



MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY

A Cornerstone School

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

Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2025

7:30 am

1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

a) Call to Order (President)

The meeting called to order at 7:32 a.m.

b) Board of Directors Roll Call

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

Absent: David Fitch

Attendees: Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; Mary Ann Johnson, Finance Director; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; John Kava, Legal Counsel (arrived at 7:36am); Clark Durant, Chief Executive Officer

c) Adoption of Agenda

Poirier moved. Bridges seconded. All approved.

d) Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Tingle moved. Bridges 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) Finance Update- Mary Ann Johnson & Joe Valentic

The U.S. Department of Education issued an order allowing a response to MDE's brief, potentially leading to fund release for Washington Parks Academy (WPA).

Funds continue to be withheld by MDE due to:

- MDE's non-acceptance of UHY's revised audit for WPA (filed December 23, 2024), which corrected previous audit inaccuracies.

- Impact on CEG's ability to "fill the buckets" for multiple academies due to WPA funding delays.

The communication with MDE's Gloria Suggitt (head auditor) has improved; CEG submitted all requested documentation, including additional detail typically not required. Suggitt indicated the audit issue is being actively worked on and acknowledged delays are not intentional. The U.S. Department of Education required a budget summary by July 2, 2025, and is expected to order additional funds to be released. Kava confirmed that the budget is not based on blind faith, but on reasonable expectations and historic patterns.

The budget assumes receivables (e.g., state aid scheduled for July/August) will arrive post-June 30 but count toward the fiscal year. If board rejected the private source revenue, the budget would be in deficit—triggering a Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP) process with Treasury oversight.

In regards to the 2025-2026 proposed Budget – there were minor updates made to the previously presented budget to ensure a 5% fund balance. Additionally, fund balance may still fluctuate slightly depending on final reconciliation of WPA funds and other variables.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

a) Board Meeting Dates for 2024-2025: 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

Poirier motioned to approve Action Item 5a. Bridges moved, Griffith seconded. All approved.

b) Approval of 2024-2025 Amended General Fund Budget Resolution

c) Approval of 2024-2025 Amended Food Service Fund Resolution

Poirier moved to approve Action Items 5b & c. Griffith seconded. All approved.

d) Approval of 2025-2026 Proposed General Fund Budget Resolution

e) Approval of 2025-2026 Food Service Fund Resolution

Poirier moved to approve Action Items 5d & e. 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 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 7:58 a.m. by Poirier. Bridges moved, Griffith seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 8/13/25 by the Madison-Carver Academy Board of Directors at a properly noticed meeting held at which a quorum was present.



Submitted by Elaine Tingle, Secretary