



MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY

A Cornerstone School

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Location: 19900 McIntyre St, Detroit, MI-48219

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2025

7:30 am

1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

a) Call to Order (President)

The meeting called to order at 7:30 a.m.

b) Board of Directors Roll Call

Present: David Fitch, Ken Poirier, Elaine Tingle

Absent: Tanya Griffith, Torion Bridges

Attendees: Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; Mary Ann Johnson, Finance Director; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Grant Heugel, Operations Director; Dustin Quarella, Enrollment Director; Taiwo Da-Silva, Superintendent; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; John Kava, Legal Counsel (arrived at 7:42a)

c) Adoption of Agenda

Poirier moved. Tingle seconded. All approved.

d) Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Poirier moved. Tingle seconded. All approved.

e) Pledge of Allegiance

Board and attendees said the pledge of allegiance.

f) Sharing of Gratitude

Board and attendees expressed their gratitude's.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to agenda items)

There was no public comment.

3) PRESENTATIONS

a) Academic Update- Taiwo Da-Silva

Da Silva introduced herself to the board, sharing that although this is her first time presenting, she is not new to Cornerstone. She has served as the Special Education Director for nine years and brings 21 years of experience in education, primarily in special education. She expressed her deep commitment to advocating for students, parents, and staff.

Da Silva presented Success For All (SFA), a comprehensive and research-based literacy program focused on improving reading proficiency. Our Reading scores have remained flat despite efforts with various programs. The district seeks to adopt a proven, science-of-reading-based curriculum to drive improvement. SFA is scripted, and includes a direct instruction model. It also includes diagnostic tools to determine each student's reading level, and it incorporates built-in interventions for struggling students. The program also includes wraparound supports like attendance and family engagement through a "Solutions Coordinator."

Schools using SFA (e.g., Davis Ellis Academy in Michigan and districts in Ohio and New Jersey) have seen significant gains in Reading proficiency. Ohio schools improved from 38% to 94% proficiency. Davis Ellis Academy rose from the bottom 5th percentile to outperform neighboring schools. Our short-term goal (Years 1–5) is to implement SFA to K–5 across our participating schools, aiming for 87% student proficiency and positioning Cornerstone as the top-performing network in Detroit. Our long-term goal (Years 6–10) is to expand to grades 6–8 with a target of reaching a 75% total reading proficiency network-wide and increasing 5% annually.

A \$100,000 grant from the SFA Foundation has already been secured to help offset initial costs. The first-year projected costs for MCA is \$35,000. There would be an annual cost of \$50,000 per school thereafter. Additional funding sources may include Title I funds and internal reallocations.

Noa Carrion reviewed the minor change to the 2025-2026 school calendar. She also reviewed the members of the Professional Development Advisory Committee and gave a brief explanation of their responsibilities.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

a) Board Meeting Dates for 2024-2025: All on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

1. June 25, 2025

5) ACTION ITEMS

- a) Approval of amended 2025/2026 School Calendar
- b) Approval of Success For All (SFA) Curriculum Purchase
- c) Approval of the 2025-2026 Professional Development Advisory Committee members

Fitch motioned to combine and approve Action Items a-c. Poirier moved. Tingle seconded. All approved.

6) CONSENT ITEMS

None

7) AUTHORIZER COMMENTS – McDaniel

Emergency Response Plan Requirements (Effective SY 2025–26)

Boards and school leaders were reminded of new legal requirements stemming from Public Acts 36 and 37 of 2024. These laws mandate:

- Emergency response procedures for sudden cardiac arrest,
- Required training for emergency response team members,
- Additional training for high school athletic coaches (not applicable to all campuses but relevant to Cornerstone high schools).

Legislative Update: Religious Charter School Ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a 4–4 split decision on May 22, 2025, effectively upholding the Oklahoma Supreme Court’s ruling that prohibits religious charter schools. The Charter School Office will continue monitoring related legal developments nationwide.

97C Safety Assessment Grant

Schools were encouraged to apply for the *Section 97C* safety grant, which offers \$2,000 per building for conducting a comprehensive safety and security assessment.

- Deadline to apply: June 30, 2025
- Many Grand Valley-authorized schools have not yet applied.
- Contact: Gretchen LaHaie for assistance.

School Aid Budget Proposals (SY 2025–26)

Proposals vary across government branches:

- Governor: \$10,000 per pupil (\$8,000 for cyber schools)
- House: \$10,025 for both brick-and-mortar and cyber schools
- Senate: \$10,008 (\$8,006 for cyber schools)
- A separate proposal recommends \$12,000 per pupil, with \$2,000 reserved for unspecified uses.

Celebrations & Recognitions

- Appreciation was expressed for board and leadership attendance at GVSU’s end-of-year celebrations in Grand Rapids and Detroit.
- Record participation and positive feedback were noted.

Educator Scholarship Support Initiatives

GVSU is increasing support for educator certification pathways through:

- Professional Innovators in Teaching (PIT) Program
 - #Lead Program (via the National Charter Schools Institute)
- Funding covers up to 50% of costs.

Leadership Forum – August 6, 2025

All school leaders and leadership teams are invited to a kick-off event on GVSU's Allendale campus (12–4 PM), featuring:

- Networking
 - Lunch
 - Campus tours
 - Program updates
- Evening dinner networking will follow.

Continued Education Scholarships (Expanded Eligibility)

- Application Window: June 3 – August 8, 2025
- Eligibility now includes all full-time employees with a bachelor's degree, not just teachers.
- Reimbursement: Up to 80% tuition for graduate degrees, certifications, or endorsements.

"30 for 30" Innovation Grant – New in SY 2025–26

In celebration of 30 years of authorizing charter schools, GVSU will offer one-time grants to support innovative learning strategies.

Three award tiers:

- \$3,000 mini-grants (10 available)
 - \$10,000 mid-level grants (10 available)
 - \$30,000 full grants (10 available)
- More details to come throughout summer and fall.

Michigan Teacher of the Year Nominations

- Schools are encouraged to nominate outstanding educators.
- Deadline: September 24, 2025, by 11:59 PM
- Nomination form link available in the June CSO newsletter.

College Connections Update

- A record number of charter students engaged with GVSU this year.
- Special recognition was given to Cornerstone students for their participation in the *Charter Through College* programs.

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Next Meeting: June 25 at 7:30 a.m.

9) PUBLIC COMMENT (related to non-agenda items)

There was no public comment.

10) MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:09 a.m. by Fitch. Tingle moved, Poirier seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 06/25/25 by the Madison-Carver Academy Board of Directors at a properly noticed meeting held at which a quorum was present.

C. Elaine Tingle

Submitted by Elaine Tingle, Secretary