WAY MICHIGAN ACADEMY

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REGULAR MEETING
WAY MICHIGAN ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: 9/10/2026
TIME: 6:00 pm
LOCATION: Globe Building
407 E. Fort
Suite 201
DETROIT, MI 48226

APPROVED

MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: ☒ REGULAR ☐ SPECIAL ☐ PROPOSED ☒ APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT MARQUITA THARPE WILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:00 ☒ P.M./ ☐A.M. on Thursday, September 10, 2026.

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Marquita Tharpe Williams, President	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Dr. Schequita Owens, Vice-President	☐ Present	☒ Absent
Dr. Tamara Halliburton, Secretary	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Dr. David Beaumont, Treasurer	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Dr. Rochelle Massingill, Member	☒ Present	☐ Absent

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Madeline Black, Executive Director, WAY (**Virtual**)
Mr. Isaiah Pettway, Superintendent, WAY Michigan Academy
Mr. James Pack, Director of Programs, WAY Michigan Academy
Ms. Sherry Lynem, Director of Finance, WAY (**Virtual**)

OTHERS PRESENT ***(all or a portion of the meeting)***

Mrs. Rachel Horne, Board Liaison, Provision
Mr. Fred Borowski, Field Operations, CMU (**Virtual**)
Ms. Rachael Vivian, WAY Michigan Academy (**Virtual**)
Mr. Taylor Radtke, WAY Michigan Academy (**Virtual**)
Ms. Estefania Avina, WAY Michigan Academy (**Virtual**)
Ms. Jocelyn Jurado, WAY Michigan Academy (**Virtual**)
Ms. Kelyn Wilkins, WAY Michigan Academy (**Virtual**)

THE PROPOSED AGENDA WAS DISTRIBUTED.

III. MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

President Tharpe Williams stated the academy's Mission and Vision Statements.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT *(on agenda items only)*

None.

V. APPROVAL OF THE Thursday, September 10, 2026 MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: MEMBER ROCHELLE MASSINGILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026** MEETING AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
SUPPORT: TREASURER DAVID BEAUMONT SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: TREASURER DAVID BEAUMONT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE **THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026** MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
SUPPORT: SECRETARY TAMARA HALLIBURTON SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Reauthorization Committee

- **Treasurer Beaumont** requested authorization for the Reauthorization Committee to spend up to $10,000 for board attorney legal fees for the review of reauthorization documents.

MOTION: TREASURER DAVID BEAUMONT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAUTHORIZATION COMMITTEE TO SPEND UP TO $10,000 FOR BOARD ATTORNEY LEGAL FEES FOR THE REVIEW OF REAUTHORIZATION DOCUMENTS.
SUPPORT: MEMBER ROCHELLE MASSINGILL SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Mr. Pack** provided the following highlights:

    - 75 leads over the Summer
    - 48 applications and 28 newly enrolled students
    - Facebook and Google Ads will run through the beginning of October
    - Continued partnership with Team Wellness
    - Searching for similar partnerships

President Tharpe Williams asked Mr. Pack if he could provide any detail regarding the word-of-mouth referrals.
Mr. Pack stated that 13 of their applications were a result of word-of-mouth referrals.
Treasurer Beaumont asked if word-of-mouth is the one we give money for.
Mr. Pack stated yes.

X. EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Special Education Report Update

- **Mr. Pack** provided the following highlights:

    - Hoping to have the Corrective Action Plan completed by September 30th
    - 26 active IEP's
    - No missed services
    - Zero open evaluations
    - 1 child-find referral in process

Mr. Pettway stated that 'child-find' is the evaluation process for students who are not currently receiving Special Education services, but it is suspected that they need those services.
President Tharpe Williams asked if the suspicion is based on performance.
Mr. Pettway stated that it is based on a trend that is typically found in Tier 3 performance.

Mr. Pack provided the following additional highlights:

- SPED Director delivered 6 trainings during the month of August
- SPED students STAR progress monitoring begins Sept. 14th
- Onboarding a Speech Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist district-wide

- Hiring a new Social Worker
- SPED is a standard agenda item during weekly staff meetings
- The current enrollment is 161 and the goal is 175

- **President Tharpe Williams** stated that the SPED Director reached out to her personally and advised that she would not be able to attend today's meeting, but they are scheduled to meet virtually next week. She also stated that she wanted to publicly thank Mr. Pack for putting the SPED Director in contact with her.
  Ms. Black stated that she spoke with Dr. McDougal (CMU), who gave kudos to Mr. Pack and the staff for how well things are going.

- **Mr. Pack** stated that live lessons from the Math Instructor, implementing FRECKLE, which teaches at the student's level, and the students speaking with their Engagement Coach after completing each STAR and Math assessment will be helpful. He further stated they will be auditing the Math curriculum against the largest gaps seen in the Math testing.
  Mr. Pettway clarified that auditing the Math curriculum involves looking at the area(s) of deficiency and using that information to form interventions specifically for those students to bridge those gaps.
  Treasurer Beaumont asked how this is different from FRECKLES.
  Mr. Pettway stated that FRECKLES is tailored to the test as opposed to the curriculum that they receive every day and helps to ensure that the testing and daily curriculum are aligned.

- **Secretary Halliburton** asked what stopped the 20 from enrolling, as there were 48 applications received but only 28 newly enrolled students.
  Mr. Pack stated that incomplete applications and the students finding another school were some of the factors.
  Secretary Halliburton asked if there was a breakout for the leads and enrollment and which medians they came from.
  Mr. Pack stated that 13 of the leads were from word-of-mouth, 4 of them were from the Engagement Coach who works closely in the community in southwest Detroit, and the remainder are from the Google and Facebook ads.
  Secretary Halliburton asked if any of the leads came from Team Wellness.
  Mr. Pack stated that he will check into that, as they typically receive leads from Team Wellness throughout the year.
  Secretary Halliburton asked if half of the leads resulted from the Google/Facebook ads and if they were looking to see if the ads are worth the cost.
  Mr. Pack advised that he will have the official number for her at next month's meeting, based on how much was spent over the Summer.

- **Mr. Pack** introduced and gave kudos to the following staff members who attended virtually:

    - Kelyn Wilkins-Administrative Assistant
    - Estefania Avina-Engagement Coach/Translator
    - Taylor Radtke-Math Teacher
    - Joselyn Jurado-Engagement Coach/School Technician
    - Rachael Vivian-Science/Special Education Teacher

XI. ESP REPORT

- **Mr. Pettway** provided the following highlights:

    - Anticipating a $350 increase in per-pupil allowance
    - Weighted formula for additional state funds
    - State-wide decline in Reading and Math performance
    - Superintendent invited to MDE Think Tank to discuss targeted programs to help identify the reason(s) for the decline

  Mr. Pettway also stated that in reviewing the lease on the building, he has a broker looking for additional places in the downtown area. He advised that the current lease has remained the same but there has been some discussion about an escalator in the lease, which would be an increased percentage for each year of the lease.

XII. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Acceptance of the 2026 Financial Statements

- **Treasurer Beaumont** asked Ms. Lynem if the $350 increase is factored into the budget.
  Ms. Lynem stated no. The $350 would be additional funds.
  Treasurer Beaumont also shared the following highlights:

    - 3 transfers in August, due to a miscalculation in one of the amounts.
    - No bridge loan necessary for this year
    - Underperforming with spending
    - Kudos to Mr. Pack

MOTION: TREASURER DAVID BEAUMONT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
SUPPORT: MEMBER ROCHELLE MASSINGILL SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Approval of the August 2026 Payables Transfer Amount

MOTION: TREASURER DAVID BEAUMONT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2026 PAYABLES TRANSFER AMOUNT OF $173,246.82.
SUPPORT: SECRETARY TAMARA HALLIBURTON SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Treasurer Beaumont** stated that there will be more conversation regarding banking and investment strategy.

XIII. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

- **Mrs. Horne** stated that the other items listed will be uploaded in accordance with their due dates.

XIV. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XVI. AUTHORIZER COMMENTS

- **Mr. Borowski** provided the following highlights:
  - University Relations Programs for 11th and 12th grade students
  - College Credi-reduced rates for Teachers
  - Board President/Vice-President Roundtable dates on CMU website
  - Unable to change the CMU Detroit Reception date of March 11, 2027 (same day of WAY's March board meeting)
  - Kudos to Treasurer Beaumont for his Board Summit presentation at the CMU Conference
  - 2027 CMU Conference scheduled for the 3rd week in August
  - Possible Board self-assessment

- **Treasurer Beaumont** asked if there had been any thought about a 360-degree assessment.
  Mr. Borowski advised that he has not heard anything, but he will check into that.

XVII. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XVIII. BOARD COMMENTS

- **Treasurer Beaumont** gave kudos to Mr. Borowski and CMU for a great job at the Annual Conference.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: SECRETARY TAMARA HALLIBURTON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:57 ☒ P.M./ ☐A.M.
SUPPORT: TREASURER DAVID BEAUMONT SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Rachel Horne — 9/16/2026
Recording Secretary — Date

Approved by the WAY Michigan Academy Board of Directors:

Tamara L Halliburton — 10/11/2026
Tamara L Halliburton (Oct 12, 2026 08:52:59 EDT)
Board Secretary — Date