



Breakthrough Public Schools

Minutes

BPS and School Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 5, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Location

BPSPDLC at Hampden (Boardroom) - 10118 Hampden Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44108

Meeting of the Boards of Breakthrough Public Schools, Citizens Academy Southeast, Citizens Leadership Academy East, Village Preparatory School Cliffs, Village Preparatory School Willard, and Village Preparatory School Woodland Hills.

Directors Present

A. Garg, A. Lee, B. Schlang, D. Eisenberg, G. Burrows, J. Howard, J. Johnson, L. Zucca, M. Harris, S. Steinhouse

Directors Absent

A. KOPIT, C. Lipscomb, J. LeMay, L. Mimura, S. Vyas

Guests Present

A. McRae, C. Farmer, J. Padlan, M. Woerner

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Steinhouse called a meeting of the board of directors of Breakthrough Public Schools to order on Wednesday Mar 5, 2025 at 5:03 PM.

D. Eisenberg called the meeting of the school boards to order at 5:04 PM on March 5, 2025.

B. Record Attendance

C. BPS and School Boards Vote to Approve the Minutes of the January 29, 2025 BPS and School Board of Directors Meeting

A. Lee made a motion to approve the minutes from BPS and School Board of Directors Meeting on 01-29-25.

L. Zucca seconded the motion.

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

L. Zucca made a motion to approve the minutes from the School Boards of Directors Meeting 01-29-2025.

A. Garg seconded the motion.

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

D. BPS Spotlight

Principal Dan Norman shared an update about the priorities, successes, and challenges of this school year at the Southeast campus.

Priorities include creating greater building stability, setting students up for success.

Successes include support staff for scholars particularly in using restorative practices & implementing SEL, new curriculum change for ELA, Black History Month programs, principal coaching from Attuned

Opportunities to grow include enhancing student and staff culture (clear and consistent expectations, stabilization), strong finish to the year, enhance family engagement/connections strategies.

II. Public Comment

A. School Boards Public Comment

No one was present to speak.

III. FOB Update

A. FOB Updates

Making good progress on planning for the Bash - still looking for attendees and corporate sponsors.

IV. CEO Update

A.

CEO Update

Network Priorities/Metrics

- On track re: enrollment
- Out of school suspension is higher than target, but substantially down from last year
- Chronic absenteeism is significantly improved from last year

Special Education Profiles - SY23-24

- The board discussed the results of the Ohio Dept of Education and Workforce annual Special Education Profiles, with a focus on the two indicators where our SY23-24 outcomes were not meeting the bar set by the state and IDEA. BPS is submitting improvement plans where required.

Proposed School Calendar - FY25-26

- First day of school: Monday, August 18, 2025
- Last day of school: Thursday, May 28, 2026
- Extending instructional day to be 8-2:45
- 7 in-year professional development and conference days.

B. Financial Update & Preview of FY25-26 Budget

Financial Update:

- Projected deficit is on track - increased projected FTE enrollment.
- 4/6 entities are within revised budgeted expenditures. The two that are not we anticipate being able to bring in line (or finding additional money to cover).
- 5/6 network entities are projected to end FY25 with net income above board-approved budget.
- FY24 school audits are complete with no issues found.
- RFP process kicking off this spring for annual audits/990 preparation, banking.

Proposed FY25-26 Budget

- Most parts of the budget & approach are not changing for next year - continuing to work on the two commitments: balanced budget by FY27 & Equity floor for scholars.
- For next year's budget, we are assuming enrollment declines, consistent with past enrollment trends. This assumption allows us to plan more strategically and avoid having to make hard decisions midyear. However, academic capacity will be unchanged and will remain the basis of staffing.
- Budgeting a slight decline in per pupil revenues.

- The Board discussed a proposal to legally merge some of the schools (day-to-day school operations, academics, family and staff experience would stay the same, campuses would continue to operate). Provides some financial and network-level operational efficiencies.
- Asking the board for approval on a proposed deficit of \$4M, including mergers, for next year's budget.

C. NLT Reports

V. Committee Updates

A. Academic Excellence

- Reviewed and approved home office org chart about structure to maximize student outcomes
- Focused on most support for principals - ensuring we're starting the year with the orientation about what principals need to be most effective.
- Discussion about implementation of academic strategy and how to make critical shifts for next year

B. Finance

A. Lee made a motion to approve the BPS January 2025 financial reports as presented.
J. Johnson seconded the motion.

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

L. Zucca made a motion to approve the schools' January 2025 financial reports as presented.

A. Garg seconded the motion.

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

C. Governance

Governance committee is looking to add four members to the board for next year. Have a strong pool, still looking to add someone with human resources/capital experience.

Planning for a board retreat in June/July.

Aditi Garg has been nominated and has accepted, pending Board approval, the role of chair of the school boards.

D. CEO Support and Evaluation Committee

VI. School and BPS Boards Approve Consent Agenda

A. School Board Vote to Approve Consent Agenda

M. Harris made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

L. Zucca seconded the motion.

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

VII. Sponsor Updates

A. CMSD Updates

Contract meeting is scheduled for April 1st. Most changes will be minor legal changes.

Spring site visits will be March 31 and include electronic surveys to families, students, and staff. Debrief from the site visits will be presented at the April meeting.

B. Buckeye Updates

Sunshine & Open Meeting training deadline is upcoming.

Site visit conducted 3/4, had a wonderful conversation with Principal Brownrigg. Report will come in April

VIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Personnel Matters

A. BPS Board vote to enter executive session

J. Howard made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

A. Lee seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

C. Lipscomb	Absent
A. Lee	Aye
L. Zucca	Aye
S. Steinhouse	Aye
J. Howard	Aye
J. LeMay	Absent
B. Schlang	Aye
L. Mimura	Absent
M. Harris	Aye
G. Burrows	Aye
S. Vyas	Absent
A. Garg	Aye
D. Eisenberg	Aye
J. Johnson	Aye
A. KOPIT	Absent

B. School Boards vote to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters

L. Zucca made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

A. Garg seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

L. Mimura	Absent
A. KOPIT	Absent
A. Garg	Aye
G. Burrows	Aye
M. Harris	Aye
D. Eisenberg	Aye
S. Vyas	Absent
L. Zucca	Aye
J. LeMay	Absent
C. Lipscomb	Absent

IX. 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 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Steinhouse