APPROVED

Butler Academy

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday July 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
BA campus 510 S 5th ST

Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 23 · 5:30 – 7:00pm
Time zone: America/New_York
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/vgx-qpyx-ynr
Or dial: (US) +1 916-750-5675 PIN: 682 625 346#

Trustees Present
A. Morris, A. Rhodes, D. Carlton, D. Small, G. Woods, H. Hoilett-Frierson, J. Hudson, J. Klimek, S. Sneed

Trustees Absent
None

Guests Present
C. Brown, J. Reyes, R. Johnston, V. Reyes

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

H. Hoilett-Frierson called a meeting of the board of trustees of Butler Academy to order on Wednesday Jul 23, 2025 at 5:31 PM.

C. Approve July 3rd Minutes

J. Klimek made a motion to approve the minutes from 7/3/2025 Board Meeting on 07-03-25.
A. Morris seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Introduction of School President and Leadership Team

A. Introductions

Board members introduced themselves to the Leadership Team.

5:37:
Venesa Reyes, VP of Operations and Co-Founder
Jamesa Campbell, Director of Operations
Candace McCray, Dean of Students (role supports K-12 spectrum, advocate for students)
Rachel Johnston, K-5 Dean of Academics
Chenethia Brown, 6-8 Dean of Academics
Lauren Hasty, 9-12 Dean of Academics

5:48: Jerome Reyes asked his leadership staff about personal passions:
Each individual shared her
vision, culture, mission and personal/professional alignment with Butler
-focus on the students
-intentionality, knowing your students, continuity
-support for staff, teachers
-importance of belonging

J. Campbell, C. McCray, R. Johnston, C. Brown, L. Hasty left the meeting.

III. Enrollment Update

A. Enrollment updates

V. Reyes reports a lot of movement on the enrollment side:

456 Seats in K-9

430 filled, @94% capacity (good numbers for charter school)
74 scholars still on the waiting list (across grade levels)

numbers may be affected by the shift from Southside to home elementary schools
Class size increased from 20 to 22.

Increase year-round touch points with families (Spring, Summer, Fall), at festivals and local events; also engagements with Headstarts, Private Preschools, First Steps

IV. Summer Reading Program Update

A. J. Reyes emphasizes the importance of 3rd grade in reading transition.

Summer Reading Camp is a program to support students who do not meet testing goals; only two students were required to attend, but other scholars are nudged to attend; 6-8 scholars attended the program. End-of-summer testing determines whether a student needs to be retained. Butler's program is quite successful.
One challenge: as Butler is a year-round school, summer is very brief; summer programs are not as expansive as in other schools.

V. Finance

A. Enrollment and Financial support services

J. Reyes explains that even as Butler is at 94%, financial solvency is not impacted.

The Board will receive information about the financial services.

J. Reyes explained High School planning and enrollment: Currently, 39 scholars are enrolled in the first 9th grade class. Planning high school courses for a small number of students requires flexibility and awareness of teaching staff and students' availability.

A. Rhodes asked about the economy of scale issues (39 high school students): will this get easier as the next years add to the numbers (about 40 scholars for each year)? Response: while currently resources are shared with the middle school, eventually the high school will have dedicated faculty.

Scholars are also taking courses at Coker University, for example, which creates constraints and overlaps; these challenges should be alleviated in coming years.

Additional questions about enrollment in high school:

H. Hoilett-Frierson asked about number of classes offered. Response: Every scholar has four core courses (Econ, Math, English, Physical Science); students are also earning credits through dual enrollment with FDTC; students are also enrolled in courses at Coker. In terms of Carnegie Credits, every student has the opportunity to earn at least 6-8 credits (meeting or exceeding the minimum required); some have significantly more. Students who take courses at Coker or FDTC receive college credits.

H. Hoilett-Frierson asked about level of courses offered (College Prep, Honors, etc.); according to J. Reyes, Butler's standards already for the most part exceeds expectations; "rigor is high." Differentiation focuses on growth.

VI. Set Board Goals for the Year

A. Discussion of Goals

H. Hoilett-Frierson suggested we formulate goals once board members have familiarized themselves with the Board on Track and Committee goals before discussing further goals for the board.

VII. Determine Committee Membership

A. Please review committees and determine suitable participation interests

J. Reyes emphasized the importance of communicating across committee boundaries and collaborating with school administration; also the importance of reporting back to the whole board.
Board members help represent BA in conversations and planning, creating investment in the school.

Executive Committee: H. Hoilett-Frierson, J. Hudson, D. Carlton, J. Klimek
Scholar Experience: A. Rhodes, D. Small, S. Sneed, G. Woods
Facilities: A. Rhodes, D. Small, A. Morris, J. Hudson
Finance: D. Carlton, J. Hudson
Governance: J. Klimek, J. Hudson
Development: A. Morris, H. Hoilett-Frierson
President and Evaluation: J. Klimek, H. Hoilett-Frierson

VIII. Set Board Meeting Dates for the Year

A. Review calendar and determine meetings dates for the year.

H. Hoilett-Frierson made a motion to change board meetings to bi-monthly.
A. Morris seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
The next Board meeting will be set for September.
September 17th, November 19th (3rd Wed).

IX. 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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. Hoilett-Frierson