APPROVED

BUTLER ACADEMY

Butler Academy

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
701 S 5th St,
Hartsville, SC
29550

Trustees Present
A. Morris, D. Buryj, E. Waters, H. Hoilett-Frierson, M. Bunnell, M. Stellingworth, S. Hill, S. Wilson

Trustees Absent
C. Robinson, E. Mobley, K. Flaherty

Guests Present
V. Reyes

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Bunnell called a meeting of the board of trustees of Butler Academy to order on Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 5:32 PM.

C.

Approve April Minutes

D. Buryj made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 04-16-25.
M. Stellingworth seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approve March Minutes

E. Waters made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 03-12-25.
M. Stellingworth seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. VP of Operations updates

A. Enrollment updates

A few seats have been released between retention or re-enrollment. There is still a solid waitlist for every grade level. Current reenrollment latest is 97%. This number will change come June and July.

There was also a new family orientation that was well attended. There will be another one closer to the start of the school year in June.
Everyone will have the meet the teacher the Monday before school starts.

III. Development

A. Fundraising updates

No updates presented

IV. President Updates

A. Action plan that 75% of teachers should be certified by 2025

B. Review Spring I-Ready data

Reviewed Math and Reading I-Ready data comparing the spring to the fall data. Was able to view the growth of the school overall comparing those performing early, mid or above grade level grew from fall to spring from 24% to 48% for Math. For reading, this grew from 36% to 54% at early, mid or above grade level. From fall to spring, those at two or three grade levels below for math decreased from 28% to only 14%, whereas for reading, it decreased from 29% to 19%.

Similar trends were celebrated across grade levels K-8th grade.

The Board celebrates the growth and achievement the academy has made in their I-Ready testing this year.

Currently, SC Ready and MAP testing is ongoing.

V. Governance Committee

A. Board Elections

Nominees for board elections have closed. Altogether there have been 9 nominees. 3 of the nominees are parents. With two returning board members given appointed seats, the board agrees to return to a 9-seat board with 4 appointed seats, 5 elected seats. While there is currently a returning board member who is a parent of a scholar at the school, in accordance of our by-laws, the remaining 3 parent nominees will vie for the 1 remaining parent seat.

Nominees are currently being contacted to check qualifications, acceptance of nominations and to make sure information is ready to send out to the voting body week of the 26th of May. Elections end May 30th.

B. Amend By laws

S. Wilson made a motion to Amend the by-laws to state: Article IV Section 1. Number of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall consist of 9-11 Trustees, with the majority elected and the minority appointed. A choice of membership of the Board will take place every two years. No more than 25% of Trustees shall be primary caregivers of scholars of the school as determined at the time of election.
S. Hill seconded the motion.
Originally the by-laws stated no more than 25% of Trustees shall be *parents.*
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Scholar Experience

A. Power made Practical Immersion program

There has not been a robust response from families participating and the committee is hoping the efforts continue after the summer break.

VII. CEO Evaluation Committee

A. 2024-2025 Evaluation cycle

The CEO evaluation survey closed on May 19th and the committee is drafting the memo. The VP of Operations evaluation survey is open and the deadline is May 23rd. Will call for an executive meeting to finalize, the memos then schedule a meeting with J. Reyes and V. Reyes beginning of June.

VIII. Facility

A.

High School plans

Unfortunately, discussions with Coker university to house 9th grade next year have proven not to be a good fit. There are discussions with Darlington Technical College, Hartsville campus to offer space for free for a year. The Board would like to discuss details further to discern on the details and discuss plans beyond 9th grade given potential funding changes on a state level. Will plan a telephone meeting with J. Reyes next week.

IX. Finance

A. Review Financials

D. Buryj presented the April financials. BA is still able to meet the minimum 30 days cash on hand in the bank. Highlighted that we are at about 83% of the budget for the fiscal year and are short of the fundraising goal this year. Estimated deficit is around $250K. There has also been a little increase in health insurance costs that were unexpected. The finance committee raised strong concerns on the importance of developing long term fundraising and development goals for the upcoming year.

B. 1st read of budget 2025-2026

This was tabled as during the meeting there was an announcement from the district about potential funding changes that may impact the budget. Will revisit soon at a virtual board meeting next week to discuss facility and budget.

X. 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 6:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Bunnell