

APPROVED



## ZEST Preparatory Academy Charter School

### Minutes

#### Finance Committee Meeting

---

**Date and Time**

Monday January 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM

**Location**

3130 Golf Ridge Blvd. Douglasville, GA 30135

---

**Committee Members Present**

B. Jones, C. James, H. Ridley, R. Palmer

**Committee Members Absent**

*None*

**Guests Present**

A. Jain (remote), G. Torres (remote), L. McDonald, M. Carruthers, R. Davis (remote)

---

**I. Opening Items****A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

H. Ridley called a meeting of the Finance Committee of ZEST Preparatory Academy Charter School to order on Monday Jan 12, 2026 at 5:16 PM.

**C. Approve Minutes**

C. James made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 12-08-25.

B. Jones seconded the motion.

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

## II. Finance

### A. Financial Overview & Updates

The Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the following financial items related to the track project and overall financial position:

- Budget vs. Actual Review
- Snapshot
- YTD Expense Ratio
- SCSC Comprehensive Framework
- Cash on Hand
- Rental Payments
- Budget Amendments for FY26

#### Next Steps / Actions

- Finance Committee to continue monitoring budget performance and cash position.
- Recommended budget amendments will be brought forward for formal board action as required.

### B. Enrollment Update

The Finance Committee received an enrollment update including:

- Current enrollment status
- Year-over-year trends
- Projections for the 2026–2027 academic year
- Retention & Recruitment Focus

#### Next Steps

- Leadership will continue to monitor enrollment trends closely.
- Updated projections and retention strategies will be shared as data continue to develop.

### C. FY26 Staffing & Hiring

The Finance Committee received an update on staffing and hiring considerations for FY 2026, with discussion focused on aligning decisions with enrollment trends, financial sustainability, and instructional priorities.

#### **D. Compensation schedules and Benefits**

The Finance Committee reviewed updates related to compensation schedules and employer benefits, including recent changes and reconciliation activities.

- The Board reviewed employer benefits, including coverage levels and associated costs.
- TRS updates were presented, including recent reconciliation activity.

#### **Next Steps**

- The Finance Committee will continue to monitor employee costs.
- Any recommended changes to compensation or benefits will be brought forward for Board review and approval, as appropriate.

### **III. Fundraising**

#### **A. ZEST Board of Directors and School Fundraising**

The Finance Committee discussed fundraising strategy and is **considering the reintroduction of the “Power of 25” campaign.**

### **IV. Facilities**

#### **A. Facility Planning — FY26 & FY27**

The Finance Committee received an update on facility planning priorities, including current and anticipated engagement with external facility partners.

### **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 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. Davis

---

*ZEST Preparatory Academy Charter School is a K-5 elementary school community that provides an academically rigorous, supportive, and joyful learning environment to develop the leader inside every student for lifelong educational achievement and impactful community service.*