

Minutes of Board Meeting October 21, 2025 6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Mike Brossart, Nick Sellars, Paige Campbell, Karli Wilkinson, Jesse Naranjo, Jill Haladay, Ana Kalman, Liz Plemons, Brant Masters, Sheilitha Williams and Joseph Little. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Cindi Parker-Pearson, Deborah Sulsona, and Kelly Lane.

Approval of Minutes

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m. Mike Brossart moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025 Board meeting. Karli Wilkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Financial Report

Paige Campbell presented the financial report for the three months ending September 30, 2025. Cash and investments total \$2.41 million. Total assets are \$3.72 million with net assets of \$3.71 million. Total revenue was \$1,015K and total expenses were \$732K resulting in a net deficit of \$76K. Even with the deficit, we are above the year-to-date budget and better than this time last year. Our FTE count for October should bring about a \$291K increase to our current FTE funding (\$262K over the budgeted amount). Cindi will give a detailed explanation in her report.

Parents Report

School pictures are complete. There will be makeups next month. The parents group has tentatively scheduled Abuelos on December 17 for the staff holiday luncheon. Parents have brought in items for the fall basket. We have enough for six baskets. We will start selling tickets and the drawing will be mid-November. This is one way the parent group raises funds for things like the Fall Festival which is this Friday, October 24.

Fish City Grill ended their First Tuesday event which was another way the parent group raised funds. Mary will reach out to other restaurants for something similar

Development Report

We have had several tours including staff from GiveWell Community Foundation and the United Way Community Wellness grant. More tours are scheduled in the next few weeks including employees from Bernie Little Distributors. We also plan to invite some key donors to spend time doing a craft with a few students as a donor cultivation opportunity on November 12.

Our Top Golf event was successful. We met our budgeted goal of \$14K net. This is an easy fundraiser for us.

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We are now gearing up for Top Chef and currently have 10 chefs committed. Two of those are new chefs. Sponsorship packets have been sent out.

Kelly Lane spent today in training for the United Way Community Wellness grant which is a \$200K opportunity. It would be for services we are already providing but we would have to capture data we haven't previously which could be a challenge.

Thank you to board members who provided a testimonial. These will be highlighted in materials and on social media for our Partners in Hope program (a monthly giving commitment) and for our 70th anniversary plans in 2026.

Principal's Report

We were fully enrolled and in attendance during the October FTE count with 157 students. We followed the district in adding plans of supervision for appropriate students. These helped bring many students up to a level 4 on the matrix which provides higher FTE funding. This is a large reason for our projected increase in FTE funding that Paige Campbell mentioned in the Financial Report. These plans of supervision require more documentation which we can adequately track.

Teachers have evaluated all students and meeting with parents to review. Cindi will be in a classroom for at least another month. The employee out for surgery expects to return after fall break.

President's Report

The Birth to Three team did a fantastic job at the Community Investment Team visit. The volunteers had great questions. The United Way board will vote on the CIT teams allocation recommendations at their November board meeting. We will be notified in December and the funding is for the 2026 calendar year. Depending on our allocation, we will then look to hire another full-time EI. Thank you to the board members that joined us at the CIT visit.

We are looking forward to welcoming Dawn Willis, Director of Community Relations with Orlando Health/Watson Clinic Lakeland Highlands Hospital for a tour later this month. We also have a tour scheduled with Andy Dunn, VP of Operations for the Detroit Tigers. Please remember to contact Kristin Aiken for potential tours with people you know.

Kristin has been involved in conversations on the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) population with the Agency Directors' Council. That discussion will be continued with Rod Crowley and Christina Criser at United Way which could impact future funding requests. Kristin is also on the Bartow Chamber's Education Committee.

Committee Reports

The Finance Committee met today to keep with the Board's request that the Finance Committee keep a closer watch on the net income projection and how things will affect next year's budget. We have seen favorable movement in our budget with the increase in FTE funding and with the lower health insurance renewal.

Unfinished Business

Mike Brossart asked all board members to bring something for the Top Chef auction. An example is a nice bottle of wine or liquor to go in basket for auction.

New Business

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None

Mike Brossart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona
Chief Financial Officer