Expressions Learning Arts Academy

Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

6/26/26

Note: This meeting also serves as a SACS meeting.

Attendance: Juniper DiGiovanni, Neil Drake, Gina Britton, Derek Wohlust, Peggy Vermont, Ronnie Bruney

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Vermont Second: Drake Approved: 4-0

Financial Report/Budget: Presentation of Monthly Budget to Actual reports.

1. **Approved**: The adoption of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances for Governmental Funds for the year ending June 30, 2026, as a **final budget amendment** for the school in the same manner as it has in past years.
2. **Proposed Planning Budget** for the 2026-27 School Year:

Approved: the adoption of the Planning Budgets for the 2026-27 School Year as presented by the board representative and Principal. The Board will amend these budgets at its first meeting in the new school year.

School Business:

1. **Approved**: the **2026-27 employee contracts**.
2. **Approved**: to classify C. Florence as "qualified not certified" in teaching art. C Florence currently holds a valid elementary education teaching certification.
3. **Approved**: **Full-time Staff/teacher raises** of $500
4. **Approved**: a $1000 annual **Wellness Benefit** (Benefit will be reapproved by the Board of Directors annually as part of yearly contracts).
5. **Approved**: the continued use of the **ACPS 26-27 Mental Health Plan.**
6. **Approved**: to Hire Kattell & Co. for annual **independent financial audit**
7. **Approved**: The **Lease agreement** to continue with L. Davenport for facility and R. Selwach for lot rental.
8. **Approved**: the Comprehensive Reading Plan, and Remediation Plans for Reading and Math for the 2026-27 school year
9. **Vendor Contracts for 2026-27**:

Approved: The Board Representative, the Principal or Treasurer to sign any renewing vendor contracts for the next school year. New additional vendor contracts will be reviewed and approved by the Principal, Board Representative or Treasurer and signed by the Principal, Board Representative or Treasurer

10. **Recurring Expenditures for 2026-27:**

Approved: for the Board to accept the continuation of recurring expenditures.

11. **Emergency Policy and Procedure Development and Implementation**:

- The Board accepts any necessary revisions to policy and operational procedures implemented by The Board Representative and the Principal in response to laws, rules and guidance issued by government agencies. The Board will review these policies at the earliest opportunity subsequent to their implementation. The Executive Board will approve any necessary Policy provisions when circumstances prevent . The full Board will review and approve all Policy changes.

Approved: the Bullying and Harassment Policy located on website: Expressions' Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy

- Motion: the Controlled Open Enrollment Policy statement located on website: Policy statement: Controlled open enrollment public education delivery system: "School of Choice"
- Motion: the Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints Policy statement located on website: In the event a parent of a student in a District charter school is unable to resolve a student health, safety, or welfare complaint under F.S. 1001.42(8)(c) with the charter school's principal or designee and their Board of directors through the procedures listed above, the following procedures shall be utilized to resolve the dispute: Alachua County Public Schools District Policy: Resolution of Student Health, Safety, or Welfare Complaints for Charter Schools
- **Approved**: the Non-Discrimination Policy statement on website: The Alachua County Public Schools District, including Expressions Learning Arts Academy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability (Section 504/ADA), sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, genetics or legally-protected characteristics in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices.
- **Approved**: the Board to accept any necessary revisions to policy and operational procedures implemented by the Board Representative and the Principal in response to laws, rules and guidance issued by government agencies. This includes policies and components required to be on the school's website. The Board will review these policies for approval at the earliest opportunity subsequent to their implementation. The Executive Board will approve any necessary Policy provisions when timeliness or other circumstances prevent the full Board from meeting. The full Board will review and approve all Policy changes.

12. **School Size and Organization for 2026-27:**

Approved: for the Board to authorize the Board Representative, and the Principal to organize

classes and schedules based on Florida and federal law, rules, and policies, as well as student enrollment, budget considerations, personnel availability, campus and classroom size and educational needs of students.

13. **Development of Pay Scale according to HB 641**:

Approved: to appoint the President of the Board and the Principal to make any necessary revision to the existing teacher payroll scale that is in compliance with evolving legislation and guidance from the State Department of Education. The scale will be in effect for the 2026-27 school year.

Policies and Procedures:

1. **Approved**: to adopt the 2026-27 **ELAA Student Code of Conduct (based on the ACPS Student Code of Conduct)**
2. **Approved**:Seeking approval to adopt the 2026-27 **ELAA Educational Online Privacy Policy** (response to Florida Amendment to Rule 6A - 1.0955.
3. **Approved**:o adopt the 2026-27 **ELAA Book and Media Review Policy** (response to HB 1467)
4. **Approved**: to adopt the additional **School Safety policies** to be compliant with additional requirements and policies Rule-6A-1.0018 : School Safety Requirements and Monitoring and House Bill 1421 School Safety
5. **Approved**: for ELAA Volunteer Policy using **Florida Clearinghouse,** Florida Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse for background screening and use results of individuals required by law to undergo screening for employment in positions that provide services to vulnerable populations, as mandated by section 435.12, Florida Statutes. This includes Board Members, Employee Level II volunteers.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Approved**: adopted the Minutes from Previous Meeting Dated: 03/31/26

   Motion: Vermont Second: Wohlust Approved: 4-0

2. **Board Member Changes**:

Reconstitute Board: Election of 2026-27 Board of Director Officers

Approved: the Board to reconstitution of its members and officers in the following arrangement for the 2026-27 school year all members recusing themselves from votes for themselves:

Motion: Drake Second: Wohlust Approved: 4-0

Neil Drake: President

Motion: Vermont Second: Wohlust **Approved 3-0** (Drake abstained vote)

Peggy Vermont: Vice President and Parent Liaison

Motion: Drake Second: Wohlust **Approved 3-0** (Vermont abstained vote)

Gina Britton: Treasurer

Motion: Vermont Second: Drake **Approved 3-0** (Britton abstained vote)

Derek Wohlust: Secretary

Motion: Vermont Second: Britton **Approved 3-0** (Wohlust abstained vote)

3. **Approved**: The nomination of Michael Jacobi as a community board member to join in October 2026 upon completion of required documents. M. Jacobi has completed Governing Board approved training as well as having required background clearance.

Motion: Drake Second: Briton Approved 4-0

School Business:

6. **Approved**: for additional stipend for employees working over the summer on security, health enhancements, maintenance, and compliance at the discretion of the principal.

Motion: Drake Second: Wohlust Approved 4-0

7. Purchasing of Curriculum and Equipment:

Approved: the board to authorize the Board Representative and the Principal to determine needed curriculum, materials, and equipment for the 2026-27 school year and to make purchases as soon as possible. The Board authorizes up to $30,000.00 of reserve funds for these purchases. The state adopted Reading Curriculum 5 year contract ending during the 2025-26 school year and a new 5 year contract will need to be purchased for the 2026-2030 school years. The principal is awaiting a quote from McGraw Hill to continue usage of Florida Wonders.

Motion: Drake Second: Wohlust Approved 4-0

8. Report on **Safe Schools** Assessment and required policies

Committee Reports:

Public Input Time:

Next Meeting will be held in October 2026