APPROVED

E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Minutes

E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
HS Think Tank
4501 Kansas Ave NW
Washington, DC 20011

Trustees Present
F. Sutton, G. Oleaga Cala, J. Hanna, J. Niles, K. Simpkins, L. Johnson-Law, L. Robinson Mills (remote), M. Kovner, R. Jones, R. Payes (remote)

Trustees Absent
M. Hall, R. Laine

Guests Present
A. Brooks, Brittany Wagner-Friel, Danielle Jones (remote), Dominique Moore (remote), Edward Santiago, J. Rydstrom, Julita Blair, K. Wynne, P. Rayamajhi, Raven Reeder, Rob Murphy, T. Barton, Zach Israel (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

F. Sutton called a meeting of the board of trustees of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School to order on Wednesday Feb 11, 2026 at 6:04 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

F. Sutton made a motion to approve the minutes from E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on 12-10-25.
R. Jones seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

Zach Israel shared three areas of feedback regarding his experience as an E.L. Haynes parent:

- A desire for greater transparency around the decision-making process and rationale for weather-related closures.
- Improved clarity and accuracy in attendance record-keeping, including clearer processes for families to address potential attendance errors (e.g., when a student is marked absent but was present).
- A more streamlined process for submitting required public health documentation, such as dental records and proof of immunizations.

II. CEO Updates

A. CEO Updates

Chief Executive Officer Toni R. Barton provided high-level updates on the following:

- Her five major strategic priorities.
- The Community Design Group process.
- Recent and upcoming external relations and stakeholder engagement efforts.
- E.L. Haynes being named a Top-10 Finalist at the ASU+GSV Education Innovation Showcase in April.

III. School Performance

A. VOTE to Adopt the ASPIRE Framework

F. Sutton made a motion to formally adopt the ASPIRE accountability framework as E.L. Haynes Public Charter School’s charter goals and primary accountability system, contingent upon approval by the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB); and further resolved, that upon Board approval, the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to submit a charter amendment request to DC PCSB reflecting the adoption of the ASPIRE accountability framework.
L. Johnson-Law seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Middle of the Year (MOY) Data

Chief Executive Officer Toni R. Barton presented mid-year academic data to the Board. She and Rob Murphy, Managing Director of Instruction, shared that the most recent data reflect significant academic gains at the middle school level.

C. STEAM Planning and Partnership Update

Chief Executive Officer Toni R. Barton provided an overview of the partnership with WestEd and outlined how cross-campus leaders will collaborate to develop and begin implementation of the E.L. Haynes PK–12 STEAM+ framework. She noted that this work will unfold over multiple years, with a primary milestone of integrating key decisions into a single, coherent PK–12 STEAM+ framework by Summer 2026.

IV. Audit, Finance, and Facilities

A. FY26 Mid-Year Financials

Interim Chief Financial Officer Justin Rydstrom presented the FY26 mid-year financial outlook, noting both significant increases in revenue and corresponding increases in expenditures. He shared that the organization’s approach is to remain nimble—making strategic investments when academic data and organizational priorities support doing so.

B. FY27 Budget Planning Updates

Interim Chief Financial Officer Justin Rydstrom provided an overview of the FY27 budget planning process, noting anticipated citywide funding shifts, including changes to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) as DC revenue growth slows.

C. Facilities Opportunities

Interim Chief Financial Officer Justin Rydstrom shared that the facilities team and the Audit, Finance, and Facilities Committee continue to monitor and evaluate facilities opportunities aligned with the organization’s strategic and academic priorities.

V. Governance

A. Recruitment Updates

Governance Committee Chair Roshelle Payes provided an update on ongoing trustee recruitment efforts, including outreach to potential alumni and middle school family representatives. Senior Director of External Relations and Strategic Initiatives Katie Wynne noted upcoming board planning needs, including adding at least one trustee to the Governance Committee this year to strengthen capacity heading into next year, and identifying a new Board Secretary for SY2026–27.

VI. Community Relations Committee

A. Highlight Upcoming Community Events

Senior Director of External Relations and Strategic Initiatives Katie Wynne highlighted upcoming community engagement opportunities and encouraged trustees to participate in events and activities in support of the school's outreach and relationship-building efforts.

VII. Closed Session

A. Confidential Business Information

F. Sutton made a motion to move into closed session to discuss confidential business information and personnel matters, in accordance with DC Code Section 2-575(b).
L. Johnson-Law seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
F. Sutton made a motion to approve the contract with Attuned Education Partners, acknowledging the conflict of interest disclosure.
L. Johnson-Law seconded the motion.
Trustee Natalie Gordon left the meeting before deliberation and voting took place. She returned once the vote was completed.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Personnel Matters

The board discussed confidential personnel matters.

VIII. 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
F. Sutton