

MINUTES
RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc.

The Board of Directors of RISE Southeast Raleigh Charter School, Inc. met on Monday, September 22, 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	
Martin Aurelian	Dir of Finance			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 1:04 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

Policies and Minutes for Approval

- August Meeting Minutes
- Parental Leave In Policy with the State
- Admissions and Enrollment Policy
- Current Structure of the Board
- Executive Committee
 - Kwan Graham - Chair
 - Crawford Crenshaw – Vice-Chair
 - Annette Corona – Secretary
 - Treasurer - OPEN
- Committee Chairs
 - Lauren Vance – Education Committee
 - Craig Herb – Fundraising Committee
 - Crawford Crenshaw – Finance Committee

A motion was made by Willette Morman to approve the policies outlined above, the August board meeting minutes and board positions. The motion was seconded by Lauren Vance and passed unanimously.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Arthur began her presentation covering the mission of RISE and provided an update on the school.

ACADEMICS

- RISE is no longer a “Low Performing” school which alleviates some of the administrative burdens that come with the label. RISE exceeded growth for two years in a row and its proficiency is higher, which allowed RISE to remove this label.
- Parents are still yearning for more opportunities for electives.

Performance Benchmarks

- For a small set of schools in SE Raleigh we are outperforming schools.
- In comparison to Charters in urban centers of the state of like-minded charter schools; we are in the running against much older schools and outperforming.

ENROLLMENT & WAITLIST

- We are struggling in some grade levels to increase enrollment and our waitlists in the lower grades.

Attrition

- RISE has decreased attrition year over year, and its numbers align with national trends.

FINANCE

RISE's Finance mission is to ensure the school's financial health, transparency, and sustainability by aligning budgeting, resource management, and fundraising strategy in support of the mission and students.

Finance Goals

- Annual surpluses > debt service coverage
- Project based fundraising to improve spaces and equipment

GOVERNANCE

Kwan Graham began the discussion on governance and what our board should be considering and focused on as we shift our perspective on serving the school.

Traits of a great board members:

- Attend board meetings and committee meetings
- Communicate often with the board chair and school leader
- Understand what the charter requires
- Visit the school relatively often, while students and staff are there
- Bring a curiosity mindset to board work and learn to ask great questions
- Bring up uncomfortable topics if necessary
- Come ready to help problem-solve
- Lead with a supportive style and commitment to transparency
- Speak with one voice

Kwan Graham will send out follow-up information on committee composition, structure, and responsibilities.

4. Committee Updates

No committee updates.

5. New Business

No new business.

Respectfully submitted:

Annette Corona

Approved on October 27, 2025
Kwan Graham, President