



Bear Grass Charter School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025

Opening:

The Bear Grass Charter School Board met on October 20, 2025, at the BGCS media center. Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present:

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

Guests:

● Patricia 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 September 15, 2025, meeting were approved.

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

Special Recognition:

Representatives from North Carolina Public Charter Schools and North Carolina DPI were present to recognize Mrs. Sarah Lawrence (Ag Teacher) as a finalist for the 2026 NC CTE Teacher of the Year. Karen Sumner, NCCAT Deputy Executive Director, gave a speech recognizing Mrs. Lawrence and the purpose of the award. Rhonda Dillingham, Executive Director of NC CPS and Karen McPherson, NC DPI CTE division, were present as well. Mrs. Lawrence was a finalist for NC Beginning Teacher about six years ago. She is the only teacher in North Carolina that has been a finalist for both awards. Finalist will attend a week of professional development in December and the winner will be announced on December 4, 2025 at a recognition event.

The following students were recognized as students of the month:

Fifth Grade: Rylan Knox (1st fifth grader to be recognized)

Middle School: Jesslyn Pierce

Public Comment:

No updates or discussions took place.

Safety:

Principal Speller updated the board on practice lock-down that took place a couple of weeks ago. Two items that need to be addressed. A teacher opened the door for a student. Staff has always been advised to not open the door for anyone during a lock-down. A speaker in the 200 building was hard to hear due to the volume adjustment. This matter has already been addressed. There was a canine walk-through today which resulted in a clear visit.

Student Enrollment:

Principal Speller provided the headcount by grade for the 2025-2026 academic year.

5th Grade	65
6th Grade	65
7th Grade	62
8th Grade	74
9th Grade	70
10th Grade	65
11th Grade	56
12th Grade	66
Total Enrollment	523

Epicenter Update:

Principal Speller advised the board on a couple of tasks that are due the end of next week.

GOV 1- Enrollment Policy and Lottery Application Requirements

Nothing has changed since LotterEase

GOV 4- Board Member Residency

Updated resigned members with new members

EL LIEP Services/Title III

Do not have any LIEP students and do not receive Title III

Annual Charter School Audit Report

Prelim audit has been received; waiting for MDA to be completed

Board/School Policy:

No updates or discussions took place

Curriculum/Staff Development:

Three beginning teachers attended professional development at ECU on Friday. Good feedback was received on this professional development.

Federal Programs Update:

No updates or discussions took place.

Buildings and Grounds:

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

- New building pretty much on schedule; roof should be installed end of this week; Painters and electrician on schedule for next week
- Desks and white boards have been ordered; bookcases have been built by Mr. Boot Mobley
- Board member P. Hodges questioned about a ribbon cutting/open house for the new building

Technology:

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

- Network cables will be pulled once roof is in place on new building
- Phones, intercoms have not been ordered yet for new building

Public Relations:

No discussion or updates took place.

Student Services:

College application week in which some colleges waive the application fee.

Child Nutrition:

Some vendors are arriving late. Not late enough to create an issue. There is a scheduled meeting with My Hot Lunch Box and this will be addressed.

Transportation:

Three activity buses will transport one hundred thirty students to the NC State Fair tomorrow.

Athletics:

Rec Night will take place at the soccer field tomorrow night. Any youth that is a part of the Martin County Youth Soccer Association will be admitted to the game free if they are wearing their jersey's. Second round of the state volleyball playoffs will be held tomorrow night as well. Women's Tennis team will participate state playoffs this weekend. A couple of players placed in the regional championship.

Board member L. Long questioned about the middle school soccer team game against MarCo. Principal Speller advised that all went well and no incidents were reported.

Other Discussion:

Board member L. Long questioned about teacher placement once the new building is completed. Principal Speller informed the board that Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Blend and Mr. Jones will occupy these classrooms. Classroom space was discussed for the ag program as they are cramped in their current space. Mrs. Lawrence is currently working on a \$1,000,000 grant for classrooms.

Finance:

Review of the October 2025 budget took place. Board member A. Rogerson questioned a couple of line items on the budget handout. Brief discussion took place on her questions.

Human Resources:

Principal Speller informed the board that two positions had been posted. Part-time EC assistant and Part-time school nurse are posted and she has not had any applications for either.

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 6:40 PM, the board entered closed session.

The board came out of closed session at 6:57 PM. **Motion:** Charlotte, Second: Phil.

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

A **motion** was made to approve and seal the September 15, 2025 closed session meeting minutes.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Keith. Motion passed.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on November 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment:

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


The meeting was adjourned by Delmas Cumbee, Chairman at 6:58 PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Pam Gibbs, Secretary

Approved by:



Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman