

**MINUTES**  
**RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc.**

The Board of Directors of RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc. met on Monday, June 23, 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                          |                  |
| 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                |
| Kristen Blackwell | Dir of Operations  |                   | 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 5:00 pm. Update: Tucker Mann has resigned from the board, and there is now an open seat.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES & CONSENT AGENDA**

Andrew Lakis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the March and April meetings. Kwan Graham seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved.

## **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Ms. Arthur updated the board on the following topics:

### **State of the School**

- Preliminary EoG Results – we have remained consistent in our scores
- Enrollment and Waitlist – we have raised enrollment from 480 -560 students
- Leadership and Staffing
  - Maintained an experienced leadership team and elevated Mary Sparks to Assistant Principal
  - High Teacher Retention >80%
  - Reductions – eliminated two teaching assistants, consolidated two behavior specialist positions into 1 Dean, K-8
- Financial Update – RISE plans to break even this year
  - Need to downsize staffing
  - Need to raise enrollment
  - Transition to electronic tools offers promising results for accuracy/oversight
  - Financial packet is improved but not predictive

### **Draft Strategic Vision for 2025-27**

Over the next two years, RISE Charter School will deepen its instructional quality, expand post-8th-grade scholar pathways, and build the internal leadership, financial capacity, and board structure necessary for long-term excellence.

Focused on developing the strongest possible team, growing student outcomes, and securing the sustainability of a school that outperforms ALL expectations.

### **Two-Year Course Plan**

1. Use the Arc of the Year to codify and systematize academic growth
2. Reinforce a High Impact Leadership Model
3. Sustain Operational and Cultural Strength
4. Advance Fundraising and Strategic Financial Health
5. Reimagine Board Composition to Match the Mission
6. Expand Scholar Pathways Beyond 8th Grade

**Ignite academic growth, anchor quality**

- Dig deep on intellectual preparation
- Increase rigor

### **Keep great leaders. Sustains strength**

- Strengthen a cohesive, experienced team
- Clarify the leadership partnership
- Strengthen core systems: transportation, nutrition, technology, and safety
- Train leaders on AoY and implement summer PD

### **Advance Fundraising & Financial Health**

#### **Board**

- Set a fundraising goal of >**\$100K/year**
- Use fundraising to support priorities: programs, [playgrounds](#), repairs.
- Add fundraising capacity to the Board.
- Set clear giving and getting expectations for members.

#### **Fundraising**

- Set a grants/foundations goal of >**\$200K/year**.
- Establish a customer relationship database and partner with Carolyn Jackson, volunteer, to set up critical systems.
- Consider hiring external development support
- Produce a Master Facility Plan to drive future facility fundraising

### **Budget Overview Discussion**

The 2025-26 budget was discussed and reviewed.

**MOTION:** Crawford Crenshaw made the motion to pass the 2025-26 budget with the current assumptions, and if adjustments need to be made, they will be made at the board retreat in August. Willette Morman seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Ms. Arthur also discussed the vision of expanding scholar pathways in the following ways:

- Continue hosting the RISE High School Fair.
- Build partnerships with private high schools to select and fund RISE scholars. reference: A Better Chance.
- Explore matriculation agreements with select public charters.
- Engage early colleges, IB programs, and magnet highs.
- Provide application coaching, shadowing opportunities, and alumni transition support.
- Secure resources and staffing to lead Pathways Initiative.

Kwan Graham made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar, Lynette Aytch seconded. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Kwan Graham adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

### **4. Committee Updates**

No committee updates.

**5. New Business**

No new business.

Respectfully submitted:

***Annette Corona***

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Approved on August 25, 2025  
Kwan Graham, President