

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: March 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 12:08 p.m.*
 - B. **Board Members Present.** *Peter VanGeldereren, Patrese Davis-Beckford, Dr. Brenda King, and Aaron Toffoli.*
 - C. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** *Angela Bunn, Todd Penning and Erica Galat*
 - D. **Others Present.** *Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Kelly Buckmaster, Associate Director Ferris Charter School Office; Shea Williams (arrived at 1:04 p.m.), School Leader; Laurie Strach, General Accountant; Jessica Hoover, Accountant (departed at 12:13 p.m.); Lucas Yax (virtual), School Leader; Ronda Dyer (virtual), School Leader; Matt Milanowski (virtual), School Leader*
- II. Public Comment (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*
- III. Approval of Agenda.** *A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli and supported by Dr. Brenda King to approve the agenda with the addition of Secondary 6-12th Grade Advisory (21f) Course under New Business. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. Consent Calendar.**
- A. *Approval of the February 24, 2026 Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Peter VanGeldereren to approve the February 24, 2026 Regular meeting minutes. The motion was supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - B. *DAN update. A handout was provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*
- V. Old Business.**
- A. *Oath of Office. The Oath of Office was administered by Peter VanGeldereren to Aaron Toffoli.*
- VI. New Business.**
- A. *Student Achievement- Juvenile Justice Reform Presentation. Dr. Heidi Cate provided a handout on the Michigan Juvenile Justice Reform efforts. The presentation highlighted major legislative changes and potential Lighthouse student referral changes.*

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- B. FSU-CSO Updates and/or Report. *Kelly Buckmaster, Associate Director Ferris Charter School Office referred the Board to the April 2026 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout. The communication included information regarding the new Student Smartphone Policy law for the 26-27 school year.*
- C. Updates: Barry and Cedar Springs community buildings; Muskegon Community enrollment.
Dr. Heidi Cate provided an update on the Muskegon Community enrollment. Leslie updated the Board on the Barry community building construction. The expected occupancy date is June 1, 2026. Leslie also updated the Board on the potential Cedar Springs community building. She reviewed the budget, bid results, final lease agreement and the draft AIA document from Freedom Construction & Consulting, Inc. A motion to accept the lease was made by Aaron Toffoli and supported by Dr. Brenda King. The motion was passed unanimously. A motion to accept the AIA document in the amount of \$392,519.40 was made by Patrese Davis-Beckford and supported by Peter VanGeldereren. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Board Handbook revision review and approve. *The Board was provided a revised Handbook. A motion was made by Peter VanGeldereren and supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford to accept the Handbook with minor changes. The motion passed unanimously.*
- E. Secondary 6-12th grade Advisory 21f Course. *A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli and supported by Dr. Brenda King to approve the title change of the Advisory Course to include 21f in the course language. The motion passed unanimously.*
- F. Set ESP Evaluation completion date. *A decision was made by the Board to review the ESP evaluation in the April 28, 2026 meeting. FSC CSO will send out the questionnaire to the Board members.*
- G. Integrity Educational Services Reports
1. Finance reports
 - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the February 2026, financial statements. Dr. Brenda King made a motion to accept the February 2026 check register. The motion was supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. Draft 2026-27 Budget. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the key 2026-27 budget assumptions, including student enrollment, staffing and funding. The Board was invited to bring any questions to the April meeting.*
 - c. Approve ESP Agreement. *A final ESP Agreement was provided to the Board along with the FSU CSO review letter. The annual ESP Checklist document was provided disclosing the stakeholders, service providers and other information pertinent to the management company. A motion was made by Dr. Brenda King and supported by Peter VanGeldereren to approve the ESP Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.*

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d. Update on banking RFP. *Leslie Cummings provided the Board with an update on the banking RFP.*

2. Human Resources Reports. *No update.*

H. Board Development Credits/Reports. *No update.*

VII. Correspondence. *Ferris Charter School Office review letters regarding the ESP Agreement and the Cedar Springs lease agreement.*

VIII. Extended Public Comment. *None.*

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Meeting Date.

April 28, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
Lighthouse Academy – South Campus
3330 36th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

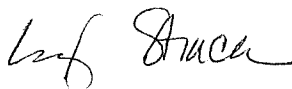
X. Adjournment. *A motion was made by Dr. Brenda King to adjourn the meeting and it was supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.*

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:



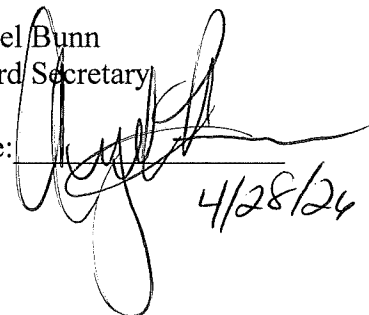
Laurie Strach
Recording Secretary

Date: 4/28/26

Approved by:

Angel Bunn
Board Secretary

Date:



4/28/24

