

APPROVED



# Memphis Merit Academy Charter School

## Minutes

### Monthly MMA Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Thursday February 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM

#### **Location**

Memphis Merit Academy

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PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEMPHIS MERIT ACADEMY BOARD MEETINGS - An opportunity for the public to address the Board will be provided at the conclusion of the agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak on any item are requested to identify themselves and indicate on which agenda item they wish to speak. The Board will provide an opportunity for the public to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes, unless granted additional time at the discretion of the Board. Testimony shall be limited in content to matters pertaining to Memphis Merit Academy. The Board may not take any action on matters discussed during the public testimony period that are not listed on the agenda.

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#### **Directors Present**

Aurelia McBride, Dimika Cavalier, Joseph McKinney, Reid Lanigan, Robin Dixon, Talunja Prophet

#### **Directors Absent**

Lashawn Lester, Timorie Belk

#### **Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

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Joseph McKinney, Robin Dixon

### Guests Present

Angelina Mccoach, Lakenna Booker, Steven Ross, Suzanne Landau (remote), Tasia Mitchum

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Aurelia Mcbride called a meeting of the board of directors of Memphis Merit Academy Charter School to order on Thursday Feb 19, 2026 at 5:33 PM.

Joseph McKinney arrived at 5:35 PM.

Robin Dixon arrived at 5:35 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

Talunja Prophet made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly MMA Board Meeting on 01-15-26.

Aurelia Mcbride seconded the motion.

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

## II. Review and Approval of Monthly Financials

### A. Approval of Monthly Financials

Joseph McKinney made a motion to approve monthly financials DEC 2025/JAN 2026.

Talunja Prophet seconded the motion.

- Security grant received
- Application submitted for Bloomberg grant 296K
- Current enrollment 497 — average 503 — goal 515 — cap 594 — Continue recruitment and detainment goals
- Largest expenses are personnel and contractor services

### MMARE

- Timely rent payment from tenants since switching to Progressive PM
- Unanticipated expenses due to snow storm
- HVAC 32K
- Granted property tax exemption projected 57% return of payment made

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

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Academic Achievement Committee**

committee chair absent - committee items will be discussed by Executive Director

#### **B. Development Committee**

- March tentative timeframe for ribbon cutting for upper school
- Considering a way to highlight the capital campaign around this ceremony

#### **C. Finance Committee**

- Financials are looking strong and sustainable — good trending growth

#### **D. Governance Committee**

- Onboarding potential board member — met with Ms. Karla Leeper who has a background in strategic planning and education
- After she has an opportunity to attend a board meeting, the committee will recommend her approval to the entire board

### **IV. Other Business**

#### **A. Executive Director Update**

- Reminded of school's mission
- Academic achievement committee updates discussed during this time
- On track to meet attendance goals — investments are working
- There was a coordinated trip to MS Valley State for college preview day for middle school scholars
- The upcoming budget will include education development for middle school
- Construction is under budget — able to build an outdoor classroom for middle school
- Adult ESL classes will relaunch after spring break — another example of how MMA is more than a school, community institution
- Spring benchmark testing begins next week — the academic achievement committee is reviewing data to ensure that measure are being met
- Ongoing engagement with the property management company for new tenants
- Coordinating necessary prep work required for a successful accountability hearing
- Working on FY26-27 budget — working to increase spending on academics
- Goal to publicly move MMA's pay scale above MSCS in order to recruit better, credentialed teachers
- This year's enrollment numbers will be paid next year - working to resolve attendance number issues that occurred due to the storm

- Working on anticipatory corrective action plans ahead of the accountability hearing  
— considering staffing adjustments
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#### **B. MMARE Financials- November**

See section A

#### **C. Property Manager Reports - Progressive PM**

### **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,  
Dimika Cavalier

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### **Documents used during the meeting**

- MMA Final Jan financials 02132026.pdf
- MMA - FY26 - January Financial Update.pdf
- Executive Director Report\_Feb\_2026.pptx.pdf
- JAN2026 MMARE Financial Package.pdf
- MMARE January 2026 Report.pdf

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\* 8-44-102. Open meetings -- "Governing body" defined -- "Meeting" defined. (a)All meetings of any governing body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times, except as provided by the Constitution of Tennessee...(ii) The provisions of this subdivision (b)(1)(E) shall not be construed to require the disclosure of a trade secret or proprietary information held or used by an association or nonprofit corporation to which this chapter applies. In the event a trade secret or proprietary information is required to be discussed in an open meeting, the association or nonprofit corporation may conduct an executive session to discuss such trade secret or proprietary information; provided that a notice of the executive session is included in the agenda for such meeting. (iii)As used in this subdivision (b) (1) (E): (a)"Proprietary information" means rating information, plans, or proposals; actuarial information; specifications for specific services provided; and any other similar commercial or financial information used in making or deliberating toward a decision by employees, agents or the board of directors of such association or corporation; and which if known to a person or entity outside the association or corporation would give such person or entity an advantage or an opportunity to gain an

advantage over the association or corporation when providing or bidding to provide the same or similar services to local governments; and (b)"Trade secret" means the whole or any portion or phrase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula or improvement which is secret and of value. The trier of fact may infer a trade secret to be secret when the owner thereof takes measures to prevent it from becoming available to persons other than those selected by the owner to have access thereto for limited purposes.