

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: February 24, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: Lighthouse Academy – South Campus
3330 36th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

A. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** *Peter VanGeldereren called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.*

B. **Board Members Present.** *Peter VanGeldereren, Patrese Davis-Beckford, Erica Galat, Dr. Brenda King (arrived 12:05), and Todd Penning.*

C. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** *Angela Bunn and Aaron Toffoli.*

D. **Others Present.** *Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Dr. Michele Siderman, FSU Representative; Shea Williams, School Leader; Lucas Yax, School Leader; Stacey Martinez, School Leader; Laurie Strach, General Accountant; Matt Hughes, Athletic Director (departed 12:30).*

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

III. Approval of Agenda. *A motion was made by Todd Penning to add Review of the Annual Education Reports to the agenda under New Business. The motion was supported by Erica Galat. The motion passed unanimously.*

IV. Consent Calendar.

A. Approval of December 9, 2025 Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes. *A motion was made by Todd Penning to approve the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes for the Regular Board meeting. The motion was supported by Erica Galat. The motion passed unanimously.*

B. DAN update. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*

C. Strategic Plan Update Report. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting. There were not questions from the Board.*

V. Old Business.

A. Reappointment – Peter VanGeldereren. *Peter has declined reappointment and his term will end in June 2026. The search will begin for a new Board member.*

VI. New Business.

A. Student Achievement- South campus (Stacey Martinez) and Barry and Muskegon Community (Lucas Yax). *Lucas Yax provided a handout of the Juvenile Justice and Residential School Programs and their accomplishments. Stacy Martinez and Matt*

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Hughes, Athletic Director, discussed the positive impact of the sports program on students and some of the teams' successes.

- B. FSU-CSO Updates and/or Report—Dr. Michele Siderman. *A March 2026 Board Communication document was provided and reviewed by Dr. Siderman. She highlighted Lighthouse's 100% document compliance on a year-to-date basis. She also shared findings from her safety reviews at the South Community and the Muskegon Community buildings. A final report is in progress with both schools receiving an overall score of 97%.*

- C. Updates: Barry and Cedar Springs community buildings; Muskegon Community enrollment; Ingham County RFP for day treatment program. *Dr. Heidi Cate shared that it does not appear that Ingham County will be making a change in the service provider. Dr. Cate provided an update on the Barry construction and efforts to serve the students in the Muskegon Community building. The Board was provided with a draft lease for the Cedar Springs location that had been reviewed by Thrun. A motion was made by Todd Penning and supported by Patrice Davis-Beckford to send a draft of the Cedar Springs lease to the Ferris CSO for review and non-disapproval. The motion passed unanimously.*

- D. 31aa funding update. *Dr. Cate provided an update on the 31aa funding. The requirement to waive client attorney privilege is currently under appeal in Michigan.*

- E. Board Handbook draft review. *The Board discussed the draft handbook and made suggestions. A final draft will be brought to the next Board meeting for approval.*

- F. Annual Education Reports. *The Board reviewed the annual education reports. A motion was made by Erica Galat and supported by Peter VanGeldereren to approve the reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

- G. Set date(s) annual ESP evaluation and strategic plan update. *Dr. Cate discussed potential dates for strategic planning. The Board expressed wanting to have stakeholder participation, perhaps using Zoom. The ESP evaluation needs to be performed before the end of the fiscal year. The Board will notify Dr. Siderman when they would like the evaluation sent.*

- H. Integrity Educational Services Reports
 - 1. Finance reports
 - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the November 2025, December 2025 and January 2026 financial statements. Peter VanGeldereren made a motion to accept the November 2025, December 2025 and January 2026 check registers. The motion was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously.*

 - b. Review and approve revised 2025-26 budget. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the key factors in the revised budget, including student enrollment and State aid. A motion*

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was made by Dr. Brenda King and supported by Peter VanGeldereren to approve the revised budget. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Presentation on school funding. *Leslie Cummings provided a handout and discussed the various funding sources received by the school, including any restrictions.*

d. Approve issuance of RFP for banking relationship. *The Board supported issuing a RFP for new banking partner.*

e. Review and approve submittal of ESP draft agreement to FSU CSO. *The Board reviewed the draft 2026-27 ESP Agreement. The draft proposes a 1% increase in fees if student enrollment is less than 360 students on the October 2026 count day. A motion was made by Todd Penning and supported by Dr. Brenda King to send the draft ESP agreement to the Ferris CSO for review and non-disapproval. The motion passed unanimously.*

f. Approve FY27 budget calendar dates. *The Board was provided the 26-27 budget timeline and approved the proposed dates.*

2. Human Resources Reports. *Leslie shared the FSU-CSO Quality Performance Resource audit of staff certifications from January 2026. She also shared the Popcorn Praise dates and invited the Board members to attend.*

I. Board Development Credits/Reports. *The Board completed their three required professional development credits during this meeting by reviewing the Board Handbook and the funding sources presentation.*

VII. Correspondence. *Ferris CSO QPR letter.*

VIII. Extended Public Comment. *None.*

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Meeting Date.

March 24, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
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Grand Rapids, MI 49512

X. Adjournment. *A motion was made by Erica Galat to adjourn the meeting and it was supported by Peter VanGeldereren. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:46 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

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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:



Laurie Strach
Recording Secretary

Date: 3/24/24

Approved by:



Angel Bunn *Peter Van Gelderen*
Board Secretary *President*

Date: 3/24/24