

MINUTES
RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc.

The full Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc. met on Monday, March 17, 2025. The meeting was held 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 1:00 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

A motion to approve the February meeting minutes was made by Willette Morman and seconded by Dexter Herbert. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Arthur updated the board on the school community and activities to include a successful Fun Walk for a Cure (Cancer Awareness) and the RISE College and Career Spirit Week. The RISE calendar was review and board members were encouraged to jump in and support RISE staff and scholars.

Fundraising Goals: Raise 100-150K annually for programming, busing and food.

- RISE bus cost: 100-350K annually
- RISE food cost, not reimbursed: 75-100K

The challenges around lack of public funding for school transportation, nutrition, and facilities were shared with the board. Thanks to strategic planning and community support, RISE has covered most of the costs for vital programs. Board members are asked to join fundraising efforts to bridge the funding gaps.

Fundraising Update

- **50,000** in private, individual unrestricted contributions
 - **150,000** from Great Schools NC
 - **60,000** from state ELISS grant
 - **325,000** from TRCF PRI & **50,000** in TRCF Grant
 - **50,000** from Oak/TCF
- Total = 360K in grants/contributions; 685K including PRIs

Future fundraising will support annual needs and/or capital campaigns. The Fundraising Chair challenged the board to match an anonymous donor for 25K before June 30th. The board members will be sent a draft of a fundraising letter and case for support that can be used as outreach is done to the community.

Fundraising Goals:

- 70K now
- 100-150K annually (2-3%)

Financial update:

- Cash flow is presently strong.
- 25-26 budgeting has begun.
- Teachers have re-signed for next year; 2 have declined.
- Pay is strong. Benefits could be better.

A motion to approve the Highland Bus Contract was made by Kwan Graham and seconded by Crawford Crenshaw. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

Attrition and Enrollment Update:

- Attrition could be as low as 8%
- Applications for the 2025 – 2026 school year lend to 4 classes K and 1st grades.

Strategic Overview:

- Improving school health and quality
 - Continue to strengthen our academic delivery.
 - Target events and communication where the families live.
 - Continue to increase teacher pay and improve benefits.
 - Remain mindful of competition (charter, district, private).
- Continue to community partnerships
- Continue school growth.

Meeting adjourned by Kwan Graham at 2:05pm.

4. Committee Updates

No committee updates.

5. New Business

No new business.

Respectfully submitted:

Kwan Graham on behalf of Annette Corona

Approved on June 23, 2025
Kwan Graham, President