DRAFT

Miles Ahead Charter School

Minutes

MACS Governance Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday November 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Location
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81431663711?pwd=CgKA92ufoqHPqjUScCKM9fIKXqx2mI.1

Committee Members Present
H. Lust (remote), H. Smith (remote), U. Sayers (remote)

Committee Members Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
H. Robinson (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

H. Smith called a meeting of the Governance Committee Committee of Miles Ahead Charter School to order on Thursday Nov 5, 2026 at 7:09 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

H. Lust made a motion to approve the minutes from MACS Governance Committee Meeting on 10-01-26.
H. Smith seconded the motion.
No discussion
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Governance Committee Updates

A. Governance Committee Updates

No Governance Committee updates

III. New & Other Business

A. Review RFP Responses to determine recommendations

The Committee reviewed the four proposals received in response to the FY2028 Financial Services Provider RFP. The following companies provided responses:

- 21Cobalt Consulting, LLC;
- Purpose Capital;
- Vertex Education (incumbent); and
- Hughes Walker Group, LLC.

Discussion and follow-up items

1. Hughes Walker Group, LLC has the highest pricing and does not have a lot of experiences with Georgia Charter Schools. The Committee decided to eliminate that response. We will not move froward with that company, so no additional follow-up for that company.
2. 21Cobalt - additional information needed on their technology costs and qualifications of support team at Harn & Associates; additionally, are there any CPAs on the team
    1. **Technology:**
        1. need information on the platforms 21Cobalt would use for MACS's general ledger, AP, payroll and reporting;
        2. how would they handle the move off the current Vertex-provided accounting system, including cost and timeline; and how the proposed MACS finance hub is hosted, secured and backed up.
    2. **Support team qualifications:** résumés for Michelle Watley and any other staff assigned to MACS, with credentials, years of school-finance experience, current client workload and hours committed to MACS.
    3. **Harn & Associates:** number and credentials of staff who would work on MACS; the specific tasks they would perform; their access to MACS data

and systems; their insurance coverage; other charter school clients; and how 21Cobalt reviews their work.

3. What is each company's record of measurably improving a client school's finances, not only maintaining its books.
    1. MACs would like a few examples (two or three), preferably Georgia charter schools, showing the condition before and after the engagement. Examples could include days cash on hand, SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework financial score, audit findings resolved, grant funds recovered, or fund balance. Each example should include a client contact who can confirm the results.
4. The Committee discussed how each firm would be held to measurable standards. The RFP (Section 4.2) sets minimum service levels, such as monthly close within 10 business days and the Board package at least 5 business days before meetings. The firms responded differently: some accepted all standards, some took exceptions, and some made acceptance depend on MACS inputs. Each firm will be asked to:
    1. Confirm, for each Section 4.2 standard, whether it accepts it as written and what it needs from MACS to meet it.
    2. Describe how performance will be tracked and reported to MACS (for example, a monthly or quarterly service-level report with evidence).
    3. Propose what happens when a standard is missed, such as a corrective-action plan, escalation, or a fee credit.
    4. The Committee's expectation is that standards will be written into the contract and reviewed at the quarterly service-level review described in RFP Section 5.2.
5. The Committee discussed the possibility of MACS using a professional employer organization (PEO) for payroll, benefits and HR. Only 21Cobalt's proposal addressed PEOs directly. Each firm will be asked to describe:
    1. Its experience working with schools that use a PEO, and which PEOs.
    2. How it would integrate PEO payroll and benefits data into the general ledger, grant charging and Board reporting.
    3. How TRS/PSERS eligibility, reporting and contributions would be handled under a PEO arrangement.
    4. Whether it would help MACS evaluate and select a PEO, and any effect on its scope or fee.
6. The Committee discussed whether firms' relationships with financial software companies could lower MACS's costs.
    1. Vertex includes software in its fee;
    2. 21Cobalt and Purpose Capital have MACS pay software costs directly.
    3. Each firm will be asked to list any partner, nonprofit or volume pricing it can pass on to MACS, with estimated annual software costs for MACS. Firms should also disclose any referral fees or commissions they receive from software vendors, as required by RFP Section 10.1.

7. The Committee discussed whether pricing would change if payroll processing were removed from the scope, for example if a PEO or MACS staff took it over. Each firm will be asked for a price with and without payroll processing, and to state which payroll-related work would remain in its scope, such as payroll-to-ledger reconciliation, etc

IV. 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 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. Smith