

## Minutes of Board Meeting February 17, 2026 6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Adil Khan, Paige Campbell, Janice Jones, Karli Wilkinson, Liz Plemons, Brant Masters, Sheilitha Williams, Nick Sellars, Joseph Little, Ana Kalman, Jesse Narajo, Mike Brossart and Steve Earley. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Cindi Parker-Pearson, Deborah Sulsona, and Kelly Lane. Guest in attendance was Taylor Oswald.

### Approval of Minutes

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m. Mike Brossart moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Board meeting. Paige Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Public Comment

Taylor Oswald was in attendance to observe a nonprofit board meeting for her Nonprofit Leadership class.

### Financial Report

Paige Campbell presented the financial report for the seven months ending January 31, 2026. Cash and investments total \$2.5 million. Total assets and net assets are \$3.7 million. Total revenue was \$2,616K and total expenses were \$2,577K resulting in a net surplus of \$38K. The January 2026 FTE funding reflected the change from the October FTE count. Total FTE funding increased by just over \$250K over what was budgeted for this year. Deborah added the year-end projection column. Top Chef was projected to raise what was budgeted but that will be clearer next month. We are looking at a positive net income at year-end.

### Parents Report

We will hold our annual Rise & Shine play date at Common Ground park on Saturday, March 28 from 9-11 am. This is an event where our families from all campuses come together for fun.

Mary Holjes was able to secure a yearbook sponsor, the employer of a parent!

We will have a spirit night at the northside Beef O'Brady's on Tuesday, March 10. They will donate 10% of the day's sales. We're hoping this one is successful and can have another one in October at the southside Beef's.

### Development Report

Part of the Community Wellness grant for one-time consultation services is to survey the families afterwards. So far, we have an 89% satisfaction rate for the families feeling like they were given the necessary tools for next steps. This should help us in applying for additional funds.

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**Principal's Report**

We were full for the February FTE count. Some of the level 3 students increased to level 4 which will help our FTE funding.

Teacher observations and evaluations have begun. Remaining staff will begin next month.

We currently have 57 students projected to graduate and have 98 on our waiting list. We've begun monthly informational meeting for families who are on the waiting list.

**President's Report**

We are looking to hire another Early Interventionist for the Birth to Three program. Kristin interviewed two promising candidates and will have them meet with the rest of the Birth to Three team in a couple of weeks.

The Birth to Three team has completed the year-end reporting for United Way. Our percentage of children meeting our goal has decreased. The team has analyzed this and attributes this to parents of children who would benefit from additional services are choosing to stay in the Birth to Three program. This is a sentiment to the comfort and trust they have with our Early Interventionists.

Kristin Aiken and Cindi Parker-Pearson hosted a tour with The Children's Movement. This is in part to the state of Florida looking to expand Early Steps eligibility.

Achievement Academy will be featured for the Lakeland Tigers' We Care Wednesday initiative on Wednesday, April 22. They are providing 250 tickets to our families.

Leadership Lakeland will tour the Lakeland campus on their Human and Health Services day on April 9.

Top Chef is next week. Sponsorships are down as well as community leader fundraising but this is trending with other nonprofit fundraisers as well. Kristin also reminded the committee that we had a very generous match donation last year that we may not have this year. We have a smaller live auction this year and are determined to stick to the timeline to be done on time.

**Committee Reports**

None

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

Kristin supplied the Achievement Academy calendar for the 2026-27 school year. We are following the Polk County School District with the exception of early release days. Mike Brossart moved to approve the 26-27 school calendar as presented. Paige Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mike Brossart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deborah Sulsona*

Chief Financial Officer