

# **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:** May 20, 2025

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

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

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call.** *Peter VanGeldereren called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.*
  - A. Board Members Present.** Peter VanGeldereren, Todd Penning, Aaron Toffoli, Dr. Brenda King and Patrese Davis-Beckford.
  - B. Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** Angela Bunn and Erica Galat.
  - C. Others Present.** Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Dr. Michele Siderman, FSU Representative; Lucas Yax, Assistant Superintendent of Juvenile Justice and Residential Programs (virtual); Stacey Martinez, School Leader; Shea Williams, School Leader; Sherri Nash (virtual), School Leader; Ronda Dyer, School Leader (virtual); and Tracy Clawson, Recording Secretary.
- II. Public Comment (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*
- III. Approval of Agenda.** *A motion to approve the agenda was made by Todd Penning and supported by Dr. Brenda King. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. Consent Calendar.**
  - A.** Approval of April 29, 2025 Proposed Regular and the Special Board Meeting Minutes. *A motion to approve both sets of minutes was made by Todd Penning and supported by Dr. Brenda King. The motion passed unanimously.*
- V. Old Business.** *None*
- VI. New Business.**
  - A.** Oath of office for Patrese Davis-Beckford. *Peter VanGeldereren read the Oath of Office statement aloud and Patrese Davis-Beckford took the oath of office. The oath of office was signed and notarized.*
  - B.** FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report - Dr. Michele Siderman. *Dr. Michele Siderman reviewed the FSU Board Update document and highlighted any key points within it. She informed the board of upcoming dates that will be available for student engagement opportunities with FSU.*
  - C.** DAN Update. *The DAN Update was provided to the Board in the meeting handouts. No further discussion took place.*

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- D. Annual Crime Statistics report. *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the annual crime statistics report with the board and discussed the meaning of the data within it as it relates to state reporting guidelines.*
- E. Approve 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbooks. *Any updates to the handbook were shared with the Board. A motion was made by Todd Penning to approve the handbooks as presented, and was supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously.*
- F. Approve 2025-2026 Important Dates Calendars. *A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli to approve the 2025-2026 Important Dates Calendars as presented, and was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously.*
- G. Update Barry County. *Leslie Cummings presented and reviewed the terms of the lease agreement between Lighthouse Academy and Kellogg Community College for the Barry Co. Community program 2025-2026 school year. Leslie also updated the Board on construction for the future location of the program. A motion was made by Dr. Brenda King to approve the lease and was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously.*
- H. Board Development Credits/Reports. *None.*
- I. Integrity Educational Services Reports.
1. Financial Reports
- a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the monthly financial report and discussed the April financial activity. A motion was made by Todd Penning to approve the monthly check register and the motion was supported by Dr. Brenda King. The motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Approval of 2025-2026 Tech Support Contract with Kent ISD. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the tech support contract agreement for the upcoming year between Lighthouse Academy and Kent ISD. Todd Penning made a motion to approve the contract as written, and was supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously.*
- c. 2025-2026 School Year Proposed Budget:
- 1) *A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli to suspend the rules for Public Hearing, and was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously.*
  - 2) *Leslie Cummings reviewed the key assumptions included in the 2025-26 proposed budget and answered any questions that arose from the Board.*
  - 3) *There was no public comment.*
  - 4) *A motion was made by Todd Penning for resumption of rules for Public Hearing, and was supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously.*

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- d. Approval of the 2025-2026 Operating Fund Budget. *A motion was made by Aaron Toffoli to approve the 2025-2026 school year operating budget as presented, and was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously.*
- e. Food Program Update. *Leslie Cummings provided the Board with an update regarding the status of finding a new food service provider for the upcoming school year. Leslie discussed the remaining steps of the process, and shared the projected timeline for selection with the Board. A special Board meeting will be scheduled in June to approve the selected vendor.*

2. Human Resources. *Leslie Cummings provided an update on recruiting efforts.*

**VII. Correspondence.** *None.*

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

**IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Meeting.**

June 24, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.  
Lighthouse Academy – South Campus  
3330 36<sup>th</sup> St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

- X. Adjournment.** *Motion was made by Todd Penning to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Aaron Toffoli. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:25 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.*

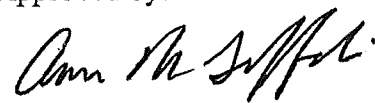
Submitted by:



Tracy Clawson  
Recording Secretary

Date: 6/24/25

Approved by:



Aaron Toffoli  
Board Secretary

Date: 6/24/25