



MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY

A Cornerstone School

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

Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2025

7:30 am

1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

a) Call to Order (President)

The meeting called to order at 7:34 a.m.

b) Board of Directors Roll Call

Present: David Fitch, Tanya Griffith, Elaine Tingle, Ken Poirier, Torion Bridges

Absent: None

Attendees: Andy Anuzis, President; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Grant Heugel, Operations Director; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer; Dustin Quarrella, Enrollment Director; Markisha Stovall, Principal; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative (arrived at 7:53 am); John Kava, Legal Counsel (arrived at 8:05 am)

c) Adoption of Agenda

Bridges moved. Griffith seconded. All approved.

d) Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Tingle moved. Griffith 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) Enrollment- Dustin Quarrella

Quarrella stated that enrollment at MCA has declined significantly since the transition from a K-8 to a K-5 school. MCA went from 605 students in Fall 2021, to 422 in Fall 2022, and down to 255 in Fall 2023. After administrative intervention, enrollment rose to 333.

Two options were discussed to reach the break-even enrollment number of 420 students:

- **Option A:** Grow K–5 enrollment by 25% (87 students). Although previous efforts led to substantial gains, it still fell short of expectations. Additionally, the loss of middle school grades negatively impacted K–5 enrollment due to families with multiple children.
- **Option B (Recommended):** Reintroduce middle school grades to reduce pressure on K–5 recruitment. This would involve retaining 75% of current fifth graders and regaining 30% of former MCA middle school students with siblings still enrolled. This approach is financially less risky and more aligned with family needs and preferences.

In order to combat discipline challenges as a result of the return of grades 6-8 Ms. Stovall emphasized her familiarity with the school community and proactive communication with families as key factors in maintaining discipline. Based on her personal experience as a Middle School teacher she emphasized the importance of class size, stating a preference for a maximum of 22 students per section to effectively manage classroom behavior. She also noted the need for additional support, such as a behavior interventionist, to help handle student discipline and reduce the administrative burden.

Enrollment also believes that it would be beneficial to add PreK at MCA. Benefits include the fact that families who begin in Pre-K tend to stay through K-8, supporting both student outcomes and enrollment stability. Launching the program for Fall 2025 will be difficult due to the closure of the standard application window with Wayne RESA. We are instead targeting Fall 2026 for implementation. From a mission standpoint, Pre-K enhances school readiness, helping students build foundational language, behavior, and routine skills that lead to better performance in kindergarten and first grade. It also meets a growing demand from families, adding convenience and cohesion. Financially, while Pre-K sections are smaller, per-child funding is higher and comparable to K-8 classrooms, contributing positively to sustainability over time. Although implementation this year is unlikely, we have a forthcoming meeting with Wayne RESA. We plan to present evidence of readiness—including parent interest, space availability, and job preparation—in hopes of receiving special consideration. Wayne RESA will ultimately determine whether an earlier launch is possible.

It was mentioned that approximately 100 applications had been received by the HR team, reflecting strong interest in open positions.

d) Finance- Joe Valentic

Valentic reviewed the financial overview presenting three potential growth scenarios. Each scenario factors in implementation of the “Latchkey” program, with an anticipated 60% revenue increase associated with it.

1. Scenario 1: K-5 Growth Only

- Focused on maintaining the current K-5 structure and growing enrollment to reach break-even.
- Estimated required growth of approximately 87%-125%.
- Included assumptions for minimal section changes, though some additional staffing (e.g., 3 sections) may be needed based on enrollment.
- Variable and per-student costs were factored in, including technology.
- Considered a "fully loaded" cost model, but leadership acknowledged that achieving this growth with current grades alone would be a stretch.

2. Scenario 2: Middle School Expansion Only

- Assumed no K-5 growth and focused solely on adding middle school grades.
- Break-even enrollment target was set at 83% of projected capacity.
- Flexibility was noted due to existing grade-level sectioning, with some grades expected to reduce in size.
- Assumed modest section additions depending on enrollment distribution.

3. Scenario 3: Pre-K and Middle School Expansion

- Again assumed no K-5 growth (though likely inaccurate, as families tend to enroll siblings across multiple grades).
- Pre-K carries higher relative costs due to requirements for two teachers per classroom and shared administrative oversight.
- Although pre-K and K-8 have similar revenue models, the staffing and administrative structure increases risk.
- Recommendation was to prepare this year with a potential launch the following year to reduce financial risk.
- Federal revenue growth for next year is based on this year's enrollment increases, given the lag in federal funding disbursement.

It was also noted that Pre-K staffing would require two sections (four teachers total). PreK would also require a Pre-K administrator, which would be shared across the three Cornerstone campuses in order to manage costs efficiently.

In addition, Valentic noted that expenditures through March were below 75%, which aligns with expected spending levels for the nine-month period. No other major updates were reported.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

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

1. June 25, 2025

5) ACTION ITEMS

- a) Approval of the addition of Grades 6, 7, 8
- b) Approval of the Pre-K addition
- c) Approval of the 2025-2026 School Calendar

Fitch moved to combine and approve Action Items a-c. Bridges seconded. All approved.

7) AUTHORIZER COMMENTS – McDaniel

- Teacher Appreciation Week: Scheduled for May 5–9, with Teacher Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 6. All were encouraged to show appreciation to their educators.
- Detroit Celebration Event: A social celebration will be held on May 6 from 4–6 p.m. at the Athenaeum Hotel. All board members, staff, and administrators are invited, regardless of RSVP status.
- CSO Stakeholder Survey Results: Over 160 participants contributed to the survey. The Charter Schools Office (CSO) received high ratings, with scores above 4.5 in categories such as policy communication and oversight. However, improvement is needed in increasing familiarity and use of CSO supports.
- Board Training Compliance: The board met its training requirement for the year. Additional optional trainings are scheduled for May 22 and June 2.
- New Signage Law: Effective April 1, schools must include their authorizer and EMO names on various promotional materials and signage.
- School Aid Budget Proposals (2025–26): Governor Whitmer proposed \$10,000 per pupil for brick-and-mortar schools and 80% funding for cyber charters. The House proposed \$10,025 per pupil. Final figures are pending negotiation.
- Charter School Week & Charter Day: Charter School Week will be May 12–16, 2025. Charter Day at the Capitol also falls on May 6.
- Staff Certification Support: CSO is offering financial support for alternative teacher and administrator certification programs, covering up to 50% of program costs. Funds are limited and more application details will follow.
- Expanded Continuing Education Scholarships: Beginning Fall 2025, full-time employees with a bachelor's degree at GVSU-authorized schools can apply for tuition reimbursement up to 80% for graduate programs and endorsements.
- Recognition: Certificates of appreciation were presented to Kenneth Poirier and Ms. Tingle in recognition of their leadership and five years of dedicated service.

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 8:26 a.m. by Fitch. Griffith moved, Bridges seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 6/4/25 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