May 19th, 2026
Regular Board Meeting at 4:00 pm

Board Meeting Board Members
Board Members
Al Hofer
Tom Herr
Larry Rowland
Alan Grinsfelder (virtual)
Thamay Paw

Board Members (Absent)
Fred Eckart
Michael Lindvall

Staff
Dawn Starks (Superintendent/School Leader)
Dr. Brad Yoder (School Leader)
Mikael Badgett (Data)
Kaylie Davidhizar

CIES
Brain Anderson

Trine University
Emily Gaskill
Member of the Public
None
4625 Werling Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806

I. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present at the meeting: Al Hofer, Alan Grinsfelder (virtual), Tom Herr, President Larry Rowland, Thamay Paw

Board Chair President Larry Rowland calls the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Tom Herr, seconded by Al Hofer. All members present voted aye.

III. **Consent Calendar**

a. Review and Approval of March 17th, 2026 Board Mtg Minutes

Motion made by Tom Herr, seconded by Al Hofer. All members present voted aye.

IV. **Correspondence**

a. Dawn Starks presented that on April 9th, 2026, IDOE approved the merger to become a K-8, and the middle school is closing. Now, Timothy L Johnson Academy will be a K-8.

V. **Financial Report**

a. Review and Approval of March 17th, 2026 Financial Report

b. Review and Approval of 2026/2027 Annual Budget

Brain presented the financial report for April, which was presented on items included in the agenda packet. He also presented next year's annual budget. His report showed the corporation is in good health. President Larry Rowland asked what makes us different from other schools. Brian provided the reasons of management on site (leadership manages the school's money well), focus on payroll cost, and facility cost are low. He also said we have stable enrollment, which helps. Larry also asked if we would ever have too much cash on hand, and that it would cause problems, and Brian said no red flags would be raised.

Motion made by Tom Herr, seconded by Al Hofer. All members present voted aye. This is for the budget and accepting the financial report.

VI. **Hearing of the Public (Limited to Agenda-Related Items)**

a.None at this time

VII. **Old Business**

a. None at this time

VIII. **New Business**

1. Romona Coleman's resignation

- A copy of her registration was included in the agenda

2. Requirement for school board meeting attendance

   - 3 members need to be at a meeting to be in compliance

3. Culture Night Presentation

   Kaylie Davidhizar presented on Timothy L Johnson's culture night on May 12th, highlighting the success of the event.

4. Strategic Discussion- Structure and Facilities

   Dawn Starks discussed the growth projection for the future years. She discussed how, for the 2027-2028 school year, our attendance is projected to be 670, and it continues to increase yearly. Eventually, enrollment numbers will not allow TLJA to be in code for the cafeteria for middle school students to all eat in the cafeteria. She discussed how the modulars are being used as testing centers. She is proposing adding 4 more rooms and a cafeteria/ gym area. Dawn discussed how it could be adding a wing to the building. She wants to know if this could be a possibility; if not, enrollment will need to become limited because of limited space. Tom Herr asked if the space would accommodate the projected attendance in 2029-2030, and Dr. Yoder confirmed it would. President Larry Rowland said it would be a good idea to take an exploratory visit to schools that have a similar structure.

IX. Management Reports

A. School Leader – Dawn Starks/Brad Yoder

Dawn discussed the kindergarten celebration that just took place. Dr. Yoder discussed the 8th-grade recognition and how it was a great time to celebrate. Dawn also discussed evaluation meetings that the leadership team has held over the last couple of weeks. She discussed how it was a positive experience overall. Dr. Yoder discussed how it is powerful because it aligns with everything we do at the school, and he said this is the best approach to looking at things holistically.

B. Education One Report – Emily Gaskill

Emily discussed that they are in annual review time for schools, and on June 11th, the annual review will take place. It will be recorded and sent to the board. Emily will discuss a brief review of the annual review in July.

C. Board Member Questions
None at this time

X. **Hearing of the Public (Related to Non-Agenda Items)**
None at this time

XI. **Discussion (Non-Agenda Items)**
None at this time

XII. **Reconfirmation of Next Meeting and Organizational Meeting**
Date: July 14th, 2026, at 4:00 pm

This is the second Tuesday, not the third Tuesday.

Adjournment

President Rowland made a motion to adjourn, Tom Herr made the motion, and seconded by Al Hofer at 5:21 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kaylie Davidhizar

Minutes approved by ____

Individuals wishing to address the Board are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary before the start of the meeting. Individual comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes each and a total time allowance not to exceed (30) minutes.

Complaints or concerns regarding board members or school employees associated with the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President at least five (5) days before the board meeting, or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner. This is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public comment during the meeting as indicated.

The proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at TLJA, located at 4625 Werling Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46806, eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes are available within five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved (in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267).