

**Lighthouse Academy Board of Directors**  
**Approved Regular Meeting Minutes**

***Mission:** A safe harbor that provides innovative whole-child education and ensures success despite life's storms.*

**Date:** September 23, 2025

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Place:** Lighthouse Academy – South Campus  
3330 36<sup>th</sup> St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

- A. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** *Peter VanGeldereren called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.*
- B. **Board Members Present.** *Aaron Toffoli, Peter VanGeldereren, Erica Galat, Patrese Davis-Beckford, Dr. Brenda King, and Todd Penning.*
- C. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** *Angela Bunn*
- D. **Others Present.** *Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Dr. Michele Siderman, FSU Representative; Shea Williams, School Leader; Matt Milanowski, School Leader; Lucas Yax, School Leader; Stacey Martinez, School Leader; Doug Vredevelde, Audit Partner (departed at 12:15 p.m.)*

**II. Public Comment (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*

**III. Approval of Agenda.** *A motion was made by Erica Galat and was supported by Todd Penning to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Consent Calendar.**

- A. *Approval of August 26, 2025 Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Brenda King to approve the August 26, 2025 meeting minutes for the Regular Board meeting. The motion was supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Old Business.** *None*

**VI. New Business.**

- A. *Auditor Presentation of 2024-25 audited financial statements and single audit. Doug Vredevelde reviewed the financial and single audits which had no findings and received an unqualified opinion. Due to the Federal government not officially issuing the audit guidance for the single audit, the single audit will not be finalized until the Federal guidance is released. A motion to accept the Audited Financial Statements was made by Todd Penning and supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously.*
- B. *Student Achievement – Waalkes, The Port, JDC. Lucas Yax and Matt Milanowski reviewed the handout provided to the Board for these locations.*

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- C. FSU-CSO. *Dr. Michele Siderman discussed key points of the monthly FSU Board update report. She also shared her safety reviews for the Muskegon Community Building and South campus.*
- D. DAN Update. *The DAN Update was provided to the Board in the meeting handouts. No further discussion took place.*
- E. Update Barry and Muskegon community buildings; Ingham County RFP for day treatment program and the potential North Kent County site. *Dr. Heidi Cate provided the Board updates on the Muskegon Community Building enrollment opportunities. She shared that the results of the RFP for Ingham County have not been published and Ingham has been performing reference checks on Lighthouse. Leslie Cummings provided a budget and the revised quote from the GC for the Barry community building. A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli to move forward with drafting the lease and a contract with the GC pending approval by the Board and Ferris. The motion was supported by Todd Penning and passed unanimously.*
- F. FSU-CSO August 2025 Board Report follow ups. *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed with the Board a guidance document created to outline the necessary compliance requirements established by the State. These compliance items will be reviewed annually.*
- G. Board Development Credits/Reports. *None for the month.*
- H. Integrity Educational Services Reports.
1. Financial Reports
    - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the August 2025 financial statements. Todd Penning made a motion to approve the August 2025 check register and it was supported by Peter VanGeldereren. The motion passed unanimously.*
    - b. Update on law suit. *Leslie Cummings updated the Board that a motion to dismiss Lighthouse Academy from the suit has been submitted to the Court.*
  2. Human Resources: *Leslie Cummings updated the Board on the current recruiting efforts for teacher vacancies in Muskegon and Eagle Village.*
- VII. Correspondence.** *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the MAPSA Symposium invitation scheduled for December 2025 with the Board.*
- VIII. Extended Public Comment.** *None.*
- IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular and Organizational Board Meeting Date.**  
October 28, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.  
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- X. **Adjournment.** *A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli to adjourn the meeting and it was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.*

*Individuals wishing to address the Board of Directors under Items II and IX above are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting. Individual comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes each and a total time allowance not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner.*

*Complaints or concerns regarding Board members or school employees associated with the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner. (Source: Board Policy 0167.3)*

*Proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at the Integrity Educational Services Central office at 3300 36th Street, SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512, eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes are available within five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved (in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267.*

Submitted by:



Leslie Cummings on behalf of the  
Recording Secretary

Date: 9/29/2025

Approved by:



Angel Bunn  
Board Secretary

Date: 10/28/25

