

**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:** April 28, 2026

**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.** *Aaron Toffoli called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.*

B. **Board Members Present.** *Aaron Toffoli, Patrese Davis-Beckford, Dr. Brenda King, Angela Bunn, Todd Penning and Erica Galat.*

C. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** *Peter VanGeldereren.*

D. **Others Present.** *Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Dr. Michele Siderman, Ferris CSO Representative; Shea Williams, School Leader; Stacey Martinez, School Leader; Laurie Strach, General Accountant; Lucas Yax (virtual), School Leader; Ronda Dyer (virtual), School Leader; Matt Milanowski (virtual), School Leader; Mark Bergsman, BHS Insurance Representative (departed at 12:42 p.m.); Ahmad Wright, Charter to College Student Support Specialist.*

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

**III. Approval of Agenda.** *A motion was made by Todd Penning and supported by Dr. Brenda King to approve the agenda with the addition of Title VI Policy and Honorary Diploma Policy under New Business. The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Consent Calendar.**

A. Approval of the March 24, 2026 Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes. *A motion was made by Angela Bunn to approve the March 24, 2026 Regular meeting minutes. The motion was supported by Dr. Brenda King. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

C. Quarterly Strategic Plan Update. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*

**V. Old Business.**

A. New Board Member Applicant. *Kimberly Lowe introduced herself to the Board and shared her professional and educational background.*

**VI. New Business.**

A. Student Achievement- South Harbor and Juvenile Justice Institute. *Shea Williams introduced two South Harbor students to the Board. The students shared some highlights*

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*of their time in the program. A handout on both programs was provided in advance to the Board and Shea reviewed the key items in the handout.*

- B. FSU-CSO Updates and/or Report. *Dr. Michele Siderman referred the Board to the May 2026 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout.*
- C. Discuss ESP Evaluation: *Dr. Michele Siderman reviewed the ESP evaluation. Overall, the Board reported being highly satisfied with the management company. The full evaluation will be distributed to the Board following the meeting.*
- D. Updates: Barry and Cedar Springs community buildings; Muskegon Community enrollment; Bethany Residential program.  
*Dr. Heidi Cate provided an update on the Muskegon Community enrollment. Leslie updated the Board on the Barry and Cedar Springs community buildings. Due to delays from the State agencies - BCC and BFS, she requested that we allow the performance bond completion date to be moved from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> for the Barry community building. The Board supported this change. Dr. Heidi Cate shared the request for Lighthouse to serve the Bethany Christian Services Ridgeview Residential Program. The Board was provided with the Growth Management template along with a budget. The program would begin virtually under Lighthouse South until approved by the Ferris Board of Trustees in October 2026. A motion to approve the resolution to provide the educational services for the Ridgeview Program was made by Erica Galat and supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford. The motion passed unanimously.*
- E. Cell Phone Policy. *Dr Heidi Cate reviewed the cell phone policy which complies with the new legislative requirements. A motion was made by Todd Penning to approve the cell phone policy as presented and was supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford. The motion passed unanimously.*
- F. Title VI Policy. *Dr Heidi Cate reviewed the Title VI policy received from Thrun Law which addresses non-discrimination, anti-harassment and non-retaliation. A motion was made by Patrese Davis-Beckford to approve the Title VI policy as presented and was supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.*
- G. Honorary Diplomas. *Dr. Heidi Cate discussed the request for an honorary diploma. A motion was made by Todd Penning that the school will not issue honorary diplomas to students. The motion was supported by Erica Galat and passed unanimously.*
- H. Approve 2026-27 Board Meeting Dates. *The Board was provided with proposed dates for the 2026-27 Board meetings. The Board requested that a strategic planning meeting be added to the calendar on October 27, 2026 proceeding the Regular Board meeting. A motion was made by Todd Penning to approve the proposed meeting dates with the addition of the strategic planning meeting. The motion was supported by Dr. Brenda King and passed unanimously.*
- I. Integrity Educational Services Reports
  - 1. Finance reports

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- a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the March 2026, financial statements. Todd Penning made a motion to accept the March 2026 check register. The motion was supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford. The motion passed unanimously. Leslie also shared the equipment bid results for the new kitchen equipment. The Hope Academy Board of Directors, as the School Food Authority, has authorized a total expenditure for both locations of up to \$75,000 from the food service funds. The Lighthouse Board was also supportive of spending the excess food service funds.*
- b. Draft 2026-27 Budget. *Leslie Cummings stated that she will add Cedar Springs to the 2026-27 budget for the May budget hearing. The Board did not have further comments on the 2026-27 draft budget.*
- c. Review Bank RFP Responses. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the banking responses summary provided to the Board in advance of the meeting along with the Choice One proposal. Erica Galat made a motion to approve Choice One as the new bank for the school contingent on approval to change the bank from the Integrity Educational Services Board. The motion was supported by Todd Penning and passed unanimously.*
- d. BHS Insurance Proposal. *Mark Bergsma presented a proposal to switch the insurance carrier on the EPL line of coverage and combine it with Hope Academy of West Michigan and Integrity Educational Services (IES). He assured the Board that this would not impact the other lines of coverage provided by Philadelphia. Leslie Cummings stated that any increased costs of the change would be paid by IES. A motion was made by Dr. Brenda King to allow the EPL coverage to be combined with Hope and IES. The motion was supported by Patrese Davis-Beckford and passed unanimously.*

2. Human Resources Reports. *Leslie Cummings shared that recruiting is beginning for the 2026-2027 school year.*

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

**VII. Correspondence.** *The graduation announcement for the Muskegon Community Building was shared with the Board.*

**VIII. Extended Public Comment.** *None.*

**IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular and Budget Hearing Meeting Date.**

May 19, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.  
Lighthouse Academy – South Campus  
3330 36<sup>th</sup> St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

**X. Adjournment.** *A motion was made by Todd Penning to adjourn the meeting and it was supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:50 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*

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*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: 5/19/26

Approved by:



Angel Bunn  
Board Secretary

Date: 5/19/26