Rooted School South Carolina

Minutes

The Rooted School South Carolina- Founding Committee Meeting

Post Submission Charter Application Oversight and Readiness

Date and Time
Thursday March 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
Virtual via Zoom (see URL below)

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.

Directors Present
A. Peters (remote), C. Davis (remote), C. Eide (remote), D. Gray (remote), F. McDavid (remote), M. Neal (remote), R. Jackson (remote), T. Delloue (remote)

Directors Absent
A. Black Evans, M. Fitzpatrick

Guests Present
L. Radney (remote), S. Carney (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Jackson called a meeting of the board of directors of Rooted School South Carolina to order on Thursday Mar 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve Minutes- January 8th, 2026

C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from The Rooted School South Carolina- Founding Committee Meeting on 02-05-26.
D. Gray seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. C.R.Neal Academy Development

A. Update: Charter Application Submission

Executive Director Lalah Radney announced key updates as we enter into preparation for the capacity interview.

- **C.R. Neal Academy charter application successfully submitted** to SC Department of Education and Voorhees University Charter Institute.
- Key updates:
  - Submission confirmed (Feb 2, 2026)
  - No deficiencies in completeness review
  - 533-page application with 266 appendices
  - ~272 qualified enrollment leads at submission
  - **Final decision expected by April 23, 2026**
- Upcoming milestones:
  - Capacity interviews (late Feb–early March)
  - Public hearing (date pending)

Board takeaway:
No action required, but continued preparation is critical

B. Mock Capacity Interviews

Steven Carney and Lalah Radney prepare the committee for Capacity Interview Preparation
and Key Expectations

- **Board holds the charter, not the operator**
- Sponsor will assess:
  - Governance independence
  - Financial oversight
  - Understanding of legal authority

Preparation Strategy

- Two mock interviews scheduled
- Required materials:
  - Question bank
  - One-voice messaging guide
  - RACI matrix
  - Artifact checklist
- Board expected to:
  - Participate in mock sessions
  - Demonstrate unified responses
  - Be ready to answer any question

Key Guidance from Training

- Governance = **oversight + data interrogation**
- Management = **execution of daily operations**
- Board must:
  - Use **data dashboards**
  - Ask evidence-based questions
  - Avoid operational interference

III. ESMA Development Committee

A. ESMA Committee Update

Chris Eide, ESMA Chair, provides ESMA updates:

- ESMA defines **Board–Operator relationship only**
- Facilities agreements will be separate
- Current status:
  - Draft (to be finalized post-authorization)
- Key issues under review:
  - Executive Director reporting structure
  - Hiring and removal authority
- Governance emphasis:
  - Board retains authority
  - Operator functions as a vendor

IV. Other Business

A. BoardOnTrack Profile Completion Reminder

Lalah Radney reviews Academic & Operator Monitoring Framework:

Board will monitor via **monthly dashboards**, including:

- Academic performance (MAP, growth, subgroup data)

- Attendance and enrollment
- Financial reports (budget vs. actuals)
- Compliance tracking (SPED, state requirements)

Equity Commitment

- Data must be **disaggregated by subgroup**
- **15%+ gaps trigger intervention**
- Required response:
  - Evidence-to-action plans
  - Timely corrective action

Board Chair, Randall Mack Jackson reviews Board Norms & Expectations:

- Use Rooted email accounts consistently
- Maintain BoardOnTrack profiles
- BoardOnTrack = official system of record
- Media inquiries routed to:
  - Lalah Radney
  - Board Chair

Standing meeting schedule:

- First Thursday of each month, 6:00–7:00 PM

Executive Director Lalah Radney reviews Key Action Items for March 2026:

- Complete capacity interview preparation:
  - Attend mock interviews
  - Review materials in Command Center
- Strengthen “one-voice” responses
- Practice:
  - Governance vs. management distinctions
  - Data-based decision-making
- Prepare for:
  - Public hearing participation
  - Sponsor-facing discussions

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 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. Radney

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.