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## Bear Grass Charter School Board Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2026

#### Opening:

The Bear Grass Charter School Board met on May 18, 2026, at the BGCs media center. Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

#### Present:

- Delmas Cumbee ● Phil Hodges via Zoom ● 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 C. Griffin opened the meeting with a prayer invocation.

The minutes from the April 20, 2026, meeting were approved.

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

#### Special Recognition:

The following students were recognized as students of the month:

Josie Carawan (7<sup>th</sup> grade)      Kelsey Waters (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

#### Public Comment:

Community member Jerry Rogerson questioned the football incident that occurred while playing Northside. He wanted to know if the coaches at Northside had been held accountable for their behavior. He was told that the incident had been turned over to the NCHSAA. A decision was made not to play this school in any sports other than required playoff games.

An audience member inquired about the posted nursing position at the school. He was told that the position is dependent upon the state passing their budget. An inquiry was made about a JROTC program at BGCs. Principal Speller replied although it is a great program there currently isn't an interest on campus at the moment.

**Safety:**

SRO Jannise petitioned the DOT to have the speed limit reduced to 25 MPH during school peak hours (7:30-8:30/2:30-3:30). He has questioned about a flashing light as well. The cost of the lights will be on the school.

**Student Enrollment:**

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

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74 (3 WL)</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62 (9 WL)</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>64 (2 WL)</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>74 (10 WL)</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>68 (3 WL)</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>62 (4 WL)</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>518</b>
		<b>2026-2027 Lottery Report</b>

Applications are still open.

**Epicenter Update:**

GOV 1 – Enrollment Policy and Lottery Application is due the end of this month. Principal Speller is waiting for the format type required to submit.

**Board/School Policy:**

AP Buck discussed the Response to Bullying protocol. A handout was provided for the board members. Discussion took place about Family Wellness Center in Greenville, NC as a referral resource and a tracking method in place. There is a contact log in Infinite Campus that is utilized to record incidents/reports. Students have an anonymous reporting system in place. Classroom management plays a vital role in bullying. A Mental Health Plan is available that covers suicide prevention, dating violence, trafficking, and youth mental health. Social media needs to be limited on campus. Student handbook will be updated with these components.

**Curriculum/Staff Development:**

Workshops are occurring during summer break and staff are encouraged to participate. Charter School conference will take place in July. NC Bold will be held over the summer. Principal Speller and AP Buck will attend EC training by Office of Exceptional Children. Staff members Griffin and Krajewski are on the wait list for this conference.

**Federal Programs Update:**

Over the next few weeks, the IDEA grant will be worked on.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

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

- Has been in contact with DOM about obtaining light poles for the baseball field
- Summer projects have been lined up
- Waiting on a quote for the baseball water line
- Fence has been installed at the softball field
- Waste water still having issues; settings on the pumps were off
- Playground equipment will be placed once school is out for the summer

**Technology:**

No discussion or updates took place.

**Public Relations:**

Kara Price was selected as the MCC College and Career Promise Student of the Year. She was selected out of two hundred sixty-two applicants.

**Student Services:**

Testing has been completed for grades fifth – eighth. Remediation started today for any student that was not proficient. Retakes will start tomorrow. EOC's started today and will go through Wednesday. Classes for MCC summer courses will start May 20<sup>th</sup> and courses for NC Virtual will begin June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Child Nutrition:**

Vendors will remain the same for next school year.

**Transportation:**

Buses will need tire replacement and alignment will take place during the summer.

**Athletics:**

1A Regionals for varsity baseball and softball will start tomorrow at 6:00pm. Second game will be held at East Columbus on Thursday, weather permitting.

**Other Discussion:**

Fifth grade awards and move up celebration will be held Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm. Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm. Board member Gibbs and Smallwood terms need to be updated next month.

**Finance:**

Review of the April 2026 budget took place. A handout for the 2026-2027 projected budget was provided however was not discussed. This had just been completed and has not been thoroughly vetted by Chairman Cumbee.

The yearly contract with Prestige/Acadia was briefly discussed.

A **motion** was made to renew the yearly contract with Prestige/Acadia for the 2026-2027 academic year.

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

Board member C. Griffin advised the board the if the state passed their budget that pay increases and bonuses would be on the table which in turn will affect the 2026-2027 budget.

**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 Keith, and passed unanimously, for the board to go into closed session for discussions. At 6:42 PM, the board entered closed session.

The board came out of closed session at 7:25 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 April 20, 2026 closed session meeting minutes.

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

The next scheduled board meeting will be on June 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was adjourned by Delmas Cumbee, Chairman at 7:27 PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Pam Gibbs, Secretary

Approved by:



Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman