Rooted School South Carolina

Rooted School South Carolina- Founding Committee Meeting

Published on November 2, 2026 at 5:38 PM EST

Date and Time

Thursday November 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM EST

Location

Virtual Via Zoom

This meeting is held in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (§30-4). The agenda was posted in accordance with applicable law.

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**6:00 PM**
A.	Record Attendance		Felisa McDavid	1 m
B.	Call the Meeting to Order		Randall Jackson	
C.	Confirmation of Quorum and Notice		Felisa McDavid	1 m

The Secretary confirms the members present and absent and that a quorum is present; that this agenda was posted on the school website; and that Voorhees Charter Institute of Learning was notified of this

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meeting on [date] at [time], as S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-40-50(B)(15) and Procedure BED-R require.

D. Acknowledge Guest — Steven Carney — 5 m

Board meetings are open to the public, and members of the community are welcome to attend. Meetings include an opportunity for public comment in accordance with the Board's public comment procedures. Public attendance does not automatically provide an opportunity to participate in Board discussion or deliberation outside of the designated public comment period.
As part of C.R. Neal Academy's ongoing development and accountability, representatives from our authorizer, fellowship partners, Rooted School Foundation, and other invited partners or guests may also attend meetings to observe, provide support, or share relevant updates. The presence of guests does not alter the Board's responsibility for governance and decision-making.

E. Public Comment — Randall Jackson — 10 m

Members of the public may address the Committee for up to three minutes each, with a total of fifteen minutes for public comment. Speakers sign in with the Secretary or in the Zoom chat before this item begins. The Committee listens and does not respond during public comment; the Chair may ask the Executive Director to follow up.

F. Approval of the Agenda — Vote — Randall Jackson — 1 m

"I move that the Board approve the agenda as posted."

II. Consent Agenda — 6:18 PM

The Consent Agenda groups routine items for approval in a single motion, without separate discussion, so the Board's time is reserved for the substantive votes and updates later on this agenda. Any Trustee may request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda before the vote; on that request, the Chair moves the item to its own place on the agenda for individual discussion and a separate vote, and the remaining Consent Agenda items are then voted as presented.

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Motion: *That the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.*

Vote: Voice vote; roll call only on request.

A.	Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Randall Jackson	1 m

Approve minutes for Rooted School South Carolina- Founding Committee Meeting on October 1, 2026

III. Governance — 6:19 PM

A.	New Board Member Appointment	Vote	Randall Jackson	2 m

Consideration and Vote to Appoint Ron Rhames: The Board will consider and vote on the appointment of Ron Rhames to the C. R. Neal Academy Board of Directors, in accordance with the school's bylaws.

B.	Board Legal Counsel, Status Update	FYI	Thibaut Delloue	1 m

Turner & Caudell is engaged as independent South Carolina counsel to Rooted School South Carolina, separate from Rooted Schools Foundation’s counsel, under a signed engagement letter. Counsel’s first assignments are reviewing the Educational Services and Management Agreement before Committee approval and confirming its review of the Policy JBC amendment before it goes to Voorhees. This item is a status update.

C.	First Read, December Readiness Policies and Plans	Discuss	Steven Carney	15 m

Discussion and first read. No adoption vote is requested.

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These four documents are here for first read and feedback. We are not adopting anything tonight. Please send written comments to the Secretary by November 19. The Pre-Opening and Compliance Committee will review them and bring a recommendation to the December 3 meeting.

Recommend Questions for the Board:

- Graduation: Should the Rooted Graduate Outcome stay a school commitment rather than a diploma condition?
- MTSS: Which of the six optional improvements in the change log, if any, should go into the final version?
- Evaluation: Do the proposed evaluation weights and the ESMA changes in Policy CBI, Section 9 work for the Board?
- Act 123: Who will lead the election plan due January 7 for an election by April 1, 2027?

Board outcome: Feedback recorded by document. Written comments due November 19, 2026. Committee recommendation for December 3, 2026.

D.	Second Reading: Board Policy and Governance Package	Discuss	Steven Carney	30 m

The Board will conduct the first reading of the policy and governance package scheduled for consideration of adoption on November 5, 2026. The package includes:

1. Conflict of Interest Policy and disclosure forms.
2. Board Code of Ethics and acknowledgment.
3. Criminal Background Checks and Screening Policy.
4. Nondiscrimination and Nonsectarian Operation Policy.
5. Board Committee Charters and Operating Rules.
6. Board Officer Job Descriptions.

The package includes revised officer descriptions aligned with the charter application's responsibilities and the documented February bylaws. Any remaining governance questions will be identified during discussion.

Board discussion will focus on whether the proposed duties, procedures, committee responsibilities, and implementation expectations are clear and appropriate for C.R. Neal Academy. Members should identify revisions needed before November

consideration, particularly the proposed committee structure, screening responsibilities and costs, and officer responsibilities. Specific unresolved legal questions will be referred for advice as needed.

This is a second reading

Recommendation: Approve the
1. Conflict of Interest Policy and disclosure forms.
2. Board Code of Ethics and acknowledgment.
3. Criminal Background Checks and Screening Policy.
4. Nondiscrimination and Nonsectarian Operation Policy.
5. Board Committee Charters and Operating Rules.
6. Board Officer Job Descriptions.
as presented.

“I move that the Board adopt, on second reading, the Conflict of Interest Policy and disclosure forms, the Board Code of Ethics and acknowledgment, the Criminal Background Checks and Screening Policy, the Nondiscrimination and Nonsectarian Operation Policy, the Board Committee Charters and Operating Rules, and the Board Officer Job Descriptions, as presented in the November 5, 2026 board packet, effective immediately, and that the Executive Director post the adopted policies on the school website and provide them to Voorhees Charter Institute of Learning.”

E. Policy JBC, Enrollment: Amendment No. 1 Vote Steven Carney 2 m

Summary: Amends Policy JBC, adopted September 17, 2026, to (1) correct the admissions sequence so that no seat is offered before the lottery and rolling admission occurs only after the lottery while seats remain; (2) conform statutory citations to 2026 Act No. 123; (3) replace the school's authorization statement with the approved wording; and (4) remove a demographic benchmark citation that could not be verified in current law, keeping the outreach and monitoring commitment. Conforming changes to Procedure JBC-R, including the lottery date, are presented for information; they are made by the Executive Director under Policy JBC, Section VIII.

Motion: "I move that the Board adopt Amendment No. 1 to Policy JBC, Enrollment, as set out in the board packet for this meeting, effective immediately; that the amended

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policy be posted on the school's website in place of the September 17, 2026 version; and that the Executive Director transmit Policy JBC as amended, with Procedure JBC-R as conformed, to Voorhees University Charter Institute of Learning as the enrollment notice under pre-opening conditions EN-003, EN-004 and VM-006, once outside counsel confirms its review."

F.	Board Member Eligibility Attestations	Vote	Randall Jackson	5 m

Recommendation: a motion that the Board directs each member to complete and return to the Secretary, by November 30, 2026, the Board Member Eligibility Attestation included in the November 5, 2026 packet, under S.C. Code Ann. Sections 59-40-50(B)(14) and 59-40-75(D) and (F).

The motion directs members to complete the form. It does not decide anyone's eligibility. If a returned form raises a question, the Chair refers it to counsel before the December 3 meeting.

“I move that the Board direct each member to complete and return to the Secretary, by November 30, 2026, the Board Member Eligibility Attestation included in the November 5, 2026 packet, under S.C. Code Ann. Sections 59-40-50(B)(14) and 59-40-75(D) and (F).”

G.	Finance and Fundraising Committee Establishment	Discuss	Randall Jackson	5 m

Discuss the formation of a Board committee responsible for financial oversight, fundraising strategy, donor cultivation, and long-term financial sustainability.

“I move that the Board establish a standing Finance and Fundraising Committee with the charge stated on this agenda; appoint [name] as chair and [names] as members; and direct the Committee to bring a proposal for Friends of C.R. Neal Academy to the Board by [date], with no separate organization formed and no funds raised in that name until the Board approves the proposal.”

H.	Creation of Friends of C. R. Neal Academy:	Vote	Lalah Radney	5 m

Engage Board members in establishing Friends of C. R. Neal Academy, a community of philanthropic supporters, corporate partners, alumni, and advocates committed to

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advancing the school's mission through financial contributions, strategic partnerships, and ongoing engagement.

I.	Board Leadership and Participation:	Discuss	Lalah Radney	5 m

Identify committee leadership and members who will help develop fundraising priorities, leverage professional networks, cultivate prospective donors, and support the launch of Friends of C. R. Neal Academy.

IV. Enrollment & Community Engagement Update — 7:29 PM

A.	October 2026 Updates	Discuss	Andrea Black Evans	10 m

A. Application Month:
Applications open October 28, 2026.
Current grade-specific applications:

- Grade 6: 52
- Grade 9: 28
- Total: 80

Discuss current lead growth, grade-level distribution, lead-to-application conversion strategy, and areas requiring additional recruitment focus.

- Lead Growth: Continue building on our growing pipeline of prospective Founding Families through community events, school information sessions, strategic partnerships, grassroots outreach, and targeted digital marketing
- Lead-to-Application Conversion: Convert interested families into completed applications through personalized phone calls, text messages, email campaigns, weekly virtual information sessions, and direct engagement with school leadership. Our goal is a minimum of 250 applications per grade level

B. October 30 Founding Family Enrollment Event

- Over 50 people attend our information session
- 4 Partners Present to connect with our community (UNCF, Goodwill, Voorhees and Benedict College)

C. Conversion to Commitment

- We will discuss our conversion to commitment strategy

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	D. Board Commitment to Enrollment: • Board involvement towards enrollment goal of 260 applications in year 1.			
V.	**Finance & Funding**			
VI.	**Hiring and Staff Development**			**7:39 PM**
A.	Founding Assistant Director of Operations Hiring Update	Discuss	Steven Carney	10 m
VII.	**Pre-Opening & Facility Updates**			**7:49 PM**
A.	Facility Committee Updates **Facilities Update**	Discuss	Jonathan Johnson	5 m
B.	ESMA Development Committee T. Delloue will provide a brief update on ESMA status.	Discuss	Thibaut Delloue	5 m
VIII.	**Other Business**			
IX.	**Closing Items**			
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Randall Jackson	

Rooted School South Carolina
C.R. Neal Academy

Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (§30-4-90), the minutes of this meeting are public records. Approved minutes will be posted to the school's public website and made available for public inspection within a reasonable time.