



MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY

A Cornerstone School

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

Meeting Minutes

June 25, 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: Elaine Tingle, Tanya Griffith, Ken Poirier

Absent: David Fitch, Torion Bridges

Attendees: Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Grant Heugel, Operations Director; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer; Markisha Stovall, Principal (arrived at 7:38a); Clark Durant; Taiwo Da-Silva, Superintendent; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; John Kava, Legal Counsel

c) Adoption of Agenda

Tingle 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) Organizational Update- Doug Zloto

Cornerstone is in the final phase of becoming a state-licensed daycare provider across all five K–8 facilities. Walkthroughs with Michigan licensing consultants have begun. The first walkthrough at MCA is scheduled for August 5th. Walkthroughs focus on room measurements, bathroom checks, and facility inspections. After each walkthrough, the consultant submits a report to Michigan’s leadership. A quick turnaround for approval is expected. The goal is to have licensing in place by the start of the school year for all five locations. The team is also preparing to enable families to apply for the Child Care Development (CDC) Scholarship. This would support eligible families and generate revenue for the system. The plan includes transitioning the current “Dawn to Dusk” program (originally started by Andy and Renee) into a revenue-producing program through the CDC eligibility structure.

b) Academic Update- Markisha Stovall

The academic theme this year was growth. We focused on students reaching “green” status on I-Ready (at or above grade level). We shifted focus to spring-to-spring growth instead of just fall-to-spring to better reflect year-over-year academic gains.

I-Ready Reading (ELA) Progress

- Spring 2023: 39% of students were proficient (green).
- Spring 2024: 41% proficient.
- Current Year: 44% proficient.
- Met and exceeded growth targets, scoring 109% against the projected growth of 100%.
- Students in the red (2+ grade levels behind):
 - Reading: reduced from 23% to 19%.

I-Ready Math Progress

- Spring 2023: 25% proficient.
- Spring 2024: 35% proficient.
- Current Year: 37% proficient.
- Students in the red:
 - Math: reduced from 19% to 15%.
- Noted improvement trend with students progressing from red to yellow, indicating narrowing of achievement gaps.

2024–25 Internal Academic Goals

- Reading Goal: 50% proficient (currently at 44%)
- Math Goal: 45% proficient (currently at 37%)
- Although goals were not fully met, consistent upward momentum was highlighted.
- Emphasis on maintaining high expectations and not lowering performance bars.

Plans are underway to implement Success For All (SFA) for reading in the upcoming school year. The school is well-positioned for successful rollout due to strong foundations in academics, attendance, and character development. Math strategies will continue with a focus on differentiated small group instruction. A key strength has been teacher retention, with most staff returning—positively impacting student consistency and instructional quality.

- c) Finance- Joe Valentic
 - i. EOY 2024-2025 Budget Update
 - ii. State Aid Note Resolution

Johnson was unable to attend due to required CPA training. Valentic reviewed the draft versions of the 2023–24 year-end amended budget and the 2024–25 proposed amended budget. Budgets are in draft form pending resolution of funding withheld by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), currently under review by the U.S. Department of Education (USED).

Key Budget Notes for 2024–25

- A critical \$1.1M in private source revenue is projected.
 - Over \$300,000 already received
 - Remaining \$800,000 expected from CEG upon release of held state funds.
- Enrollment Assumption: Budget based on ~330–331 students.
- State Revenue Estimate: Just over \$4 million
- Federal Revenue: Estimated at \$467,000 (noting a decline due to expiring ESSER funds and federal funding lag)
- Total Projected Revenue: \$5,654,146
- Projected Expenditures: \$5,653,503
- Fund Balance on July 1, 2024: Estimated at \$339,730, meeting the 5% reserve requirement

Expenditure Highlights

- Basic Programs: \$1.6M – includes teachers and academic staff
- Added Needs: Includes paraprofessionals and intervention staff
- Support Services:
 - Pupil Services: \$404,546
 - Instructional Support: \$294,449
 - Includes Grand Valley authorizer fee, audit, and management fees
- School Administration: \$346,466 – includes principal and administrative costs
- Operations & Maintenance: \$1.2M – largest cost includes 15% of state aid set aside, plus general maintenance

Food Service Program Concern

- A \$72,779 transfer from the general fund to cover an ongoing food service deficit.
- Deficit to be addressed in 2024–25 with more strategic planning.
- Contributing factors include:
 - Lack of accurate food utilization tracking
 - System-wide impacts of universal free meals post-COVID

- Staffing limitations due to unplanned audits (5 state master audits and 4 pension audits this year)
- Long-term vision: Consider developing an internal food program focused on nutrition and efficiency.

(Close regular session & Open Budget Hearing)

At 8:05 a.m. Poirier moved to close the regular session and open the Budget Hearing, Griffith seconded. All approved.

iii. 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Although the board previously approved the addition of pre-K and middle school, the pre-K program has been delayed by one full year. This decision was influenced by the time required to obtain child care licensure. The middle school expansion is moving forward with two sections of 6th grade and one section each of 7th and 8th grades. The enrollment forecast reflects ~80% of the growth goal, representing a conservative projection.

Key Assumptions and Budget Factors

- Success for All (SFA) Program: Launching this year
 - 71% of year-one costs funded by the SFA organization via grant (reflected under local revenue)
- Salary Increases:
 - 2.5% across-the-board
 - Additional 0.5% reserved for strategic use in retention or performance-based increases
- Health Care Cost Sharing:
 - Staff and CEG will split an estimated 8% increase in healthcare costs (4% each)
 - Staff have been notified of salary increases, but not yet of the benefits changes
- Roof Repairs: \$320,000 project to address leaks in classrooms and auditorium
 - To be completed during summer break
 - Funded via local contributions

Middle School Launch and Capital Investments

- Additional \$30,000 in technology (e.g., Chromebooks) budgeted for new middle school students
- Staffing Changes:
 - New special education teacher (\$95,000)
 - New social worker (\$75,000)
 - Efficient reallocation of existing staff covered additional sections

Revenue Breakdown

- Local Revenue includes:
 - SFA grant (grossed up for accurate cost reflection)
 - CEG contributions
- State Foundation Allowance: Forecasted at \$10,000 per pupil (lowest tier used for conservative projection)
- Federal Funds: Do not yet include a newly awarded \$500,000 opioid settlement grant (over 3 years)
 - MCA and another district received these funds as part of a national lawsuit settlement with McKinsey & Company
 - Use of funds aligns with existing programming

Operational Efficiency and Planning

- Food Service Deficit continues (~\$72,000), with plans to:
 - Improve meal counting accuracy
 - Explore an in-house nutrition program
- Hired external grant consultant who helped refine:
 - Grant forecasting
 - Allocation strategies
 - Avoiding pitfalls from previous over-forecasting

Administrative and Support Costs

- Increases in:
 - CEG staffing (added assistant)
 - COO role (Zloto) for operational management
 - Chromebook purchases, lease increases, and insurance
- Insurance premiums rose ~15% across the sector, with charters particularly limited in options due to authorizer requirements

Cost Modeling & Variable Expenses

- Introduced a more granular, student-based cost model
 - 91 additional students forecasted
 - Budgeted 29% increase in per-student variable costs
 - Built-in pro-rata decrease in case of enrollment shortfall

Fund Balance and Future Planning

- Targeting 5% fund balance (~\$350,000 on a \$7M budget)
- May require a slight adjustment (\$10K–\$15K) due to quirks in how current-year revenue affects the calculation
- No current programs are underfunded or excluded
- Long-term focus includes:
 - Stabilization post-ESSER
 - Strategic use of grant opportunities once licensure for daycare and Pre-K is complete

- Exploring future facility or programming expansion as sustainable

(Close Budget Hearing & Open the regular session)

At 8:31 a.m. Poirier moved to close the Budget Hearing and open the regular session, Griffith seconded. All approved.

Kava reviewed the State Aid Resolution for the Board.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

a) Board Meeting Dates for 2025-2026: All on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

1. August 6, 2025
2. October 22, 2025
3. January 14, 2026
4. March 18, 2026
5. May 20, 2026
6. June 24, 2026

5) ACTION ITEMS

- a) Approval State Aid Note Resolution as Presented
- b) Approval of 2024-2025 Amended General Fund Budget Resolution
- c) Approval of 2024-2025 Amended Food Service Fund Resolution
- d) Approval of 2025-2026 Proposed General Fund Budget Resolution
- e) Approval of 2025-2026 Food Service Fund Resolution
- f) Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2025-2026

Poirier moved to table Action Items 5 a-e until the board meeting on June 30th, 2025. Griffith seconded, all approved.

Poirier moved to approve Action Item 5f. Griffith seconded, all approved.

6) CONSENT ITEMS

None

7) AUTHORIZER COMMENTS – McDaniel

Emergency Response Plan Updates

- Schools must implement new emergency response plan requirements for the 2025–26 school year.
- Changes stem from Public Acts 36 & 37 (2024), which include:
 - Training for emergency response teams
 - Sudden cardiac arrest protocols
 - Additional requirements for high school athletic coaches (not applicable to all schools)

Legislative Updates

- U.S. Supreme Court Decision: A 4-4 deadlock leaves the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling intact, blocking the establishment of religious charter schools.
- The Charter School Office will monitor related developments.

Section 97c Safety Grant

- \$2,000 per school building available for comprehensive safety and security assessments.
- Application deadline: June 20, 2025.
- Contact: Gretchen LaHaie (AIEGR@gvsu.edu) for support.

2025–26 State School Aid Budget Proposals

- Proposals vary:
 - Governor: \$10,000/pupil; \$8,000 for cyber charter schools
 - House: \$10,025/pupil (both types)
 - Senate: \$10,008/pupil; \$8,006 for cyber schools
 - One proposal includes \$12,000/pupil, with \$2,000 earmarked for unspecified purposes

Staff Appreciation

- Thanks extended to board members and leaders for attending year-end school celebrations.
- Record attendance in Grand Rapids and Detroit.

Professional Development & Certification Support

- Scholarship funds available for:
 - Professional Innovators in Teaching (PIT) Program
 - #Lead Program (admin certification path)
- Covers up to 50% of costs for approved candidates.
- Contact: Jayme Lesperance at the Charter School Office.

Upcoming Events

- Leadership Forum:
 - Date: August 6, 2025

- Time: 12–4 PM
- Location: GVSU Allendale Campus
- Includes lunch, networking, tours, and updates for 2025–26

Continuing Education Scholarships

- Now available to all full-time employees with a bachelor's degree.
- Up to 80% tuition reimbursement.
- Application window: June 3 – August 8, 2025

"30 for 30" Innovation Grant

- In honor of GVSU's 30 years of charter authorizing:
 - \$3,000 Mini-Grants (10)
 - \$10,000 Mid-Level Grants (10)
 - \$30,000 Full Grants (10)
- Supports innovative learning strategies led by students, educators, or school leaders.

Michigan Teacher of the Year Nominations

- Nominations due: September 24, 2025, by 11:59 PM
- Link available in CSO June Newsletter

Charter Through College Engagement

- Record number of charter students connected to GVSU this year.
- Special recognition to Cornerstone for student participation.

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Next Meeting: August 6, 2025 at 7:30 am

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

There was no public comment.

10) MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:37 a.m. by Poirier. Tingle moved, Griffith seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on June 30, 2025 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