

**May 20, 2025**  
**Regular Board Meeting at 4:00 pm**

**Board Meeting Board Members**

**Board Members**

Larry Rowland  
Michael Lindvall (virtual)  
Alan Grinsfelder (virtual)  
Lena Yarian (virtual)  
Tom Herr (virtual)

**Board Members (Absent)**

Al Hofer  
Fred Eckart  
Joe Jordan

**Staff**

Dawn Starks (Superintendent/School Leader)  
Brad Yoder (School Leader)  
Mikael Badgett (Data)  
Rachel Bushong

**CIES**

Brian Anderson

**Trine University**

Emily Gaskill

**Member of the Public**

None

**4625 Werling Drive**  
**Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806**

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**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

A. Board members Larry Rowland, Michael Lindvall (virtual), Alan Grinsfelder (virtual) were all in attendance by 4:00 pm. Tom Herr (virtual) and Lena Yarian (virtual) joined late.

B. Board Chair Larry Rowland called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

A. Tom Herr moved to approve the agenda, Lena Yarian seconded. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Michael Lindvall voted aye.

## **III. Consent Calendar**

**A. Review and Approval of January 21st, 2025 Board Mtg. Minutes**

**B. Review and Approval of March 18, 2025 Board Mtg. Minutes**

1. Tom Herr moved to approve the minutes. Michael Lindvall seconded the motion. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.

## **IV. Correspondence**

- None at this time

## **V. Financial Report**

**A. Review and Approval of January 21st, 2025 Financial Report**

1. Tom Herr moved to pass the Jan. 21 financial report. Michael Lindvall seconded. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.

**B. Review and Approval of March 18, 2025 Financial Report**

1. Tom Herr moved to approve, seconded by Michael Lindvall. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.

**C. Review of 2023/2024 Audit**

1. Tom Herr moved to approve the audit. Seconded by Lindvall. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.

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**D. Review and approval 2026 budget**

1. Brian Anderson shared about the proposed budget. He went over the budget summary projections for Fiscal Year 2026.

2. Tom Herr made a motion to authorize spending authority up to the amount shown on the TLJFY Budget Summary prepared by Brian. The motion was seconded by Michael Lindvall. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.
3. Larry Rowland asked about the steps for combining the schools into one LEA. Brian Anderson explained the process of getting formal approval from the authorizer and following the state's guidelines. Mikael Badgett explained the cost associated with purchasing multiple licenses for two schools. Emily Gaskill shared that standalone middle schools are more of an academic performance risk than a K-8 school.
4. Tom Herr made a motion that the two schools begin moving toward a single LEA. Lena Yarian seconded the motion, and members Alan Grinsfelder and Michael Lindvall voted aye.

## **VI. Hearing of the Public (limited to agenda items)**

- None

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Bids for HVAC**

1. Dawn Starks shared the results of the SCO engineering assessment and the bids from Poormans and ICS. Dawn Starks shared that Poormans has ways to slowly update the system over time. She indicated that summertime would be the ideal time to have the updates completed as classrooms will need to be available for work.
2. Tom Herr asked if SCO has approved the Poormans quote, and Dawn Starks affirmed that they did.

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3. Tom Herr moved to approve the Poormans quote. Michael Lindvall seconded the motion. Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.

## **VII. New Business**

**A. Board Members' Resignations**

**B. 2025-2026 School Year Calendar**

1. Dawn Starks explained the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar.
2. Tom Herr moved to approve the calendar. Michael Lindvall seconded.  
Members Alan Grinsfelder and Lena Yarian voted aye.

**C. K-8 Program**

1. Previously discussed.

**IX. Management Reports**

**A. School Leader - Dawn Starks/Brad Yoder**

1. Dawn Starks shared about events such as kindergarten graduation and Culture Night. She shared that next year all of the events will be made known upfront with the hope that board members may be able to attend. Dawn Starks thanked the board for their support and how they have helped keep the schools running.
2. Dr. Brad Yoder shared about 8<sup>th</sup> grade recognition and the opportunity to embrace and include the families and the students' cultures. He also shared that the middle school is going to Kings Island as a celebration for students who have had good behavior, and good attendance.

**B. Turn Around Plan Report/Education One Report – Emily Gaskill**

1. Emily Gaskill shared the accountability plan performance framework with the board members. She explained that the uniqueness of the school requires a specialized model for accountability.

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The leadership team has worked with TRINE to make changes to the accountability plan. TRINE is moving toward weighted indexes that keep the school demographics in mind. The other addition is the English Language Proficiency Needs Profile, which evaluates barriers scholars have from attaining English Language proficiency.

2. Dr. Brad Yoder shared that the process of creating the Needs Profile was very collaborative and led to robust conversations.
3. Dawn Starks explained that the Needs Profile is updated by teachers each year and passed on to the next year's teachers.

### **C. Board Questions on Information Presented**

1. none

### **VII. Hearing of the Public (Related to non-agenda items)**

None

### **IX. Discussion (non-agenda items)**

1. None

### **X. Reconfirmation of Next Meeting and Organizational Meeting**

Date: July 15, 2025

### **XI. Adjournment**

1. Board Chair Larry Rowland adjourned the meeting without a vote.

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Minutes submitted by Rachel Bushong

Minutes approved by \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals wishing to address the Board are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary prior to 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 prior to 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).

