APPROVED

Rooted School - New Orleans

Minutes

Rooted School Board of Directors: Committee of the Whole

October Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday October 29, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Location
Rooted School @ SUNO
College of Education and Human Development
6701 Press Drive
New Orleans, LA 70126

MEETING NOTIFICATION
Wednesday, October 29, 2025
5:00 PM Central Time

IN PERSON MEETING:

Rooted School
6701 Press Drive
SUNO School of Education & Human Development

ROOM : 106 - SOCIAL HALL

VIRTUAL OPTION:

If you wish to join the meeting virtually:

When: Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 5:00 PM Central Time

*You must register at least 24 hours in advance for this meeting if you wish to participate virtually. You may contact the Rooted School Main Office at 504-383-4654 or email us at frontoffice@rootedschool.org

Frank Ingargiola is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rooted School Board of Directors Meeting
Time: Oct 29, 2025 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3224513832?pwd=WebHvOpuFXabUUKpDEU4zEMM08peF9.1&omn=83102549768
Meeting ID: 322 451 3832
Passcode: Board

One tap mobile
+13017158592,,3224513832#,,,,*144041# US (Washington DC)
+13052241968,,3224513832#,,,,*144041# US
Join instructions
https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/83102549768/invitations?signature=1Xfpg5PaIY0UWj3uKDp94Ix4UyP8yyRmJB83iiJDTGU

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Pursuant to emergency proclamation 30-JCE 2020, the Rooted School New Orleans Board hereby certifies that it will conduct all meetings scheduled for 2025 - 2026, in person (unless otherwise designated), at 6701 Press Dr. in the College of Education Building & Human Development on SUNO's campus in the Social Hall (Room 106) on the 1st Floor.

Board meetings shall be held in this manner until further notice.

Directors Present
H. Campbell, L. Diaz, M. Quinn, N. Patrick, S. Glapion

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
F. Ingargiola

Guests Present
K. Karpinski

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

M. Quinn called a meeting of the board of directors of Rooted School - New Orleans to order on Wednesday Oct 29, 2025 at 5:11 PM.
All Board members were in attendance:

Shannon Glapion - Late
Ha'reanna Campbell - Late

Joe Daschbach [EdOps] - Virtual Presentation

C. Approve Minutes

L. Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes from Rooted School Board of Directors: Committee of the Whole on 08-20-25.
N. Patrick seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

H. Campbell	Absent
L. Diaz	Aye
M. Quinn	Aye
S. Glapion	Absent
N. Patrick	Aye

II. PUBLIC MEETING PORTION: WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

A. Rooted School Mission Moment with Khloe Cola:

Ms. Khloe Cola was unavoidably detained, but will make a video presentation for the Board and ship that to Ms. Karpinski for distribution to all Board Members.

B. Budget Update - FY 2024 - 2025 [Q4] Closeout and Overview of 2025 - 2026

Joe Daschbach presented an overview of the 2025 Q4 closeout as well as the 2025 - 2026 Board Approved Budget [Q1]

- Currently, Rooted's financial position is considered strong with over 200 days of cash on hand.
- Projected forecasts indicate that Rooted will close FY 25 - 26 with a modest cash surplus.

C. Discussion of Updates to the Rooted School Mission Statement

Executive Director, Kaitlin Karpinski, discussed the expansion of Rooted's Mission & Vision statement to include the following:

Nursing Pathway
Social Work Pathway

Ms. Karpinski unveiled her plans for both new programs and continuing to grow out our current tech IBC program.

D. First Reading Draft Policy - AI Policy

FIRST READING:

The Board was asked to review and provide feedback/input to the draft Rooted School AI Policy.

PROPOSED BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Change nomenclature from ***Google Bard*** to ***Gemini*** in the policy.
- Review policy to ensure that it is primarily a "Use Policy" and not a "Punitive Policy."
- It should be considered a roadmap for student use moving into the future.

E. First Reading Draft Policy - Act 680

FIRST READING:

The Board was asked to review and provide feedback/input on the Rooted School Act 680 Policy.

ACT 680 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, called the "*Given Name Act*," mandates schools adopt a policy implementing the provisions of the Act. The Act provides that a school governing authority shall not adopt a policy that provides for an inquiry into a school employee's or student's pronouns that are inconsistent with the person's biological sex, nor shall it adopt a policy that provides for an inquiry into a school employee's or student's name other than the person's legal name or a derivative thereof.

Note: This proposed policy was drafted by our legal counsel, Adams & Reese. This policy should not be subject to significant revision as Act 680 is part of LA Legislative Code.

****All feedback will be heard and respected.***

LINK TO ACT 680 BELOW:

https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382701

F. Impact of Federal Government Shutdown - NSLP & Food Insecurity Issues

The Board discussed the numerous proposed options regarding how to handle food insecurity among our students and families, given the impending suspension of both the SNAP and WIC programs due to the government shutdown.

- The Board will discuss recent concerns around the closing of the SNAP and WIC programs.
- Impact of government shutdown on NSLP
- Possible short-term considerations to address food insecurity among our families

III. PUBLIC MEETING PORTION: ACTION SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

A. LDOE Certificated & Differentiated Stipends for 2025 - 2026 School Year

L. Diaz made a motion to approve the LDOE Differentiated and Certificated stipend distribution plan.
N. Patrick seconded the motion.
I. Differentiated Compensation:

Rooted School Distribution Plan Guidance published by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) regarding the statewide allocation made by the Louisiana Legislature in 2024 for Differentiated Compensation states:

These funds may be used in any proportion appropriate to address recruitment and retention needs, in any of the following four categories:

Stipends for teachers in critical shortage areas as determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary
Education (BESE):

§ Stipends for highly effective teachers.

§ Stipends for teachers working in high need schools defined as those with an EconomicallyDisadvantaged rate of 85% or higher.

§ Stipends for teacher leadership positions.

Rooted School was allocated a total of $3,859 for distribution. Because Rooted School meets the definition above for Economically Disadvantaged, the Rooted School Board of Directors approves a distribution plan to use the funds to provide a stipend distributed equally across staff members in the following category:

§ Stipend for Teachers - Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Technology, Special Education Eligible staff members who are working at Rooted School on 12/1/2025 will receive the stipend in
December 2025.

II. Certificated and Support Staff Compensation:

State Allocation Rooted School Distribution Plan Guidance published by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) regarding the statewide allocation made by the Louisiana Legislature for Certificated and Support Staff Compensation states:

The legislative intent is that staff receive the stipend amount in alignment with the positions utilized to allocate the funds. Certificated and support staff should be provided the stipends in the exact amount of $2,000 for certificated and $1,000 for support staff.

As such, the Rooted School Board of Directors approves a distribution plan to use the funds to provide:

§ $1,000 stipends for school personnel in roles listed in the guidance document as Support/Non-Certificated staff

§ $2,000 stipends for school personnel in roles listed in the guidance document as Certificated staff

The exact Object and Function codes may be found in the LDOE guidance.

Eligible staff members who are working at Rooted School on 12/1/2025 will receive the stipend in December 2025.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

H. Campbell	Aye
S. Glapion	Aye
L. Diaz	Aye
N. Patrick	Aye
M. Quinn	Aye

B. 2025 - 2026 PUPIL PROGRESSION PLAN UPDATE & VOTE

M. Quinn made a motion to approve the updated Rooted School Pupil Progression Plan.
S. Glapion seconded the motion.
Dr. Lucas Diaz asked to review the newly proposed ***Civics*** curriculum.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Diaz	Aye
M. Quinn	Aye
H. Campbell	Aye
S. Glapion	Aye
N. Patrick	Aye

C. BOARD INVESTMENT UPDATE & VOTE

M. Quinn made a motion to move forward with L.A.M.P. investment strategy in the amount of $250,000.
L. Diaz seconded the motion.

- Mark Quinn asked for the L.A.M.P. prospectus
- $250,000 initial investment amount
- Follow the Rooted investment portfolio throughout FY 2025 - 2026 to assess interest earned and viability of future investments

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

Roll Call

S. Glapion	Aye
H. Campbell	Aye
M. Quinn	Aye
L. Diaz	Aye
N. Patrick	Aye

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

A. 2025 - 2026 UPDATE ON BOARD CONFIGURATION

- Ms. Karpinski discussed the need for 2 additional Board members.
- More information and support will be needed in securing Board members who are passionate about Rooted's Mission and are willing to commit to the work on behalf of that mission/vision.

B. DISCUSSION ON REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ms. Karpinski advanced the possibility of committee structures:

1. Academic Committee
2. Fundraising Committee
3. Governance Committee

This item was tabled for future board meeting discussions. No decision was rendered at this meeting.

C.

UPDATES ON ATTENDANCE AND CURRENT ENROLLMENT

Current enrollment is 142 students.

Ms. Karpinski acknowledged that enrollment has decreased since August 2025 due to out-of-state transfers, an increase in homeschooling, hardship transfers and a general reduction in the high school age demographic both city-wide and state-wide.

D. UPDATE ON UPCOMING NOPS SITE VISITATION / AUDIT

Ms. Karpinski shared that the NOPS site audit will be taking place on 10/30/2025.

E. UPDATE ON CHARTER RENEWAL PROCESS

Ms. Karpinski shared the new metrics for charter renewal:

- Metrics for renewal
- General overview of renewal process

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 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Quinn

Documents used during the meeting

- ROOT - Summary Presentation - August 2025 vII.pptx
- FIRST READING - PROPOSED AI POLICY.pdf
- FIRST READING - PROPOSED ACT 680 POLICY.pdf
- 2025 Differentiated Compensation.pdf
- DRAFT 2025-2026 Rooted School Pupil Progression Plan.pdf
- Rooted School Board of Directors Executive Director Report 2025-26.pptx
- Nursing Program Proposal_Rooted School at SUNO_with fdbk.pdf
- Social Work Program Proposal_Rooted School at SUNO.pdf

We exist to provide our students personal pathways to financial freedom.