

APPROVED



# Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence

## Minutes

### Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 5:30 PM

#### Location

Board Of Trustees is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Board Of Trustees' Monthly Meeting

Time: Jan 21, 2025 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Tue, until Jul 15, 2025, 7 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://mlkcs-org.zoom.us/meeting/tZUtceuspj4rE9EDOb1Jb9cCQnIV6cB4xnsU/ics?icsToken=DJg3TIA-IP3MTwL-](https://mlkcs-org.zoom.us/meeting/tZUtceuspj4rE9EDOb1Jb9cCQnIV6cB4xnsU/ics?icsToken=DJg3TIA-IP3MTwL-RAAALAAALtkhqUJuldSD2TC0FFQDNrxO54voBrhE0rGost3OL_O-FTjFMSLn9mjXej4pWBwWPmEgr1A5b8VBI76-zAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=eppMBExJSECS111CdoIQ9Q)

[RAAALAAALtkhqUJuldSD2TC0FFQDNrxO54voBrhE0rGost3OL\\_O-FTjFMSLn9mjXej4pWBwWPmEgr1A5b8VBI76-](https://mlkcs-org.zoom.us/j/81062485195?pwd=DKrpa7OhazdCK8mmnDJ1C0fLlgoVVy.1)

[zAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=eppMBExJSECS111CdoIQ9Q](https://mlkcs-org.zoom.us/j/81062485195?pwd=DKrpa7OhazdCK8mmnDJ1C0fLlgoVVy.1)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mlkcs-org.zoom.us/j/81062485195?pwd=DKrpa7OhazdCK8mmnDJ1C0fLlgoVVy.1>

Meeting ID: 810 6248 5195

Passcode: 422412

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One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US

Meeting ID: 810 6248 5195

Passcode: 422412

Find your local number: <https://mlkcs-org.zoom.us/j/81062485195>

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### **Trustees Present**

Alton Jones (remote), Bertha Wecher (remote), Darren James (remote), Diana Foskett (remote), Donna Carroll (remote), James Lightfoot (remote), Teremar Rodriguez-Vazquez (remote)

### **Trustees Absent**

Denise Pagan-Vega, Kiyota Garcia

### **Guests Present**

Kendra Salvador (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Diana Foskett called a meeting of the board of trustees of Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence to order on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 5:43 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

Donna Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting on 04-15-25.

Bertha Wecher seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

Diana Foscett	Aye
Alton Jones	Aye
Kiyota Garcia	Absent
Darren James	Aye
Donna Carroll	Aye
Denise Pagan-Vega	Absent
Teremar Rodriguez-Vazquez	Aye
Bertha Wecher	Aye
James Lightfoot	Aye

## **II. Executive Director's Report to the Board**

### **A. Executive Director's Report to the Board**

- **Principal Hiring Update:** Two of three Round 2 interviews completed. One strong candidate identified. Teacher panels are involved and leading Q&A. Third interview scheduled later that week.
- **Director of Student Support:** Internal candidate formally accepted the offer.
- **Employee Handbook Review:** Kendra requested more time be allocated during the June 6 meeting due to the number of proposed updates.
- **Parking Lot Expansion Project:**
  - Original \$207K bid has ballooned to \$500–600K due to new engineering requirements
  - Issues included regrading, underground drainage, and Public Works compliance
  - Kendra will review contract language and consult DESE to explore rebidding
  - Board encouraged soliciting new bids now that engineering plans are owned

### **B. Vote: Budget**

Donna Carroll made a motion to Approve FY 2025–2026 Budget.

Bertha Wecher seconded the motion.

- **Discussion:** Kendra Salvador reviewed updates since the last meeting:
  - Per-pupil tuition estimate increased due to Senate Ways & Means projections
  - One line item (data dashboard) came in \$14K over the placeholder
  - Overall budget remains conservative; projected revenue still supports operating needs
  - Teremar remained on the call to vote on this item

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### Roll Call

Donna Carroll	Aye
Teremar Rodriguez-Vazquez	Aye
Bertha Wecher	Aye
James Lightfoot	Aye
Darren James	Aye
Kiyota Garcia	Absent
Denise Pagan-Vega	Absent
Diana Foskett	Aye
Alton Jones	Aye

## III. Committee Updates

### A. Academic Excellence

**Presenter:** Kendra Salvador (on behalf of Kiyota Garcia)

**Discussion Summary:**

- **Student Outcomes:** 75% of students met DESE proficiency targets
- **Multilingual Learners:** All but 5 exited ESL services
- **Summer School 2025:** Scheduled for July 7–25, with morning academics and afternoon enrichment (music, dance, art, outdoor games)
- **Compliance Alert:** Diana reminded committees that **agendas and minutes must be posted publicly** via BoardOnTrack, especially with charter renewal on the horizon

### B. Finance Committee

**Presenter:** Diana Foskett and Kendra Salvador

**Discussion Summary:**

- **Strong Financial Standing:** Continued surplus and conservative budgeting
- **Banking Issues:** Concern raised about low-interest returns from Berkshire Bank
- **Action Items:**
  - Kendra to retrieve loan documents
  - Reach out to Berkshire for better investment options
  - Compare offers from Monson Savings and Peoples Bank
- **Commentary:** Darren James highlighted the stronger community presence and partnership interest shown by Peoples and Monson over Berkshire

### C. HR Committee

**Presenter:** Kendra Salvador

- **Summary:** No formal meeting. One teacher conflict resulted in a resignation and was resolved.

### D.

## FY 2025 Vote

### IV. Board Chair Updates

#### A. Motion to Appoint Donna Carroll as the new Clerk

Darren James made a motion to Appoint Donna Carroll as the new Clerk.

Alton Jones seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

Kiyota Garcia	Absent
Donna Carroll	Abstain
Bertha Wecher	Aye
James Lightfoot	Aye
Teremar Rodriguez-Vazquez	Absent
Darren James	Aye
Diana Foskett	Aye
Alton Jones	Aye
Denise Pagan-Vega	Absent

#### B. Motion to add Sherard as a new Board Member

Darren James made a motion to Add Sherard Johnson as a New Board Member.

James Lightfoot seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

Teremar Rodriguez-Vazquez	Absent
Denise Pagan-Vega	Absent
Donna Carroll	Aye
James Lightfoot	Aye
Kiyota Garcia	Absent
Diana Foskett	Aye
Alton Jones	Aye
Bertha Wecher	Aye
Darren James	Aye

#### C. Motion to add Nealon as Board Member

Donna Carroll made a motion to Add Nealon Lewis as a New Board Member.

Darren James seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

Denise Pagan-Vega	Absent
Teremar Rodriguez-Vazquez	Absent
Diana Foskett	Aye
Kiyota Garcia	Absent

**Roll Call**

James Lightfoot	Aye
Alton Jones	Aye
Donna Carroll	Aye
Bertha Wecher	Aye
Darren James	Aye

**V. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Carroll