



CORNERSTONE LINCOLN-KING ADAMS-YOUNG ACADEMY

Meeting of the Board of Directors Public School Academy Corporation

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

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026

5:00 p.m.

1) BUSINESS ROUTINE

a) Call to Order (President)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

b) Board of Directors Roll Call

Present: Mickey Mortimer, Michael Dixon, Lawrence Baker, Horace Sheffield

Absent: None

Attendees: Clint McDaniel, GVSU Representative; Elizabeth Noa Carrion, Compliance Director; Grant Heugel, Director of Operations; Doug Zloto, Chief Operating Officer; Taiwo Da-Silva, Superintendent; Dustin Quarella, Enrollment Director; Keenan Penn, AYE Principal; Artina Tyus, AYM Principal (arrived at 6:00 p.m.); Maggie Durant, Chief Strategy Officer; T Clark Durant, Chief of Staff (virtual); Mary Ann Johnson, Finance Director; Joe Valentic, Chief Financial Officer; Steven Katzman, UHY Auditor; Marlene Beach, UHY Auditor (virtual); Aquan Grant-Wayne, GVSU School Support Liaison

c) Adoption of Agenda

Mortimer moved to approve the agenda. Dixon seconded. All approved.

d) Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Baker moved to approve the previous board meeting minutes. 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) UHY Audit Presentation

1) Presentation of Fiscal 2025 Audit

We expect to issue an unmodified report on the financial statements of the academy. The audit identified conditions indicating substantial doubt about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, including General Fund deficits of \$945,389 as of June 30, 2025, and \$5,818,769 as of June

30, 2024. A deficit elimination plan has been submitted to MDE and approved by the Board, as required.

After considering management's plans, the auditor concluded that substantial doubt remains and will include a going concern paragraph in the June 30, 2025 audit opinion. The opinion remains unmodified, as management's deficit elimination plan and supporting documentation were deemed adequate and did not require a qualified or adverse audit opinion.

The Summary of Audit Findings identified material weaknesses related to both financial statements and federal awards. Financial statement findings included unreconciled material account balances, untimely completion of four of twelve monthly bank reconciliations, an unassigned General Fund deficit of \$945,389 as of June 30, 2025, inaccuracies in the initial Schedule of Federal Awards, and failure to post the 2024–25 deficit elimination plan on the Academy's website.

Federal awards findings included reimbursement claims exceeding meals served for one of four months tested, lack of documentation verifying that food service vendors were not suspended or debarred when required, and the renewal of the food service vendor contract without Board approval. Management agreed with all findings and addressed each item through a corrective action plan.

b) Organizational Update - Taiwo Da-Silva & Maggie Durant

Academically, all schools have demonstrated improvement, with December assessment data showing positive growth compared to the Fall. Several of our schools were awarded the Impact 30 grant by GVSU. LKA High School and AYE were identified as priority schools based on prior-year data; however, this identification reflects multiple factors, including attendance. The schools are actively working with the MDE and Wayne RESA on required improvement efforts.

In regard to enrollment, we plan to grow within our existing grade levels, and we will be adding a Pre-K program at AYE Elementary in the Fall 2026. From a financial and operational perspective, the required deadlines for the financial audit were met and progress is being made toward achieving sustainable and balanced budgets in a post-COVID funding environment. There are efforts to address the existing deficit which include increasing revenues through latchkey programs, fundraising, and grant awards, as well as implementing strategic cost reductions in operational areas designed to minimize any impact on students and classroom instruction.

c) Academic Update - Taiwo Da-Silva & Keenan Penn

Keenan informed the Board that 468 of 470 students were assessed. Assessment data indicates that the SFA program is producing positive results, with modest improvements observed in Reading and Mathematics at AYE. To further support student engagement, the Academy implemented an i-Ready High Achievers Club as an incentive, along with a reward system that allows students who meet SFA goals to select prizes from a "treasure box." These initiatives have contributed to increased student motivation.

AYM has also demonstrated modest improvements in Reading and Mathematics. Additionally, Lincoln-King High School has launched a dual enrollment program offering Entrepreneurship and Business courses to students.

d) Enrollment Update - Dustin Quarella

The enrollment goal for LKAYA is to increase enrollment by 32 students in Fall 2026. The Academy plans to add a Pre-K program in the fall, which is expected to support achievement of this growth target. Certification through LARA has been completed.

The addition of Pre-K is also anticipated to positively impact enrollment across other grade bands, as families often enroll siblings of Pre-K students. From a financial perspective, the cost of a Pre-K teacher is lower than that of a K–5 teacher, and each enrolled Pre-K student generates approximately \$12,222 in funding.

e) Finance Update – Mary Ann & Joe Valentic

Significant improvements have been made within the Finance Department, including the development of a detailed budget using the Sage tool that reflects seasonality and improves year-round tracking and forecasting. Consultants have been engaged during peak workload periods to ensure timelines are met and to prevent delays. In the Sage tool there were new general ledger codes created to track expenditures more accurately; however, these codes were not properly mapped into the budgeting system, resulting in expense variances reflected in the financial reports of \$549,000. This issue was

identified as a system mapping error rather than an unanticipated cost increase, and budget adjustments are being made to correct the discrepancy going forward.

The Deficit Elimination Plan was shortened by one year, which means we will reach a 5% general fund balance slightly sooner than originally expected.

f) Operations Update – Grant Heugel

The Board received an update on emergency operating procedures previously presented at the prior board meeting for review and familiarity. At this meeting, an action item was presented for the Board to formally adopt the updated emergency operating procedures. The content remains substantially the same as previously reviewed, with minor updates including revisions to the organizational chart, additional procedures addressing special events and off-campus incidents, inclusion of a hazardous analysis summary, and minor formatting updates.

g) Compliance Update – Elizabeth Noa Carrion

At LKAYA submissions are 100% complete, 98% on time, with an accuracy rate of 84%. We are currently monitoring Section 25E claims for students who transfer into the district after the October count date and prior to the supplemental count date. To date, no claims have been reported.

We are preparing the required annual homeless education training for all employees, which will be distributed within the next week. Wayne RESA will assist with administering and tracking the training, providing weekly completion updates to support compliance with state requirements.

Additionally, there are preparations underway for the supplemental count day scheduled for February 11, including the associated spring collection and count day documentation required by Wayne RESA.

h) GVSU School Performance Report Review – Aquan Grant-Wayne

The 2024–25 School Performance Report indicates that Aye & AYM did not meet the standard for academic achievement or growth. LKHS exceeded the standard for academic achievement, they also exceeded the standard for academic growth in ELA, however, the standard for academic growth was not met in Math.

The LKAYA District did not meet expectations for compliance and financial reporting due to late submissions. It was mentioned that all Districts are in compliance in these areas for the 25-26 school year. The School Index Score is 30.17% for AYE, 40.42% for AYM, and 26.01% for LKHS. The required threshold is 35.3%. Assessment participation was reported at 100% for AYE and AYM. However, LKHS reported a 94%, which is 1% lower than the expectation of 95%.

4) BOARD POLICY WORK

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

1. March 19, 2026
2. May 21, 2026
3. June 25, 2026

5) ACTION ITEMS

- a) Approval of Amended Budget**
- b) Approval of updated Deficit Elimination Plan**
- c) Approval of updated Emergency Operations Plan**
- d) Approval of 26-27 School Common Calendar**
- e) Approval of updated 25-26 Board Meeting Dates**
- f) Reappointment of Horace Sheffield to serve an additional board term**

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

6) CONSENT ITEMS

None

7) AUTHORIZER COMMENTS - McDaniel

Upcoming Virtual Board Trainings (4:00–5:00 p.m.)

- January 21: *School Performance by the Numbers*
- February 18: *March Dollars, Strong Scholars*
- March 2: *Legislative and Community Engagement*
- October 23: *School Budget and Finance: Asking the Right Questions*
- Trainings are available on the authorizer's website under the Board Leaders tab

Board Training Grant Eligibility

- Individual training participation (two board members, one hour) qualifies for \$5 per member in academic grant funding (up to \$10)
- Additional \$5 available through customized board training
- Virtual quorum is permitted for workshop-style trainings
- Exploration of joint or advanced board trainings across Cornerstone schools
- Management teams will be invited to participate to support implementation of training recommendations

Behavior Threat Assessment and Management Teams

- All Michigan public schools are required to identify a Behavior Threat Assessment and Management Team by October 1, 2026
- Schools should review statutory requirements to ensure compliance
- Authorizer will provide additional resources and guidance

Legislative Updates

- Legislation signed December 23:
 - High school students may opt out of the MSTEP Workforce Readiness Assessment beginning in the 2026–27 school year
 - MDE to develop an optional extracurricular firearm safety program for students in grades 6–12
- Boards encouraged to review laws and consider potential impacts

2026 Charter School Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey

- Survey window open through February 27
- Seventh year of the survey
- Participation goal: 70% of the authorizer portfolio
- Survey includes board members, school leaders, and management organization representatives
- Results used to improve authorizer support and partnership

Leadership Forum

- Mid-year, in-person leadership forum for principals
- Date: February 26
- Location: Detroit
- Time: 8:30–11:00 a.m.
- Opportunity for collaboration, sharing best practices, and problem-solving

GVSU Student Teacher Hosting Opportunity

- Schools may host Grand Valley State University teacher candidates for Fall 2026
- Purpose: address teacher shortages and build educator pipelines
- Mentor teacher requirements:
 - Appropriate certification and grade/endorsement alignment
 - Minimum of three years of successful teaching experience
 - Consistently effective or highly effective evaluations
 - Interest in serving as a mentor teacher
- Information shared within the network

Awards and Recognition

- Congratulations extended for receiving the Impact 30 Award
- Core Values Award
 - 2026 focus: *Inquiry*
 - Application deadline: March 27

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Next Meeting: March 19, 2026

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

There was no public comment.

10) MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair, Mortimer, at 6:47 p.m. The above minutes were duly adopted on 3/16/26 by the Lincoln-King Adams-Young Academy Board of Directors at a properly/noticed meeting held at which a quorum was present.

5/2/15

Submitted by ~~Michael Dixon, Secretary~~

Horace Sheffield, President