

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 25, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

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

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call.** *Peter VanGeldereren called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.*
 - A. Board Members Present.** Peter VanGeldereren, Todd Penning, Aaron Toffoli, Angela Bunn, and Erica Galat.
 - B. Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** Dr. Brenda King.
 - C. Others Present.** Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Dr. Michele Sideman, FSU Representative; Lucas Yax, Assistant Superintendent for Residential and Juvenile Justice Programs (virtual); Sherri Nash, School Leader (virtual); Stacey Martinez, School Leader; Shea Williams, School Leader; Blair Martinez, Student Advocate; and Henry (student).
- II. Public Comment* (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*
- III. Approval of Agenda.** *A motion to approve the agenda was made by Aaron Toffoli and supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. Consent Calendar.**
 - A.** Approval of January 28, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes. *A motion to approve the January 28, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Todd Penning and supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.*
- V. Old Business.**
 - A.** Board Member Needed. *The Board reviewed Margaret Young's resume and application to the Board of Directors. The Board will review the applicants and select one in the March meeting to send to the Authorizer for approval.*
- VI. New Business.**
 - A.** School Spotlight: South Community (Stacey Martinez). *Stacey Martinez introduced Henry as a student who is participating in the NAF/JMG program. The student shared his experience at Lighthouse with the Board. Stacey Martinez presented the provided handout.*
 - B.** FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report – Dr. Michele Sideman. *Dr. Michele Sideman shared that Ferris State University is providing automatic enrollment for any graduating senior from a chartered school with a 2.35 or better GPA. Students will receive an automatic \$3,500/year scholarship. She discussed the new Board and ESP evaluation tools offered by*

Lighthouse Academy Board of Directors Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

FSU. The Board requested to complete the Board and ESP evaluations for the March Board meeting.

- C. *Cognia Re-Accreditation Update. Dr. Heidi Cate shared that the accreditation process was completed on February 13, 2025 with Cognia.*
- D. *Review Board Governance Subcommittee Progress. Heidi Cate shared the tool from AirWin for Board Succession planning. The Board will complete this document along with the Governance Planning Framework during its strategic planning meeting.*
- E. *DAN Updates. Handouts provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*
- F. *Update on Barry County. Approval of Non-Binding LOI and Board Resolution Requesting Address Change. Dr. Heidi Cate informed the Board that the non-binding LOI is being negotiated with the owner. Aaron Toffoli made a motion to request a change of address for Lighthouse Academy Barry County and the motion was supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously.*
- G. *Muskegon Community Building. Leslie Cummings reviewed the amended lease from the landlord, which would reduce the square footage being leased by the Academy. A motion to send the amended lease to the Authorizer for review was made by Angela Bunn and supported by Erica Galat. The motion passed unanimously.*
- H. *Review and Approve MSP Emergency Operations K-12 Schools Site Plans. Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the plans tabled at the January meeting. A motion to approve the MSP Emergency Operation K-12 Schools Site Plans was made by Todd Penning and supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.*
- I. *Review and Approve Annual Education Reports. Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the Annual Education Reports tabled at the January meeting. A motion to approve the Annual Education Reports was made by Todd Penning and supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.*
- J. *Integrity Educational Services Reports.*
 - 1. *Financial Reports.*
 - a. *Monthly Financial Reports. Leslie Cummings reviewed the January financial reports with the Board. A motion to approve the January check registers was made by Erica Galat and supported by Angela Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.*

Leslie highlighted an opportunity to replace the school's network infrastructure using Erate Type 2 funds. The Board supported this opportunity.
 - b. *Review 2025-2026 ESP Agreement. Leslie Cummings shared that the Ferris CSO released a number of updates last week that need to be included in future ESP agreements. The Board approved sending the revised ESP agreement to Thrun for review.*

Lighthouse Academy Board of Directors
Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

- c. Discuss School Lunch Provider for 2025-26. *Leslie Cummings shared that the lunch program operated by GRPS at the South Community Building has been not been serving hot meals despite repeated requests. Contacts to other potential providers were made in February, but the program is not large enough. A committee of Lighthouse South staff will be formed to see if they would consider serving a hot lunch, if provided by GRPS.*

2. Human Resources Reports. *The Board received the Popcorn Praise handout.*

- K. Board Development Credits/Reports – Michigan Charter Schools’ Symposium (Angela Bunn). *Angela Bunn provided the Board with the key highlights from the sessions that she attended during the Symposium.*

VII. Correspondence. *The Board received the QPR Audit results from the Authorizer.*

VIII. Extended Public Comment* (limited to non-agenda items only). *None.*

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Meeting Date

March 25, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
Lighthouse Academy – South Campus
3330 36th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

- X. **Adjournment.** *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Aaron Toffoli and supported by Todd Penning. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:15 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
Filling in for the Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Aaron Toffoli
Board Secretary

Date: 02/25/2025

Date: 3-25-25

