

Minutes of Board Meeting
March 24, 2026
6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Adil Khan, Liz Plemons, Brant Masters, Nick Sellars, Jill Haladay, Joseph Little, Ana Kalman, and Steve Earley. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Cindi Parker-Pearson, and Deborah Sulsona.

Approval of Minutes

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m. Adil Khan moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 Board meeting. Brant Masters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Financial Report

Deborah Sulsona presented the financial report for the eight months ending February 28, 2026. Cash and investments total \$2.6 million. Total assets and net assets are \$3.8 million. Total revenue was \$3.084K and total expenses were \$2,917K resulting in a net surplus of \$167K. The FTE increase that has been mentioned at the last couple of meetings has really helped as well as the anonymous gift of \$150K at the beginning of the year and the lower health insurance rates than budgeted. We are looking at a positive net income at year-end of \$448K (which also includes the July-December 2026 United Way allocation accrual).

Development Report

We have about \$150K in grant requests currently outstanding. Kelly Lane is also working on drawing down awarded grant funds from United Way Community Wellness. Funds can be drawn down for some supplies as well as some Birth to Three or therapy services. We have until September 30, 2026 to draw down funds. We had a positive monitoring visit for the United Way Community Wellness funds.

Ashlee Cofer is working on the current brick campaign which is live on our website. Kelly continues to attend other community outreaches.

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 are wrapping up and remaining staff evaluations are beginning. Teachers and therapists are also working on end of year assessments.

Classroom placement meetings have been scheduled which is where we use end of year scores to move current students for next year and then fill in the vacancies from our waiting list. Transition meetings have begun for

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our graduates. These are held at the new school if the family knows where the student is going next year.

Graduation dates are as follows:

Bartow – Thursday, May 7 6 - 7pm

Winter Haven – Tuesday, May 12 6 – 7pm

Lakeland – Wednesday, May 20 6 – 7:30pm

We currently have 57 students projected to graduate.

Parents Report

Mary Holjes will submit the yearbook this week. She was also able to procure a sponsor so that all students can get a free yearbook.

The annual Rise & Shine play date at Common Ground park will be this Saturday, March 28 from 9-11am. This is an event where our families from all campuses come together for fun. Board and staff are welcome to join us.

Beef O'Brady's management was happy with the spirit night success. We received a check for \$609. The parents' group will meet next month to begin planning staff appreciation activities which this helps fund.

President's Report

The Birth to Three team has met with both candidates for our open Early Interventionist position. They both have different strengths, experience and availability.

Top Chef was successful overall. It raised a total of \$330,000 which is our second highest ever. Kristin and the Development team are following up with the chefs, guests and community leaders as well as the Top Chef committee for feedback. We have reserved next year's event at Bonnet Springs Park for February 22, 2027. The Development team is now beginning to plan the next Top Golf fundraiser.

We are also working on the spring newsletter and appeal letter. We are featuring two current parents who met when their babies were both in the NICU.

Leadership Lakeland will visit on April 9. The date for the Lakeland Tigers' We Care Wednesday initiative has moved to Wednesday, May 6.

The Nominating committee will meet next month. Send any suggestions you may have to Kristin.

Committee Reports

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Brant Masters moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona

Chief Financial Officer