



**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Public School Academy Corporation**

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

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025

4:00 p.m.

1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

a) Call to Order (President)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

b) Board of Directors Roll Call

Present: Horace Sheffield, Michael Dixon, Lawrence Baker

Absent: Mickey Mortimer

Attendees: Andy Anuzis, President; Maggie Durant, Chief Strategy Officer; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; John Kava, Legal Counsel; Mary Ann Johnson, Finance Director; Grant Heugel, Director of Operations; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer; Taiwo Da-Silva, Superintendent

c) Adoption of Agenda

Sheffield motioned to modify the agenda by eliminating Presentation 3d and approving the agenda. 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) Organizational Update - Andy Anuzis

Grand Valley State University will be conducting the district's charter reauthorization review On October 8 & 9. The review spans two days and evaluates operations, academics, and stakeholder engagement. The outcome of the review can result in a 1-, 3-, 5-, or 7-year charter term, with longer terms signifying strong performance. Board members will have a role and will receive an email invitation

outlining participation details. The Michigan Department of Education conducted a comprehensive Title I audit. The audit was led internally by Maggie, who organized required documentation and procedures. The MDE auditor complimented the district's strong culture, compliance, and use of funds. We have two major highlights: The "Own It" Initiative: Weekly dashboards shared with students, parents, and teachers—referred to as the "Saturday Morning Surprise"—were praised for their transparency and positive impact. Parent Engagement: Auditors noted a strong, positive culture with high levels of parent involvement and effective communication. Lastly, the district secured a \$500,000 grant from the opioid settlement. Funds will be used to support social-emotional learning, counseling, and related services. This is a significant win for the district and highlights ongoing opportunities in the grant landscape, despite reductions in some federal after-school funding.

b) Academic Update - Andy Anuzis

The board reviewed recent NWEA growth data, noting significant improvement in math across all high school grades:

9th Grade: Proficiency increased from 11% to 47%.

- 10th Grade: 10% to 33%.
- 11th Grade: 7% to 19%.
- 12th Grade: 9% to 20%.

The growth is attributed to the "double-down" strategy on Math and English, which has proven effective. Comparing current proficiency data to 2023 numbers confirms a trend of meaningful academic gains. Despite steady math results, ELA proficiency scores dropped sharply, especially in upper grades:

- 11th Grade: From 7 proficient students down to 2.
- 12th Grade: From 5 down to 2.

The drop is considered anomaly-level data, with possible explanations still being investigated. There was no change in test timing or format, no staff changes; strong teachers remained consistent, and no major cohort shifts or attrition to account for the decline. Leadership is engaging Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and internal teams to explore whether test algorithm issues or data processing errors contributed. Further investigation is pending, and findings will be shared with the board once clarified.

Spring-to-Spring data shows student growth was measured by how many met projected individual goals:

- 2023: 48% of students met their reading goal; 36% met their math goal.
- 2024 (post-strategy): Reading rose to 79%; Math to 83%.

This year, slight declines were noted, attributed to a smaller student cohort and new, lower-performing students joining.

In regards to the Elementary School we will be introducing the new literacy intervention - SFA (Success For All). SFA is launching across K–5 classrooms in three buildings this year. The key features include 90 minutes of focused literacy instruction daily, emphasis on collaboration, engagement, and frequent assessment. SFA is backed by 40 years of successful implementation nationwide. Principals and instructional leaders will attend training in Baltimore. Middle school implementation is scheduled for a future phase, once funding allows.

Current middle school proficiency rates remain low (20s percentile range). New math curriculum from Lawrence Tech University is being piloted to help shift results. Leadership acknowledges the flat performance over several years and we are urgently working towards improvement.

c) Finance - MaryAnn Johnson & Joe Valentic

- i. EOY 2024-2025 Budget Update
- ii. State Aid Note Resolution

The district began the fiscal year with a \$5.8 million deficit. Through budget adjustments and cost management, leadership worked the projected deficit down to approximately \$1.1 million. Key challenges impacting the goal to break even:

- The district expected \$6.8 million in reimbursement but received \$5.8 million, resulting in a \$1 million shortfall.
- Unanticipated expenses (e.g., HVAC, operational costs) amounted to an additional \$600,000.

A transfer of \$253,000 was made to the food fund, which is currently operating in a deficit. Leadership emphasized that this will be a major focus area for the coming year. Plans are underway to explore better financial and operational models for the food program. Potential strategies include: Offering in-house food service, improving quality and cost-efficiency, leveraging internal teams and existing state and university partnerships to support operations.

(Close regular session & Open Budget Hearing)

At 5:03 p.m. Sheffield motioned to close the regular session and open the Budget Hearing. Baker moved, Dixon seconded. All approved.

iii. 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

The key areas of focus in the proposed 2025-2026 budget include: no forecasted enrollment growth; in fact, leadership is anticipating a 6–7% enrollment decline, driven by intentional efforts to reduce class sizes from ~31 to ~27 students. The budget includes a reduction of four teaching positions and one office staff. There will be a 3% total salary pool, with 2.5% going to raises and 0.5% reserved for negotiations/overpayments. Healthcare costs are projected to increase by 8% this year. These costs will be split 50/50 between employer and employee to reduce burden on the district.

The district is pursuing conservative revenue projections and has adjusted grant forecasting practices:

- Shift from general per-pupil grant assumptions to specific, consultant-supported grant allocations.
- Significant support from partners contributing close to \$100,000.
- Received a \$500,000 opioid settlement grant (distributed over three years).

The current deficit stands at \$1.4 million. The state-required Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP) projects a 5-year path to reaching a 5% fund balance (~\$1.7 million). This conservative forecasting is based on flat enrollment and modest per-pupil funding increases. Our planned improvements include monthly budget tracking with seasonal adjustments, allowing for real-time visibility and accountability. Additionally, we will enhance our internal monitoring and use of Sage financial software for accurate forecasting.

(Close Budget Hearing & Open the regular session)

At 5:31 p.m. Sheffield motioned to close the Budget Hearing and open the regular session. Baker moved, Dixon seconded. All approved.

Kava reviewed the State Aid Resolution for the Board.

- d) 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.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

a) Board Meeting Dates for 2025-2026: All on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

1. August 7, 2025
2. October 23, 2025
3. January 15, 2026
4. March 19, 2026
5. May 21, 2026
6. June 25, 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
- g) Approval of Deficit Elimination Plan

Sheffield motioned to approve Action Item 5a. Dixon moved, Baker seconded. All approved.

Sheffield motioned to combine and approve Action Items 5b-f. Dixon moved, Baker seconded. All approved.

Sheffield motioned to approve Action Item 5g. Dixon moved, Baker 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 7, 2025

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

There was no public comment.

10) MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:44 p.m. by Sheffield. Baker moved, Dixon seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 8/14/25 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