



# WASHINGTON-PARKS ACADEMY

## A Cornerstone School

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

**Location:** 11685 Appleton, Redford Charter Twp, MI 48239

#### Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025

12:00 pm

### 1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

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

The meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m.

#### b) Board of Directors Roll Call

**Present:** Marcia Kreger, Steve Londo, John George

**Absent:** None

**Attendees:** Grant Heugel, Director of Operations; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; Taiwo Da-Silva, Superintendent; Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; John Kava, Legal Counsel; Devon Graham, Building Principal; Christina Gaines, K-5 Principal (arrived 12:32 pm); T Clark Durant, Chief of Staff (virtual)

#### c) Adoption of Agenda

George moved. Kreger seconded. All approved.

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

George moved. Kreger 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

We continue to move forward in our journey to obtain our child care licenses. We are pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Isaac London as Director of Childcare, he is currently in the onboarding process. Mr. London holds a Master's degree in Child Development and brings extensive school-based experience to the role. We made minor changes to the handbooks, we aligned the mission and philosophy in all handbooks.

#### b) Academic Update - Taiwo Da-Silva

Even though our MSTEP scores were not too promising, our ELA was 12% and our Math was lower than 2 digits. Our goal is 35% proficiency within 3 years. We will ensure that the SFA program will be implemented with fidelity to see the improvement we need. Da Silva will be in the buildings ensuring that we are monitoring the data and assisting in any way possible.

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

We anticipate that enrollment at WPA this Fall will remain steady, with the potential for slight growth. Our focus is on optimizing section sizes, ensuring that partially filled sections are brought closer to capacity. This strategic approach allows us to grow more efficiently while strengthening the overall budget.

**d) Finance – John Kava**

Prior to the meeting, updated financials were shared, but these are not yet final since the fiscal year remains open through the end of August. As a reminder, public school districts are permitted to count receivables, including state aid received by August 20, toward the 2024–25 fiscal year. We have been successful with two emergency motions, which required MDE to release nearly \$5 million in federal funds. This funding carried us through August 15. However, there is still approximately \$2.1 million that has not yet been released. To address this, we filed a third emergency motion this week, and I am confident it will be successful based on the outcomes of the previous motions. Because these matters are still pending and the timing of receivables is critical, the 2024–25 financial statements cannot yet be finalized. They will also go through the regular audit process. For now, both the approved 2024–25 and 2025–26 budgets remain unchanged. I will provide a more complete financial update at the October board meeting once receivables are finalized, the audit is complete, and the remaining matters with MDE and the U.S. Department of Education are resolved.

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

**a) Board Meeting Dates for 2025-2026: All on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.**

1. October 21, 2025
2. January 13, 2026
3. March 17, 2026
4. May 19, 2026
5. June 23, 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 the Curriculum purchases as presented.
- g) Approval of Food Service Contract Renewal for 25-26

Londo motioned to combine and approve Action Items 5a-5f. Kreger moved, George seconded. All Approved.

Londo motioned to approve Action Item 5g. George moved, Kreger 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

Londo motioned to combine and approve Consent Items 6a-6d. Kreger moved, George 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.

It was noted that Cornerstone did not meet their compliance requirements for the 24-25 school year, all of Cornerstone districts were under the 85% on time submission threshold for compliance documents in Epicenter.

## **8) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

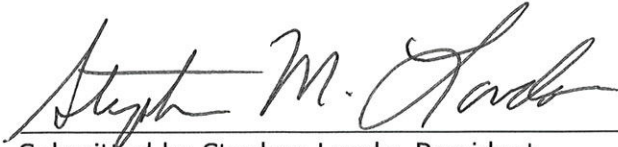
- a) Next Meeting: October 21, 2025

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

There was no public comment.

## **10) MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:37 p.m. by Londo. George moved, Kreger seconded. The above minutes were duly adopted on 10/21/25 by the Cornerstone Washington-Parks Academy Board of Directors at a properly noticed meeting held at which a quorum was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen M. Londo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Submitted by Stephen Londo, President