APPROVED

Atlanta SMART Academy

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday January 26, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Directors Present
A. Bruce (remote), A. Kennedy (remote), B. Williams (remote), I. Lee (remote), L. Cofield (remote), M. Moss (remote), S. Scott (remote), V. Williams (remote), W. Brasher (remote), W. Newman-Johnson (remote)

Directors Absent
E. Ross

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

W. Newman-Johnson called a meeting of the board of directors of Atlanta SMART Academy to order on Monday Jan 26, 2026 at 5:36 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

A. Kennedy made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 12-15-25.
W. Brasher seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Oversight and Governance Committee

A. Update

- Discussed whether recruitment efforts should be focused in Fall or Spring
- Reminder for the upcoming mandatory SCSC Governance Training on February 10th, 12:00 pm - 4:00 PM & 11th, 9:00 AM - 4:00 pm
- Confirm if the Board Member background check has been completed - poll to be posted in the group communication channel

III. Finance, Facility, Development, and Strategic Partnership Committee

A. Update

- Confirmed VIP donors' gifts for the February Student Showcase
- Did not confirm that the 6-month rent payment will be deferred to the end of the lease
- Reminder that each Board Member is requested to sell 10 tickets to the Student Showcase
- Month-to-month revenue is expected to decrease due to the reduced headcount, and more budget adjustments are expected
- Payment to the accounting vendor has been remitted, which brings the account more current

IV. Other Business

A. Annual Student Showcase and Donor Appreciation

Board Members are required to sell 10 tickets to the showcase and contribute to the purchase of 25 donor tickets.

B. APS School Closing & Consolidation Strategy

- The Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education approved the consolidation and closure of 16 schools due to declining enrollment. Many schools operate below their capacity, paired with aging facilities and rising labor costs, which influenced the decision.
- Southwest Atlanta APS schools are the most significantly impacted, an area that is in proximity to Atlanta SMART Academy.
- Propose a hyperlocal canvassing effort.
- Geotarget social media ads and physical media like postcards, which have shown a positive impact on enrollment in the past.
- Partner with neighborhood associations and faith-based programs

- Identify 10 satisfied families and create a Parent Ambassador program with tiered referral incentives based on impact. Board to create a subcommittee led by Wanda Newman-Johnson.
- Build a feeder system partnership with after-school programs and youth sports programs.

V. Executive Director Updates

A. Update

- Students participated in one of the two annual field lessons covered by the activity fee and showcased their talents in the production of "Atlanta in Motion".
- Community Engagement included a Family Appreciation Luncheon, where 35 families participated.
- The production "The Children Marched, is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th, at 3:00 PM EST, with red carpet and doors opening at 2:00 PM. A Board Member is requested to speak during intermission.
- Board members signed up for the upcoming Science Fair and Career Day - Science Fair - Megan Moss, Wes Brasher, Veronica Williams. Career Day - Ivan Lee, Wanda Newman-Johnson, Wes Brasher.

B. Academic Updates

- Mid-year diagnostic report from iReady
  - 8th-grade reading increased 10%
  - 6-8th math 15% increased vy 15%
  - No growth-5% growth collect
  - Based on the results, an iReady consultant came to the school to help teachers design intervention programs to better support each student's needs
  - 6th and 7th-grade students have a co-teacher for students to be in smaller learning sessions and receive 1:1 support

VI. 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 7:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. Newman-Johnson