

Bear Grass Charter School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2026

Opening:

The Bear Grass Charter School Board met on April 20, 2026, at the BGCS media center. Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Present:

- Delmas Cumbee ● Phil Hodges ● Keith Wynne ● Amy Rogerson
- Pam Gibbs ● Charlotte Griffin ● ~~Georgia Smallwood~~ ● Leigh Ann Long

Guests:

- ~~Patriaia Speller~~— Bear Grass Charter School Principal
- Ashley Buck—Bear Grass Charter School Assistant Principal

Board member P. Hodges opened the meeting with a prayer invocation.

The minutes from the March 16, 2026, meeting were approved.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Leigh Ann. Motion passed.

Special Recognition:

The following students were recognized as students of the month:

Bailey Elliot Jackson Weathersby Ciyah Gurganus

Public Comment:

Community member Jerry Rogerson questioned if the sprinkler system at the baseball field could be fixed so that it was usable. The line needs to be changed to a bigger pipe according to Mr. Harrison and he has this on his summer project list.

Safety:

The SRO has requested that darker tint be placed on the entrance doors to the new addition so that no one can see inside. Cameras will be installed this week in the new addition.

Student Enrollment:

A handout was provided of the headcount by grade for the 2025-2026 academic year.

5th Grade	64	59
6th Grade	62	74 (3 WL)
7th Grade	59	62 (8 WL)
8th Grade	74	59 (5 WL)
9th Grade	68	74 (9 WL)
10th Grade	62	68 (2 WL)
11th Grade	55	62 (4 WL)
12th Grade	66	55
Total Enrollment	510	2026-2027 Lottery Report (513)

AP Buck relayed that Principal Speller would like to offer the five students on the 8th grade wait list slots at BGCS. Board member A. Rogerson asked AP Buck if there is any concern of not having a wait list for 5th grade. AP Buck stated that during her time at BGCS, parents become more interested in placing their children at BGCS during the summer. Mr. Harrison questioned the geographic pull of our 5th grade students.

A **motion** was made to accept the wait list students for the 8th grade.

Motion: Phil, Second: Keith. Motion passed.

Epicenter Update:

GOV 2- Grievance Policy

A copy of the Grievance Policy was provided for the board for review. A very brief discussion took place about the policy. The policy is due April 30, 2026 in Epicenter.

A **motion** was made to accept the Grievance Policy as presented.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Leigh Ann. Motion passed.

Board/School Policy:

AP Buck provided the board a printed protocol of Response to Bullying for review. Board member A. Rogerson reviewed the protocol prior to the meeting and had a few suggestions to add to the current protocol. She will share her suggestions with the board members via email.

Curriculum/Staff Development:

There are a couple of conferences that are upcoming that staff are being urged to attend.

Regional EC Summer Institute (June)

NCAPCS Summer Conference (July Raleigh, NC)

Public speaker will be on campus this Friday for a mental health presentation with staff and students.

Federal Programs Update:

No discussion or updates took place.

Buildings and Grounds:

Jackie Harrison, Maintenance Supervisor, updated the board on buildings and grounds.

- Lawn mowers have been serviced; He has discussed with Principal Speller Mrs. Lawrence's independence
- Health department inspected kitchen (everything fine); cooker left behind by Ray Bonds that needs to be taken out (Mr. Harrison will reach out to him)
- Waste water personnel is going to increase his price slightly
- Letter has been received for increased ammonia levels; UV light possible issue

Summer Projects

- Replace some of the baseball light poles \$47,000-\$50,000
- Sprinkler system at baseball field \$3,600-\$4,000
- New rails for bleachers in gym \$8,500
- Additional cabinets for new classroom addition \$10,000
- Golf cart needs to be replaced \$7,000
- Lawn mower needed for FFA farm \$13,000

Mr. Harrison was instructed to give his project list to Principal Speller so that it can be included in next year's budget.

Board member L. Long complimented Mr. Harrison on how good the campus looks.

Technology:

Tony Hale, IT Manager, updated the board on technology.

- Cameras at the baseball and softball fields have been replaced
- Basketball camera corrected so the scoreboard is not distorted
- Three vape detectors installed in the new classroom addition
- Teacher computers need to be replaced
- Would like to add a Promethean Board to the café

Mr. Hale was instructed to give his projected expenditures to Principal Speller for next year's budget.

Public Relations:

AP Buck informed the board that 8th grade night is being held tonight. Fifth grade science night will be held tomorrow night.

Student Services:

Testing is being reviewed to ensure that everything is in place. A handout of testing and important events for Spring 2026 was provided.

Child Nutrition:

No discussion or updates took place.

Transportation:

Slight accident with a yellow bus and a MCS yellow bus. Mirrors hit on each bus while meeting each other. Tires need to be replaced on bus 5. This can wait until summer.

Athletics:

Discussion will take place in closed session.

Mr. Harrison voiced his concerns about a track and field meet that is being attended way out of town with a handful of students. His was advised to discuss further with Principal Speller.

Other Discussion:

Awards Day

TH May 14 MS 1:00pm

F May 15 HS 10:00am

TU May 19 5th 6:00pm

Graduation

TH May 28 7:00pm

A revised 2026-2027 BGCS academic calendar was provided for review. Discussion took place regarding MCS advertisement “getting out earlier than ever.” They start school two weeks after BGCS and get out one week after BGCS. Board members wanted an explanation as they feel that parents and students will have questions as well.

Finance:

Review of the March 2026 budget took place. Brief discussion took place about utilizing current auditor for 2026-2027 budget year.

A **motion** was made to continue with current auditor for 2026-2027 budget year.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Pam. Motion passed.

Human Resources:

No discussion or updates took place.

Pursuant to General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(5) and 143-318.11(a)(6), a **motion** was made by Charlotte and seconded by Leigh Ann, and passed unanimously, for the board to go into closed session for discussions. At 7:12 PM, the board entered closed session.

The board came out of closed session at 7:50 PM. **Motion:** Charlotte, Second: Leigh Ann.

The following motions were required after the board came out of closed session.

A **motion** was made to approve and seal the March 16, 2026 closed session meeting minutes.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Keith. Motion passed.

A **motion** was made to approve letter of reprimand that was presented in closed session.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Amy. Motion passed.

A **motion** was made to approve creation of reprimand letter as discussed in closed session.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Amy. Motion passed.

A **motion** was made to approve the letter of banned notification as discussed in closed session.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Amy. Motion passed.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on May 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Delmas, Second: Charlotte. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned by Delmas Cumbee, Chairman at 7:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Pam Gibbs, Secretary

Approved by:



Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman