

MINUTES
RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc.

The full Board of Directors of RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc. met on Monday, February 24, 2025. The meeting was by Google Meet.

ATTENDEES:

Board Members:

NAME OF DIRECTOR	TITLE (IF ANY)	PRESENT IN PERSON	PRESENT BY TELEPHONE/VIDEO	UNABLE TO ATTEND
Kwan Graham*	Board Chair		X	
Crawford Crenshaw*	Board Vice-Chair		X	
Annette Corona*	Board Secretary		X	
Willette Morman*	Trustee			X
Tucker Mann*	Board Treasurer			X
Lauren Vance*	Trustee		X	
Andrew Lakis	Trustee		X	
Dexter Herbert	Trustee			X
Lynette Aytch	Trustee		X	
Spencer Robertson	Trustee			X
Taylor Dewberry	Trustee			X
Craig Herb	Trustee		X	

*Indicates members of the Executive Committee

Please note: Other Board Trustees are welcome to attend all Executive Committee meetings, but not required to.

Staff and Other Attendees Present:

NAME	TITLE (IF ANY)	PRESENT IN PERSON	PRESENT BY TELEPHONE/VIDEO	UNABLE TO ATTEND
Dawn Arthur	Executive Director	X		
Jason Jowers	Principal			X

MEETING ITEMS:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Kwan Graham determined that the meeting was duly noticed and called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present or who signed up for public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES & CONSENT AGENDA

Lauren Vance moved to approve the January meeting minutes as written, and Craig Herb seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

Lynette Aytch moved to approve the 2024-25 Summer Program Plan, which was seconded by Craig Herb. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Arthur provided an update to the board on ways to engage.

Volunteer [March 14 Career Day!](#)

Attend the [February 22 Step Show, 1:30pm!](#)

Bring gift cards to share.

Read the Eagle's Nest and send to your friends; [subscribe](#).

Give online: <https://risese.org/donate/>

Ms. Arthur advised the board of various items to be aware of including the timing of teacher, leadership, operations and support employment offers being administered, the Afton Partners Kickoff and the Green Bus grant.

It was shared that Wake Living awarded RISE a Reader's Choice Award in the Lifestyle Category as a "Best Public School."

Overview of Leading Insights

- Instructional outcomes look promising
- Children are leaving our zip codes which means we need to be "the best" and act strategically.
- We need to shrink our program and raise approx 70-100K
- GCNS will provide much needed funding and smart, targeted assistance

Ms. Arthur provided an overview of instruction and offered Reading and Math projections in grades 3-8. As well as an overview for instruction on goals and progress.

- The Leadership Team is diving into mid-year data with Teachers to find ways to grow, both through the general curriculum (Pacing, Standards) and in personal practice (iReady, Stations, Tutoring)
- Encourage belief and optimism within the instructional team, student body, and parent network. We can achieve, but we must show up to school, ready to learn, and motivated to achieve

Goal: Hit stretch goals to soar beyond 64. Exit ELL and Exceed Growth in EC.

Attendance and enrollment update:

- Chronic absenteeism remains a challenge with 38% of the school missing 10+ days this year so far (exc, unexc, disc)
- Suspensions remain higher
- Attrition is on par with 2023-2024, and the summer number is the one to watch (75+)

- Applications continue to come into the school, and our numbers are trending higher than last year, closer to 2023-2024 levels.
- The goal is to keep our students and grow our waitlist

Review on Population Trends in Our Area

At the state level we are losing a lot of 0-9 school-aged children. This is hitting rural communities harder than the urban areas. However, the zip where RISE is located, and our neighboring zip code has seen some of the largest drops in the state.

Finance Overview: Model and Fundraising

Financial takeaways

2024-2025

- Aiming to raise 70K+ to cover the presently expected deficit (140K to cover DSCR)
- Cuts made from 23-24 to this year were not enough in light of enrollment figures
- The fundraising committee has drafted an appeal letter for use by the Board
- Potential Puts: ERTC, Solar Rebate

2025-2026

- 500K in cuts:
 - Give consideration to either consolidate or cut some positions from 2 to 1 to 0.
 - Resource sharing with like schools
 - Cut costs, e.g. furniture, technology
 - Forego capex fix and renovation spending
- Short Term Debt due: 325K PRI

Federal Funding Update: RISE would have to replace 700-800K if federal monies disappear.

Ms. Arthur also provided an update on our Great Schools NC Partnership.

4. Committee Updates

Craig Herb provided an update on the Fundraising Committee, which is currently pulling together a list of major donors. The committee would like to work with the board on setting a goal for the board to raise \$70K within their networks. The committee would like to provide the tools and consultative information to assist in these efforts.

5. New Business

No new business.

Respectfully submitted:

Annette Corona

Approved on June 23, 2025

Kwan Graham, President