

# Vida Charter School

## Minutes

### Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Thursday February 12, 2026 at 10:30 AM

#### Location

120 E Broadway Gettysburg, PA 17325

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#### Committee Members Present

B. Reyes-Lua (remote), E. Nashelsky (remote)

#### Committee Members Absent

C. Miller, K. Byron, S. Luque, T. Arias

#### Guests Present

Pat Whalen (remote)

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Reyes-Lua called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee of Vida Charter School to order on Thursday Feb 12, 2026 at 10:33 AM.

#### C. Approve Minutes

B. Reyes-Lua made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Excellence Committee Meeting on 11-13-25.

E. Nashelsky seconded the motion.

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

### II. Academic Excellence

#### A. Field Trip: EF Travel

Pat Whalen, EF Travel, joined meeting. Trip to Puerto Rico (10 students) (March 2027)

#### Safety:

- Vida staff will be with Tour Director (from airport to airport). Will be paired with another group of students/teachers. 24/7 Emergency Service & Support Team.
- Month prior to tour, Tour Director will connect with group leaders.
- Base level protection plan: all children covered, extended stays, reuniting with family member in case of illness and accident (covers out of pocket costs). Covers illness prior to travel (covered reasons).
- Assessing Risk Level: Level 1 & 2 Travel will proceed only.
  - Peace of Mind Policy: allows to adjust trips and travel arrangements (location/dates)

#### Fundraising:

- Giving Page for all students (individual family/friend fundraising)
- Explorer Scholarships (\$50,000 for children each year)
  - 250 word essay-Child
  - Financial application-parent
  - Flat \$500 scholarship
- Student's pay directly (no direct contract with Vida/extra curricular outside of school)
  - Teacher has access to add Vida funds to student accounts via a check

#### Field Trip Policy

- Policy for travel/overnight for a school sponsored trip
- Sample of behavioral contract
- 100% Liability falls on EF Travel

#### Staff/Teacher

- MOU needed?

### **B. Staff Satisfaction Survey**

- Strengths shared: community, support, belief in values, mission
- Areas of conversation: value of language equated to pay, clear roles and expectations

### **C. Comp Plan Summary**

Reviewed three goals from comprehensive plan.

### **D. Future Ready PA Index**

- Demographics at Vida have shifted
- Assessment data reviewed (State testing)

#### **E. Winter 2026 Benchmark Data**

- Assessing proficiency in Fall and Winter. Decrease in Well Below Benchmark in all grade levels (3rd/6th who did not assess winter)

### **III. 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 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
B. Reyes-Lua