

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, April 28, 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

Meeting minutes from the last meeting (March) and this one (April) will be held until the full board meeting next month.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Arthur updated the board on the school community and activities over the last month, sharing pictures from the new photographer and website updates. She also shared images from Earth Day.

RISE has signed a contract with Highland for six green buses for next year. Cost savings are projected to be \$200k over the life of the buses.

Data review

Our mission is being realized through our incredible achievements:

#2

among 207 charter schools statewide for academic growth

#10

out of 196 Wake County public schools

#36

out of 2,593 schools in North Carolina for growth metrics

OUR MODEL

We guide scholars to dream big, work hard, and own their success.



Academic Excellence

We deliver a tailored learning experience that meets scholars where they are, helping them thrive academically and beyond.



Character Development

By fostering resilience, respect, and leadership, we shape scholars into well-rounded individuals ready to make a positive impact.



Self-Discovery

Our scholars uncover their talents, passions, and authentic selves through mentorship, arts, athletics, and leadership opportunities.

Student Data and updated outcomes will be covered in the June meeting.

Fundraising Update

- Fundraising is up by \$82K this year, totaling \$715K. The increase is mainly due to individual donations and grants.
- We have earned \$35K toward the Challenge Grant through individual contributions.

Ms. Arthur shared opportunities to bridge funding gaps, including priorities are around the following:

- Fueling Success with Nutritious Meals - \$100K

- Ensuring Reliable Transportation - \$300K
- Investing in Safe, Inspiring Playground Spaces - \$500K

Budget Planning 2025-26

REVENUE

- Expecting 0% per pupil increases
- Anticipating 510 ADM which will be 25 more than last year
- State (6,500) and Local (3,500) account for 10K per student
- 20 more students, or 5% PP increase, yields 200K more each (put)

EXPENSES

- Teachers are generally more experienced and paid 1% more than WCPSS
- RISE is cutting three positions this year – expect to cut/trade 1-2 more next year
- Want to provide >100K in bonuses but removed for affordability
- Total people costs are benchmarked at 70% of the total budget – common trend in North Carolina
- Expenses are “in-line” with the benchmarks but leave no room for maintenance.
- Likely exclusions (takes): marketing, development, PD, technology, furniture, staff (assistants, subs, community liaison).

Ms. Arthur advised that the board should plan to approve the budget, approve some handbooks and discuss educational outcomes during the June full board meeting.

Kwan Graham adjourned the meeting at 2:09 pm.

4. Committee Updates

No committee updates.

5. New Business

No new business.

Respectfully submitted:

Annette Corona

Approved on June 23, 2025
Kwan Graham, President