanuel
COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2026

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

MEMBERS' ABSENT
Mr. Ben Patterson

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

GUESTS
Mr. Kendall Hadden (Work Based Learning Coordinator)
Mr. Shannon Lawrence (Director of CTAE/School to Work Coordinator)

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
The EDGE College and Career Academy (CCA) Board of Directors met Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 1:34p.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. Zac Frye, *a second by* Mr. Aubrey Jones, *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. Doug Brown, minutes of the November 19, 2025, EDGE Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

ON-SITE COORDINATOR'S / CONSULTANT'S REPORT
FY2026 Strategic Plan (Action Item)
Dr. Deibert thanked everyone who volunteered and assisted in the development of the EDGE FY2026 Strategic Plan. Although we are halfway through the year, many of the items included in the strategic plan the Board has already been engaged in (and have been working on) over the past six months. Strategic Plan volunteers were:

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

The plan addresses many of the strategic objectives found in the FY2025 College and Career Academy Certification Manual. The strategic plan document was emailed to the full Board January 9, 2026, for review.

Upon a motion by Mr. Doug Brown, a second by Ms. Stefanie Mason, the Board unanimously approved the FY2026 EDGE Strategic Plan.

General Industry Materials Handling TCC (Action Item)
On January 14, an email outlining a proposed three-semester credit hour technical certificate was emailed to the Board of Directors for comment and review. The proposed certificate, General Industry Materials Handling Specialist, consists of the following two courses.

GIMH 1101 – Introduction to OSHA 10 General Industry Standards (1 credit hour, 15 contacts)
GIMH 1102 – Manufacturing and Warehouse Materials Handling (2 credit hours, 30 contacts)

The General Industry Materials Handling Specialist technical certificate program provides the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure workplace safety as outlined in OSHA Workplace Industry Standards. Students will learn basic knowledge of manual, semi-automated and automated material handling processes and equipment. Successful graduates of this program will have the opportunity to become OSHA 10 General Industry certified and, when they turn 18 years old, forklift certified.

Mr. Warnock mentioned the possibility of making industry scholarships available to help students pay for the industry certification costs. Mr. Brown agreed and said it should not be a problem raising the scholarship funds. Dr. Deibert also mentioned the possibility of petitioning the Blackrock Foundation funds available through the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) for pre-apprenticeship students. Mr. Jones suggested that we not only look at pairing this certificate with work-based learning students but also consider requesting funds from the TCSG Blackrock pre-apprenticeship program as well.

Ms. Hooks added scheduling this certificate program with work-based learning would be an incentive for students. Mr. Brown asked if this certificate could be implemented at EDGE next fall. After some discussion, since 50% or more of this program is already offered within other courses at the college, both Dr. Deibert and Mr. Fagler confirmed it can be available by fall semester.

Upon a motion by Mr. Aubrey Jones, a second by Mr. Doug Brown, the Board unanimously approved the request to petition Southeastern Technical College to implement this new technical certificate for EDGE College and Career Academy students.

EDGE Pre-Certification

January 16, 2026, Mr. Fleming and Dr. Deibert participated on a Web-X with Secondary Initiatives staff from the Technical College System of Georgia. The group discussed the criteria that must be completed by a College and Career Academy prior to scheduling a pre-certification on-site visit. EDGE confirmed they meet the criteria and in-lieu of scheduling the meeting this fall, the meeting will be scheduled this spring or early summer. The preferred date, since the Board will be part of a pre-certification team conversation, is the date of the final board meeting of this fiscal year, June 17, 2026.

FY2026 Budget

Dr. Deibert discussed the two budget documents provided to the Board members. The first document listed the different budget categories addressed in the EDGE MOU signed by the Emanuel County School System, Southeastern Technical College and EDGE College and Career Academy. The document specifically indicated the entity responsible for expenses in each category and where each item is in the MOU.

Next, he presented the budget spreadsheet that includes the funds allocated by the Emanuel County School System and expenditures to date. Funds spent in 2025 by the Emanuel County School System on computers, chrome books and other items will be included on the budget document. A budget update will be included on EDGE board agendas.

Upon a motion by Mr. Zac Frye, a second by Ms. Lynn Brinson, the Board unanimously approved the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Spring Semester Enrollment Update

Mr. Chip Fleming provided a spring semester enrollment update for the Board. Ms. Hooks also provided some early enrollment information for fall 2026 semester. EDGE enrollment this past fall semester was 157 students, and spring is currently 167 students. Based upon the most recent high school survey of interest of 9th and 10th graders at Swainsboro High School, projected fall 2026 enrollment is expected to exceed 200 students.

Peach Education Tax Credit Update

Mr. Chip Fleming presented an update on the status of the projects submitted for the Peach Education Tax Credit. Crider Foods is directing $100,000 of their Georgia state taxes and applying it to the Emanuel County School System (EDGE) Peach Education Tax Credit projects. This brings the current total funds received to approximately $125,000. As new funds are received they will be forwarded to the Emanuel County School System monthly.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dr. Deibert stated that the EDGE Board members need one final-required board training session, Open Records/Open Meetings Laws and Requirements. Ms. Sabrina Phelps has given approval for Dr. Deibert and a local school system attorney or superintendent to provide this Board training. This training will be set up for the March 18th meeting.

A discussion was brought forward regarding the Paraprofessional Education technical certificate. Dr. Deibert stated he will mention this to the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Ms. Coleman) and see if this certificate can be offered this fall. He also mentioned that the TCSG is asking all Georgia Technical Colleges to implement an AS in Education this fall. The TCSG and USG will be signing a 2+2 transfer articulation agreement.

Since there were some questions periodically asked about dual enrollment and the Accelerated Career Diploma program, Dr Deibert we can add that as a future EDGE Board meeting training session.

Ms. Lynn Brinson discussed the need for more Allied Health programs, more specifically Laboratory Technology and Respiratory Technology programs.

NEXT MEETING DATE
The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47p.m.

Submitted by:

Ms. Stefanie Mason, Treasurer/Secretary