

Minutes for Grace Schools Charter Authority, LLC Board Meeting February 24, 2025

Call to Order

A regular meeting of Grace Schools Charter Authority, LLC, was held on February 24, 2025, in Classroom Four of Winona Lake Community Church. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. (EST) and was presided over by the president of the board, Joy Lavender.

Attendees

Roll call of voting members in attendance included Dr. Dennis Gaerte, Paul Blair and Joy Lavender.

Staff in attendance included Dr. Tim Ziebarth and Beth Bessinger.

Guests in attendance included one community member and Corey Smith, Headmaster of Smith Academy for Excellence.

Status of Quorum

Joy Lavender declared the status of quorum had been met for this public hearing.

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the Agenda as presented was made by Dr. Dennis Gaerte and seconded by Paul Blair. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

No additions or revisions were made to the May 17, 2024, minutes.

A motion to approve the March 15, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Paul Blair and seconded by Joy Lavender. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director's Report

The Director's Report was provided by Dr. Tim Ziebarth.

New Business

A. Smith Academy for Excellence Reconfiguration Request

1. Presentation of the Request

a) Staff members Dr. Tim Ziebarth and Beth Bessinger provided an overview of the request.

b) Corey Smith provided a presentation outlining the request and evidence supporting the request.

c) Interaction between the Board, staff, and Corey took place as it related to questions and long term plan for Smith Academy for Excellence.

2. Board Decision

- a) Board member Dr. Dennis Gaerte made the motion to approve Smith Academy for Excellence to add grades K-2 for boys. Paul Blair seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- b) Board member Paul Blair made a second motion to amend the Smith Academy for Excellence charter to allow for K-5 girls enrollment. Dr. Dennis Gaerte seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

No new announcements

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Blair and seconded by Dr. Dennis Gaerte. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. (EST).



Dr. Dennis Gaerte, Secretary
Grace Schools Charter Authority, LLC



Date of Approval