



# MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY

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## A Cornerstone School

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

### Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

7:30 am

#### **1) BUSINESS ROUTINE**

##### **a) Call to Order (President)**

The meeting called to order at 7:36 a.m.

##### **b) Board of Directors Roll Call**

**Present:** David Fitch, Elaine Tingle, Ken Poirier, Torion Bridges

**Absent:** Tanya Griffith

**Attendees:** Mary Ann Johnson, Finance Director; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Grant Heugel, Operations Director; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer (virtual); T Clark Durant, Chief of Staff (virtual); Taiwo Da-Silva, Superintendent; Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; John Kava, Legal Counsel

##### **c) Adoption of Agenda**

Fitch motioned to reorder the agenda by moving Presentation 3d to the position of 3a, with all other presentations to follow in their original order. Poirier moved, Bridges seconded. All approved.

##### **d) Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

Fitch motioned to approve the minutes. Poirier 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 - Joe Valentic**

After reviewing the draft unaudited financials and comparing them to the final budget, as expected, we are seeing some variances since the budget was approved prior to year-end close. Expenses came in slightly higher due to an additional payroll and some other year-end adjustments.

The most important update is that the pending local contributions have now been resolved. CEG will forgive approximately \$500,000 in accounts receivable and management fees owed by Madison-Carver Academy. In addition, the New Common School Foundation advanced funds to CEG, allowing us to contribute the remaining amount needed. With these actions, MCA will close the year meeting the 5% fund balance requirement.

The following is the update on Washington Park Academy's funding dispute with MDE. The U.S. Department of Education has ordered MDE to release nearly \$5 million, but about \$2.1 million still remains outstanding. We've filed a motion to resolve this and expect a final determination within the next one to two months. That said, this issue does not impact MCA's budget, since the contributions from CEG and New Common have already been secured.

There is no board action needed on this item today. The audit is already underway, with fieldwork in progress. We expect the audit to be completed by mid-October, ahead of the November 1 deadline. Once finalized, I will share updated financials and we will look at any amendments needed for the 2025-26 budget after the audit and student count are complete.

**b) Organizational Update - Doug Zloto**

Clark Durant continues his fundraising efforts, he apologizes he could not be here today as he is meeting with a potential donor this morning. Last week on August 5<sup>th</sup> we had our walk through with Child Care Licensing here at MCA. We are on pace to begin the Dawn to Dusk program on the third week of school. We are pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Isaac London as Director of Childcare. Mr. London holds a Master's degree in Child Development and brings extensive school-based experience to the role.

**c) Academic Update - Taiwo Da-Silva**

Our goal this year is to reach the 35 percentile in three years. We will do this by focusing on increasing by 7% each year over the next three years. A group of us went to Baltimore for a week to receive in person training. We have already received about 95% of our curriculum materials. Staff will receive further SFA training during our PD week, on August 20-22. We will continue using the MMH math program and Discovery ED for Science and Social Studies. IReady will continue to be our district benchmark, and that will be the students first assessment of the upcoming year.

**d) Enrollment Update – T Clark Durant**

The second and third week of August is our peak enrollment season. We have budgeted for 430 students, which would be an increase of 90 students. We will have two sections of sixth grade and a blended seventh and eighth grade class. Elijah Richardson, the Director of Athletics has hosted very successful sports camps throughout the summer, these events have led to many leads for enrollment. MCA continues to have a great reputation in the community, which drives our retention rates in this district.

Kava, Heugel, and Carrion reviewed the minor changes and updates to the handbooks and Technology User Agreement.

#### **4) BOARD POLICY WORK**

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

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

#### **5) ACTION ITEMS**

- a) Approval of the 25-26 Student Handbook as presented.
- b) Approval of the 25-26 Athletic Handbook as presented.
- c) Approval of the Student Technology Use Agreement.
- d) Approval of MHSAA Resolution as presented.
- e) Approval of the 25-26 Employee Handbook.



f) Approval of Food Service Contract Renewal for 25-26

Fitch motioned to combine and approve Action Items 5a-5e. Bridges moved, Poirier seconded. All Approved.

Bridges moved to approve Action Item 5f. Poirier seconded. All Approved.

## 6) CONSENT ITEMS

- a) Approval of the resolution identifying the Chief Administrative Officer Designee - Doug Zloto
- b) Approval of the resolution authorizing the appointment of the Freedom of Information Act Coordinator - Elizabeth Noa Carrion
- c) Approval of the resolution authorizing the appointment of Legal Counsel - John Kava
- d) Approval of the resolution authorizing the appointment of the School Safety Liaison - Grant Heugel

Fitch moved to combine and approve Consent Items 6a-6d. Bridges moved, Poirier seconded. All Approved.

## 7) AUTHORIZER COMMENTS – McDaniel

The 2025–26 virtual board training calendar has been finalized and sessions are open for registration through the GVSU CSO website. All training hours count toward the governance requirement under the academic grant. A new component this year includes a personalized, in-person board training session tailored to each board's self-assessed needs.

Schools were reminded of updates to emergency response planning, including new legal requirements related to sudden cardiac arrest preparedness and mandatory training for emergency response teams and high school athletic coaches. Boards are also encouraged to include GVSU in their response plans to ensure timely communication and support.

Several new laws will take effect this fall. Beginning October 1, schools must annually provide families with firearm safety notices—materials will be supplied by MDE in multiple languages and must also be posted on school websites. In addition, charter schools must publicly post the average salaries of teachers (new and veteran) and support staff.

MAPSA has raised concerns regarding Wayne RESA and Oakland ISD proposals to include GSRP program details in charter contracts, which could create funding inconsistencies statewide. Schools are encouraged to stay in contact with MAPSA regarding any developments.

MDE announced that federal Title funds were expected to be released the week of July 28, though schools are cautioned not to rely on these funds long-term, as allocations may decrease in the future. The state school budget remains under negotiation and may not be finalized until late September. Key upcoming events include the Board President's Leadership Retreat on October 16 in Grand Rapids, and school celebrations/socials scheduled for May 4–5 in both Grand Rapids and Detroit. Details on event locations will be shared later this fall.

Grand Valley is also launching Innovation Grants—valued at \$5,000, \$15,000, and \$30,000—to support creative school initiatives. Up to ten grants will be awarded at each level, with full details to be released in September.

Through the *Charter Through College* program in 2024–25, 35 Grand Valley charter schools participated in campus visits with over 1,900 students attending. Among the class of 2025, 515 graduates (40% of charter high school seniors) were admitted to GVSU. In total, \$292,000 in scholarships were awarded to charter scholars enrolling at GVSU, and \$73 million in scholarships were awarded overall to graduates from Grand Valley-authorized high schools.

## 8) ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Next Meeting: October 22, 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 8:29 a.m. by Fitch. Bridges moved, Poirier seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 10/22/25 by the Madison-Carver Academy Board of Directors at a properly noticed meeting held at which a quorum was present.

Signed by:

*Elaine Tingle*

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Submitted by Elaine Tingle, Secretary