



Bear Grass Charter School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025

Opening:

The Bear Grass Charter School Board met on September 15, 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 August 18, 2025, meeting were approved.

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

Special Recognition:

The following students were recognized as students of the month:

Middle School: Olivia Martin

High School: Keely Voris

Public Comment:

No updates or discussions took place.

Safety:

No updates or discussions took place.

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	75
9th Grade	71
10th Grade	65
11th Grade	57
12th Grade	66
Total Enrollment	526

First PMR (Principal's Monthly Report) for 2025-2026 academic year is 526.

Epicenter Update:

OP9-School Mental Health and OP7- Parent's Bill of Rights Reporting have been submitted in Epicenter. Principal Speller informed the board that BGCS has to opt-in for paid parental leave by October 1, 2025. This has to done yearly.

A **motion** was made for BGCS to opt-in for Paid Parental Leave for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Phil. Motion passed.

Board/School Policy:

No updates or discussions took place.

Curriculum/Staff Development:

New ELA materials are working out well for grades sixth – eighth. Mr. Sasser with ECU is continuing his classroom observations with the beginning teachers. They will have a Professional Development celebration in October ⁱⁿ which they attend several skill sessions.

Federal Programs Update:

Principal Speller updated the board with the current EC headcount of fifty-eight with the possibility of sixty-two due to four referrals. They are retesting students to see if any possibly

test out of EC. She advised the board that another EC teacher will be needed or contract part-time EC staff. She was advised to further explore possible contract staff.

Buildings and Grounds:

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

- New building is running a little behind
- Wires are down from building to building
- All LED lights installed on baseball field

Technology:

Tony Hale, IT Manager, updated the board on technology. Two underground lines have been bored into the new building. Board member P. Hodges questioned how computer usage for the fifth grade was going. Mr. Hale stated that all was going well.

Public Relations:

BGCS was nominated for Daily Reflector's "Best Of" awards. Gold, Silver, and Bronze will be awarded. The banquet will be held September 24, 2025.

Student Services:

Principal Speller provided Accountability Reports for the board members. This report contains data for 2024-2025 academic year. Science standards changed last year which affected test scores. Sixth grade interventions are taking place for Language Arts and Math. Staff are focusing on students that need further guidance. BGCS academic growth score was seventy-eight up fourteen points from last year. This is the highest growth score BGCS has had since 2019.

Child Nutrition:

Huckle Burger has been proficient on their orders since their initial hiccup.

Transportation:

Mr. Harrison informed the board that new tires had been placed on one of the minibuses. Board member L. Long inquired if BGCS offered a bus driver training course. Principal Speller explained that you have to do online training for the classroom component (three–8-hour days) and then complete the driving component with Mr. Perry from Martin County.

Athletics:

Football is off to a good start. Board member P. Hodges inquired about volleyball team and if they were having a good year. Discussion took place about the state considering men's volleyball as a sport. Mr. Harrison provided the final cost of a new gym/classroom addition. The cost would be 3.84 million. Further discussion will have to take place among BGEF members.

Other Discussion:

Principal Speller would like to reinstate the transcript fee. Brief discussion took place among the board members and a **motion** was made to reinstate a transcript fee of \$5 effective October 1, 2025.

Motion: Phil, Second: Keith. Motion passed

PTO is being reactivated. First meeting will be held Monday, October 13, 2025.

Finance:

The August 2025 budget provided for the board is not an accurate report.

Human Resources:

Tracie Wynn has been hired as a substitute teacher.

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 6:50 PM, the board entered closed session.

The board came out of closed session at 7:23 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 August 18, 2025 closed session meeting minutes.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Amy. Motion passed.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on October 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was adjourned by Delmas Cumbee, Chairman at 7:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

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Pam Gibbs, Secretary

Approved by:

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Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman