APPROVED

F.W. Parker Charter Essential School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday November 13, 2025 at 6:45 PM

Location
Parker School

http://parker.school/boardoftrusteesmeeting

Trustees Present
B. Harrigan, F. Fernau (remote), J. Fredericksen, K. Kintzing, K. Williams (remote), L. Hayner, M. Beam, M. Turnbull, N. Odekirk Hatlevig, P. Gordon, R. Egan, S. Reinhorn, T. Testa

Trustees Absent
C. Beasley, E. Moura, E. Sturgis, S. Razzetti

Guests Present
B. Wilusz, Jesse St. Laurent, K. Tedstone, M. Beganski

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

P. Gordon called a meeting of the board of trustees of F.W. Parker Charter Essential School to order on Thursday Nov 13, 2025 at 6:48 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

L. Hayner made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 10-09-25.
J. Fredericksen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D.

Welcome Parker Student Ambassadors

Pam Gordon welcomed student ambassadors: Jaiya, Kai, and Lindsay. Ambassadors will be going to CLEE conference the next day to share Parker's approach to student leadership. The same students recently led a PD session on student engagement at the Newton Public Schools PD day. Members of the Board praised Parker for our dissemination efforts.

Trustees broke into three groups to meet with student ambassadors to share a portfolio piece, what you love about Parker, and what could we do better. Trustees participated in two rounds of discussions with Parker students.

II. Finance update

A. Q1 Dashboard

Michelle McKenna presented to quarterly July - Sep financial dashboard. Based on current enrollment and a healthy waitlist, we project yearly enrollment of 394 students.

Michelle provided an update on the RFP for a new audit firm. We received proposals from seven firms, three of whom seem compelling. Michelle and Ellen are doing reference checks on two at the direction of the finance committee. New firm will be on 3 year term.

III. Executive Director report

A. Executive Director report

Brian Harrigan presented the executive director report

XC State championship is this weekend. Everyone invited.

Parker Fun Run 5K Nov 22

Finance 101 1/22

Looking at Student Work 3/25

Joint Committee on Education/Thrive Act - testimony on Beacon Hill resulted in anti-charter language is being removed from the bill. Act seeks to eliminate state receivership and create a more robust assessment and accountability system the includes more than standardized test scores.

Diverse Teacher Pipeline Taskforce - how can we grow a diverse teacher pipeline in MA? DESE grant proposal: hire a partner to launch and manage the Diverse Teacher Pipeline Taskforce, pilot the new teacher mentorship program providing stipends to mentors and

CFG coaches, pilot BIPOC recruiting program focused on paraprofessionals of color and pre-practicum students at Fitchburg State

Community Handbook Monique Beganski explained changes o community handboook process thru DESE

IV. Year 1 Implementation of the Development Plan

A. Year 1 Implementation of the Development Plan

Katrina Tedstone presented progress on the development plan

Completed tasks include hiring a development associate, and Chair and Executive Director meetings with Trustees. 94% of board have made a fundraising commitment. Case statement and BoT training with an emphasis on fundraising.

Year 1 tasks focus on how we ask, cultivating/stewardship, recording/organizing data, professional development for faculty staff and DevCom

Year 2 will move to online platforms that compile nonprofit information, Sizer Foundation Board, business outreach for sponsorship, data analytics, CRM evaluation, planned giving, alumni plan.

V. Academic Update

A. Academic Update – Review of MCAS performance

Deb Merriam led a detailed overview of Parker's 2025 MCAS scores. Deb compared our students' performance to sending districts, highlighting strengths and opportunities for improvement. Deb presented Parker's growth over time and disaggregated performance among students with disabilities and students with high needs.

Trustees engaged in a detailed discussion of the data and additional questions we hope to answer. For example, how do Parker students from a particular town compare to students who attend the traditional middle/high school in that town.

B. Competency Determination for graduation

Passing MCAS scores are no longer a DESE requirement for diploma eligibility

Therefore, each school district is required to determine its own measure for competency determination that show evidence in English, math, and science and US History. Students have shown 1) mastery of skills, 2) satisfactory completion of relevant coursework aligned to DESE frameworks.

Trustees discussed our Division 2 Gateway requirements as our Competency Determination. To earn a Parker diploma, students must successfully complete the Div 2 AH and Div 2 MST gateway requirements, typically at the end of 10th grade.

VI. Other Business

A. Comments from the Public

S. Reinhorn made a motion to approve Competency Determination policy as presented.
L. Hayner seconded the motion.
As required by DESE, the Parker Board votes to approve the Competency Determination (CD) Policy as written; in short, the local replacement for “passing” scores on MCAS [to be eligible to earn a diploma] is successful completion of Div 2 AH and Div 2 MST gateway requirements.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

L. Hayner made a motion to Close Meeting.
T. Testa seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. Odekirk Hatlevig

Documents used during the meeting

- Q1 Dashboard.pdf
- 2025 November Executive Director Report.pdf
- Proposed agenda 25-26.pdf
- Parker Community Handbook 2025-2026.pdf