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

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026

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

MEMBERS' ABSENT
None

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

GUESTS
Dr. Denise Warnock (Superintendent, Emanuel County Schools)
Mr. Kendall Hadden (Work Based Learning Coordinator)
Mr. Shannon Lawrence (Director of CTAE/School to Work Coordinator)
Ms. Brandi Davis (Public Relations Specialist)

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
The EDGE College and Career Academy (CCA) Board of Directors met Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 1:30p.m. Mr. Zac Frye 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. Mitchell Fagler, a second by Mr. Aubrey Jones, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Upon a motion to approve by Ms. Angela Hooks, a second by Ms. Stefanie Mason, minutes of the January 21, 2025, EDGE Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

BOARD TRAINING - Open Records/Open Meetings Laws and Requirements
Dr. Deibert introduced Dr. Denise Warnock, Superintendent of Emanuel County Schools, and thanked her for agreeing to conduct the Open Records, Open Meetings Laws and Requirements

training. College and Career Academy training is outlined and mandated in OCGA 20-2-2072 and SBOE Rule 160-4-9-.06. First year CCA Board members are required to take Open Records/Open Meetings Laws and Requirements training.

Dr. Denise Warnock started her presentation with the process by which EDGE CCA employees and Board members should follow if they receive an Opens Records request or conduct an Open Meeting. Her presentation included, but was not limited to, the following areas:

- Stated the training objective is to ensure EDGE CCA Board Members understand their legal obligations, avoid common pitfalls, and protect the district (and CCA Board) through consistent protocols;
- Outlined the Georgia Open Meetings ACT (O.C.G.A. 50-14-1);
- Provided core requirements for Open Meetings;
- Explained the process for Executive Sessions and their requirements and limitations;
- Outlined the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. s 50-18-70);
- Reviewed the Open Records Requests link on the ECS web site - https://www.emanuel.k12.ga.us/quicklinks/open-records-request
- Covered Board member responsibilities and statutory timelines;
- Presented Board member protocols (governance discipline).

The training concluded with numerous discussion based high-risk scenarios for Board members and a lengthy question and answer session. A copy of the full presentation was provided and inserted into each Board members' notebook for future reference.

PRESENTATION - Edge Summer Bridge with Internships/WBL

Dr. Denise Warnock and Chip Fleming shared information regarding a $50,000 Georgia Power Grant the Emanuel County School System anticipates receiving in April. The presentation addressed the "**Top Three Workforce Challenges with Potential Solutions**". Those included:

- Essential Skills (being addressed at EDGE CCA through work ethics)
- Lack of Workforce (busing students to EDGE CCA for programs)
- Basic Read, Write and Math Skills (reading a ruler, units of measure, mechanical knowledge, using a computer, being able to follow instructions. A potential solution to this issue is having more hands-on learning.)

This year offering the **Engineering and Technology** high school courses at EDGE has allowed the ECS (and EDGE CCA) to simultaneously enroll these students in the Basic Machinist dual enrollment certificate. As a result, it has increased the enrollment/participation in the Machine Tool Technology program at STC. Other major industry needs identified were:

- Healthcare - CNA, LPN, ASN (EDGE CCA is offering the CNA program, age restrictions make the LPN and ASN programs difficult to offer).
- Manufacturing - Welding, Electricians, etc (EDGE CCA is increasing enrollment in these program areas).

- Construction - Carpentry, Plumbing, Electricians, etc (EDGE CCA is planning to add these programs if awarded a College and Career Academy Grant for a new building)

In addition to the 11-page narrative provided by Mr. Fleming, he also included three graphic handouts summarizing the program. The handouts outlined the Summer Internship (WBL) timeline below:

- 10th grade students are eligible to start take technical courses (TCCs and/or CTAE pathways)
- 11th grade students take General Industry Materials Handling Specialist TCC or Small Business Development Basics TCC
- 11th grade students take career specific TCCs and/or CTAE pathways
- Rising 12th graders take Summer Internship (WBL) during the summer
- 12th grade students participate in WBL relevant to their career pathway (TCC or CTAE pathways)

Mr. Fleming informed the Board that the anticipated start date for the Summer Internship (WBL) would be summer 2027. After some discussion, the EDGE Board of Directors recommended the summer internship start this summer (2026) with a small pilot group of students. If implemented this summer, program details will be established (and modified) during program implementation.

Mr. Aubrey Jones stated we should make sure we have each student paired with the appropriate employer. Mr. Ben Patterson added that each employer needs to outline (for EDGE) the type of summer intern his or her company would like to employ. Mr. Mitchell Fagler disclosed that Southeastern Technical College could also employ one or two summer internship students as well.

ON-SITE COORDINATOR'S / CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Budget Update

Ms. Stefanie Mason shared the updated operational budget as well as the additional budget sheet showing partner contributions this fiscal year. As of February 28, 2026, the EDGE CCA operating budget expenditures are at 61.91%, the target is 66.67%. Thus, EDGE CCA is 4.76% under budget. The recommendation was made for Mr. Mitchell Fagler to submit an estimate for the Salon and Spa Support Specialist room equipment and renovations costs so this could be added to the budget as partner contributions as well.

Pre-Certification Visit – May 26th

The TCSG Office of Secondary Initiatives has scheduled an EDGE CCA pre-certification visit for the morning of May 26, 2026, from 9:00am until 11:30am. The current schedule was included with the March 18 meeting agenda. EDGE Board members were invited to attend the pre-certification meetings; a special session is scheduled from 10:30am – 11:00am for Board

members to be interviewed by the site visit team. Mr. Chip Fleming will send out an electronic invitation to the EDGE Board members.

Legislative Update (CCA Grant Funding)
Dr. Deibert shared that based upon information we have at this time, two $3M College and Career Academy Grants may be included in the FY2026 Amended Budget signed by Governor Kemp earlier this month. Although the grants were included in the conference committee's recommendation, at the time of this meeting, there is no way to find out if they remained in the final budget the Governor signed. There is also one $3M College and Career Academy Grant proposed by Governor Kemp in his FY2027 Budget recommendation as well.

These funds are competitive grants that require an extensive application process. Mr. Fleming encouraged each Board member to write a letter of support for the CCA grant funding application. In the past, finalists for the grant funds were selected strictly on the merits of the applications. Finalists then make a presentation to a panel that will also ask questions they have after evaluating the applications. The final step in the process requires approval from the Technical College System of Georgia Board of Directors.

Operational MOU (EDGE/STC/TCSG)
Prior to our next Board meeting in June, Dr. Deibert stated EDGE staff will review and update our annual MOU regarding the operation of EDGE CCA. Although a large portion of the MOU will not change, there are some areas that should be updated such as EDGE increasing room utilization, security, etc. The MOU also outlines responsibilities of the college and career academy, local school system and technical college, some of which are outlined in legislation.

The Technical College President, School Superintendent(s), EDGE Board Chair and the Commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia are required to sign the MOU. The new MOU will be effective from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

EDGE Fall Schedule
The fall 2026 and spring 2027 schedule are in the process of being developed for FY2027, which begins in August. A meeting with Southeastern Technical College and the Emanuel County School System is scheduled for March 23rd where many of the specific details will be discussed. This meeting will help solidify schedule details based upon student interest, lab space availability and industry needs.

OPEN DISCUSSION
None.

NEXT MEETING DATE
The next EDGE Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55p.m.

Submitted by:

Ms. Stefanie Mason, Treasurer/Secretary