



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance:

Monique Taylor, President
Katherine Swarthout, Vice President
Shon Mallory, Secretary
Gregory Davis, Treasurer

Savannah Lammers
Missy Welch
John Eldridge
A. Monica Cutno, Chair Emeritus

I. Call to Order

- A. Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 6:30 PM by Monique Taylor.
- B. Mission and vision statements were read by Shon Mallory.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Draft minutes from the regular July meeting were presented.
- B. The financial report was given by Gregory Davis.

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Savannah Lammers

Second: Gregory Davis

Discussion: None

Conflict of Interest: None

Vote: Unanimously Approved (5-0)

III. Public Comments

- A. None presented.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. The Academic Committee report was given by Dr. Fuller.
 - 1. First week of school went very well.
 - 2. A detailed report regarding the 2025–26 school year will be shared at the next Board meeting. Preliminary review indicates that ESA met growth expectations for the 2024–25 school year. Specific data cannot be released publicly at this time.
 - 3. Coach Ziminski would like to purchase new soccer goals for \$6,400, which is outside the current athletic budget. We would like to determine whether this purchase can be capitalized rather than charged directly to the athletic budget. Since the cost exceeds the \$5,000 quote threshold, three quotes will be requested in accordance with purchasing requirements.
 - 4. ADM is 768 at this time. The enrollment figure is less than 25-26 due to over-enrollment last year to be able to get all of our siblings into the school. Our planned max enrollment is 764, so we are still slightly above that number. The decrease down to 768 will not affect our budget for this school year, but it will slightly affect next school year.
 - 5. Our SOAR before and after care program is fully enrolled, currently 126 students.
 - 6. Mr. Wall will present information regarding marketing at the September meeting.

7. Dr. Fuller would like to explore the possibility of getting one or more activity buses for the school.
8. ESA teachers participated in valuable professional development during the first five teacher workdays. Although a variety of topics and activities were incorporated throughout the week, the highlight of each day was the focus on project-based learning, spearheaded by Mr. Prentice.
9. BOG testing was completed today. Data analysis has now begun.
10. The school leadership team met with EPA officers on Wednesday, August 12, to discuss potential projects for the school following their upcoming fundraiser. Several ideas were brainstormed and will be presented to the EPA Board for further discussion and consideration.
11. A legislative summary is included in the folder for your information and review.
12. Upcoming events were presented.

B. Finance Committee Report was given by Gregory Davis.

1. The coverage ratio is 1.69 versus the required 1.10 coverage ratio per the school's bond covenants. The current days' cash on hand is 130 versus the required 45 days cash on hand.
2. The 2026-2027 budget was discussed.
3. Reports from July were submitted.
4. Several reports will come due in September.
5. Gregory is currently working on the RFP for a new auditor, and the process is still underway.
6. Vendor contracts were presented.

Motion to approve the Sergio's Lawn Care agreement for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Motion: Gregory Davis
Second: Shon Mallory
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (5-0)

Missy Welch joined the meeting.

John Eldridge joined the meeting.

Motion to approve the Franklin Academy tennis court rental agreement.

Motion: Gregory Davis
Second: Missy Welch
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)

C. The Facilities Committee report was given by Missy Welch.

1. The most recent facilities committee meeting was held on August 12, 2026.
2. Stormwater repairs will not be completed unless a more significant issue arises.
3. The shed is scheduled to be delivered and installed on August 31, 2026.
4. The fencing project is waiting for approval from the town. The school must resubmit documents with requested changes.
5. Playground Spinner ball bearing missing and needs to be repaired. Progress has been made in contacting the installer.
6. The floor repair is on hold due to workflow.
7. The fire inspector returned for the annual inspection, and the school successfully passed.
8. Ramp is complete, but not ADA compliant. Signage will be added to confirm not compliant.
9. Elevator repair still in process.
10. A new application has been developed for renting space within the school. The proposed facilities use document is included in the folder for review.
11. Next facilities meeting is scheduled for August.

D. The Governance Committee report was given by Katherine Swarthout.

1. Deans were pleased with 1:1 sessions with Current Praxis. Follow-up will happen on August 25, 2026.
2. Updates to the Parent Handbook include revisions to volunteer expectations and changes to the Code of Conduct.
3. There were no major changes to the Employee Handbook; however, an electronic signature page was added.
4. Board survey will be due soon.
5. Executive Director search is 35% complete, 157 applications for the role. Further discussion will be held in closed session.
6. An OCR notice has been received and will be discussed during the closed session.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Parent and Student Handbook as presented.

Motion: Katherine Swarthout
Second: Savannah Lammers
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook as presented.

Motion: Katherine Swarthout
Second: Savannah Lammers
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)

E. The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) report was given by Savannah Lammers.

1. The committee met on August 10 first meeting for 2026-27. Minutes were presented.
2. Request from partners to engage with the school, Lenovo, College of Engineering,
3. A business partner is hosting a STEAM Expo and has invited the school to attend and participate.
4. AI ethics and utilization will be explored, and Code.org will be hosting an “Hour of AI” initiative.

V. Closed Session

A. The Board moved into closed session at 8:14 PM to discuss specific personnel matters and confidential, privileged, or information that is legally not under the Public Records Law NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Motion to approve entering closed session.

Motion: Shon Mallory
Second: Katherine Swarthout
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)

B. The Board exited closed session at 9:50 PM and resumed regular board meeting.

Motion to approve exiting closed session.

Motion: Katherine Swarthout
Second: Gregory Davis
Discussion: None

Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)

VI. Actions

Motion to accept the School's HR recommendations as discussed during closed session.

Motion: Savannah Lammers
Second: Katherine Swarthout
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)

VII. Adjournment

- A. Next regular board meeting is on Monday, September 21, 2026 from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM to be held virtually.
- B. Board meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Gregory Davis
Second: Savannah Lammers
Discussion: None
Conflict of Interest: None
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0)