



COMMUNITY SCHOOL of
DIGITAL AND VISUAL ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL

1955 Cornwallis Rd • Durham, NC • 27705 • Tel: (919) 797-2340 • Fax: (919) 797-2343

Community School of Digital and Visual Arts

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: August 7, 2025

Location: Virtual – Zoom

Time: 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair **Tommy McNeill** at 7:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Tommy McNeill (Chair), Kathy Davies, Miesha Haggins, Cheryal Isaac, Ben Johnson, Michael Palmer, Ariana Hobin, Joe Battle, Toni Hall, Bonnie Hauser, Kathy Everett-Perry

A quorum was declared present.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved as amended** to include discussion of Attorney Brian Crawford's contract termination in open session.

4. Approval of Minutes

- The July 2025 minutes were reviewed. Corrections noted:
 - Brian Crawford incorrectly listed as Chair.
 - Correction to spelling of Toni Hall name.
 - Correction of submission from Kathy Everett-Perry to Miesha Haggins
- Per procedure, minutes will be reviewed by Kathy Everett-Perry prior to distribution to the Board.

Motion: To approve the July 2025 minutes as corrected

- **Moved by:** Kathy Everett-Perry
-

ONE FALCON, ONE FAMILY, ONE FLIGHT!

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- **Seconded by:** Bonnie Hauser
 - **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously
-

5. Reports

a. Financial Report – Kathy Davies (Prestige School Solutions)

- FY25 preliminary surplus: **\$320,000** to be added to fund balance.
- FY26 budget based on 204 students for state funding; enrollment tracking at 160–180 students, creating a potential deficit risk.
- Budget review underway to identify possible cuts; draft FY26 budget due in two weeks.
- Reduction of unexplained expenses from **\$57,000 to under \$500**.

b. Operations & Enrollment – Ben Johnson / Cheryal Isaac

- Current enrollment: **170 students**; recruitment ongoing.
- Turnaround Roadmap outlined a 180-day plan in three phases, beginning with stabilizing systems and building urgency.
- Current reading proficiency (Grades 3–8): **27%**. Emphasis will be placed on implementing existing reading programs with fidelity to increase proficiency.

c. Staff Licensing – Cheryal Isaac

- Ms. Dormeka Brooks serves as Beginning Teacher/Licensure Mentor/STEAM Educator.
- Coordinating licensure plans for non-licensed teachers; several expected to complete requirements by year-end.

d. Facilities – Bonnie Hauser

- Made a recommendation that the school remain in its current building for at least two years. More information will be shared on the risks of early termination of the contract at the next meeting.
 - Monthly mortgage approximately **\$20,000**.
-

6. Unfinished Business

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None.

7. New Business

a. Termination of Attorney Brian Crawford's Contract

- Termination executed without prior Board approval.
- Chair McNeill explained the decision was made to allow a leadership transition and fresh start.
- Board members expressed concerns regarding process and risks.
- After some discussion, the issue was closed for further discussion as Chair McNeill expressed it was a decision he made and would be responsible for.
- Consensus reached: **future decisions of this nature require full Board approval.**

b. Board Retreat/Training

- Scheduled for **August 21, 4:00 PM** with **Alex Quigley with Better is Possible Coaching**; option for virtual attendance via Zoom.
- State-mandated recertification requirement.

c. Community Outreach Contract – Miss Pryor

- Grassroots marketing initiative to rebuild community trust.
 - Proposed budget: **\$30–35K.**
-

8. Closed Session

Motion to Enter Closed Session

- **Moved by:** Tommy McNeill
- **Seconded by:** Bonnie Hauser
- **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously

Purpose: To discuss personnel matters.

Motion to Exit Closed Session



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- **Moved by:** Tommy McNeill
 - **Seconded by:** Kathy Everett-Perry
 - **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously
-

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **9:15 PM**.

Minutes submitted by:
Miesha Haggins