

CORNERSTONE LINCOLN-KING ADAMS-YOUNG ACADEMY

Meeting of the Board of Directors Public School Academy Corporation

Location: Adams-Young Middle 17351 Southfield Fwy, Detroit, MI 48235

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2025

6:00 p.m.

1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

a) Call to Order (President)

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm.

b) Board of Directors Roll Call

Present: Horace Sheffield, Lawrence Baker, Michael Dixon

Absent: Mickey Mortimer

Attendees: Andy Anuzis, President; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Mary Ann Johnson, Finance Director; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer; Grant Heugel, Director of Operations; Dustin Quarrella, Director of Enrollment; Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; Aquan Grant-Wayne, GVSU School Support Liaison; Wanesha Daniel, HR Director

c) Adoption of Agenda

Sheffield motioned to reorder the agenda by moving Presentation 3d to 3a, with all other presentations to follow in their original order. Baker moved. Dixon seconded. All approved.

d) Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Baker moved. Dixon 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) Grand Valley State University- Aquan Grant-Wayne

1) Authorizer report on contract renewal and academic performance

The annual School Performance Report (SPR) was reviewed. This report emphasizes two key academic goals outlined in the charter contract – proficiency and growth. At Adams-Young Elementary the ELA proficiency is 9% (vs. 19% for peer schools and 44% statewide). Math proficiency is 8% (vs. 16% for peers and 35% statewide). At Adams-Young Middle School the ELA proficiency is 28% (above peers at

26%, below state at 44%). The Math growth improved slightly from 23 to 24 but remains below peer schools. The assessment participation is at 100%, and the index score is 39.9, which is above the 32.1% threshold for bottom 5% classification. Lincoln-King High School's SAT performance showed mixed results – the ELA growth improved, but Math declined. The Average SAT score is 390 which is above our peer average of 373, but is still below the state average of 482. The Math average is 350 which is above our peer schools at 348, but is still below the state at 462. The assessment participation is 92%, but the index score is 25%, which is below the state threshold of 32%. Grant-Wayne also stated that although past Compliance documentation had been submitted late to Epicenter, the current year showed improvement with submissions which are now on time.

b) Organizational Update - Andy Anuzis

Lincoln-King is moving forward with a new dual enrollment initiative through partnerships with the presidents of Wayne State University and Wayne County Community College. This will allow students to earn a two-year associate's degree by the time they graduate. The school implemented the "90/90" strategy in 9th and 10th grade, which doubles instructional time in Math and English. This has shown promising growth and will be expanded to 11th grade next year. An honors track is being established. Initial data shows growth in early high school grades. A full performance report with detailed data by grade and school will be presented in June.

c) Academic Update - Dustin Quarrella

Success for All is a research-based, phonics-driven literacy curriculum with over 30 years of implementation history. It is both a curriculum and an operational school model, emphasizing direct instruction, collaborative learning, and student grouping by reading ability. Current reading scores, particularly in K–5, are stagnant. The district has not successfully integrated phonics and structured instruction across all schools. SFA has demonstrated substantial gains in similar schools such as David Ellis Academy which improved from 4–5% to over 50% reading proficiency in five years. SFA features daily 90-minute reading blocks where students are grouped by ability rather than grade. It includes scripted lessons and structured routines to ensure consistency, and physical books and paper-based learning to reduce screen time. There will be an SFA Facilitator who will oversee the program, there will also be a Solutions Coordinator and a Tutor. There will be thorough training for staff. The SFA Foundation has secured a grant for \$100,000 to offset the initial start up costs. SFA will cost AYE \$60K for the first year and the cost will decrease in the subsequent years. We are projecting 8–10 percentage point annual gains in reading proficiency over the first 5 years.

d) Finance – Joe Valentic

The school year began with a known deficit. Although the original financial forecast had projected recovery, accounting adjustments related to ESSER funds impacted the outcome. These funds, accrued in prior years but received this year, could not be counted toward the previous year, thereby increasing the reported deficit in the FY24 audit. Despite the deficit, there was positive news in increased revenue, partly due to strong enrollment figures. However, several unexpected costs arose: A higher management fee due to the lump-sum ESSER funding, emergency HVAC repairs at both the middle and high schools, totaling nearly \$700,000. Combined, these unplanned costs added approximately \$1.5 million to the budget. Although approximately \$3 million had been trimmed from the prior year's budget, higher enrollment required some reinstatement of those funds to address student needs—particularly around school climate and discipline issues at the high school level. The school will end the year in a deficit position and will need to submit a Deficit Reduction Plan along with the upcoming budget in June. Operationally and revenue-wise, the school is performing close to previous expectations, excluding the anomalies mentioned. The school is continuing efforts to get their Child Care Licenses approved, which, if successful, could provide substantial additional revenue not yet included in current forecasts. The audit process will begin next week.

e) Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute, such as written opinion of legal counsel subject to attorney-client privilege.

Sheffield motioned to table Presentation 3e until the next meeting. Baker moved, Dixon seconded.

All approved.

Wanesha Daniel gave an overview on the status of HR and the improvements they have made over the past year through strategies that have decreased vacancies and increased teacher retention network wide.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

a) Board Meeting Dates for 2024-2025: All on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

1. June 26, 2025

5) ACTION ITEMS

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

Sheffield motioned to combine and approve Action Items a-c. Baker moved, Dixon seconded. All Approved.

6) CONSENT ITEMS

None

7) AUTHORIZER COMMENTS – McDaniel

1. Legislative Updates (School Signage & Promotional Materials Law)

- A new state law effective April 1 requires charter schools to list their authorizer and management company on:
 - Enrollment applications (printed and digital)
 - Billboard, television, radio, and website ads
 - Any exterior signage that is voluntarily erected, modified, or repaired
- A webinar was conducted to explain the law; questions can be directed to Michael Cousins, Assistant Director of Community Outreach.

2. State Budget Proposals – School Aid

- Ongoing negotiations among the House, Senate, and Governor's Office.
- Senate Proposal:
 - Increases foundation allowance to approximately \$10,000 per pupil (up from \$9,600)
 - 50% of the increase must go toward teacher compensation
 - Up to 30% may be used to reduce class sizes in grades K-3
- Funding discrepancies remain between public and charter/cyber schools:
 - Senate: \$10,008 (public) vs. \$8,006 (charter/cyber)
 - House: \$10,025 for both
 - Governor: \$10,000 (public) vs. \$8,000 (charter/cyber)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

- Charter School Office is funding:
 - Professional Innovators in Teaching (PIT) for staff pursuing certification or endorsements
 - #Lead Program for leadership certification in partnership with the National Charter School Institute

- Funding covers up to 50% of program costs; email already shared with leaders for application access
- GVSU Continuing Education Scholarships:
 - Expanded to all staff (not just teachers) with a bachelor's degree
 - Offers up to 80% tuition reimbursement for graduate-level coursework
 - Applies to GVSU-chartered school employees

4. Leadership Forum

- Scheduled for August 6 at GVSU's Allendale campus (12–4 PM)
- Includes lunch, campus tours, networking, and a presentation on upcoming charter school office plans
- Optional dinner/networking event to follow

5. College Prep Week

- In-person session is full
- Virtual session available July 13–18
- Registration deadline: June 20
- Contact Dr. Barry Hall for details

6. Student Transition & Scholarship Pipeline

- Efforts are underway to establish stronger pipelines between Cornerstone schools and Grand Valley
- Supports for student transition and scholarship access are in development

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS

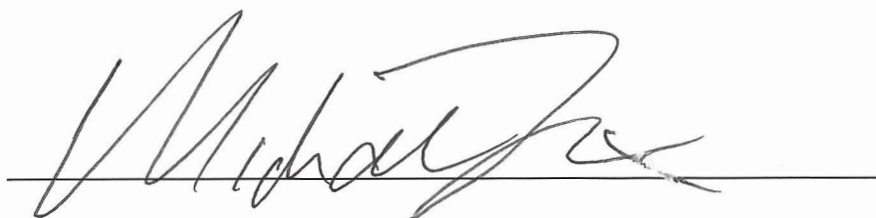
- a) Next Meeting: June 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Doug Zloto provided an overview of his professional background and described the path that led him to his current role as Chief Operating Officer at Cornerstone.

10) MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:49 p.m. by Sheffield. Baker moved, Dixon seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 6/26/25 by the Lincoln-King Adams-Young Academy Board of Directors at a properly noticed meeting held at which a quorum was present.



Submitted by Michael Dixon, Secretary