



Bear Grass Charter School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

Opening:

The Bear Grass Charter School Board met on July 20, 2026, at the BGCS media center. Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present:

● Delmas Cumbee ● Keith Wynne ● Amy Rogerson
● Pam Gibbs ● Charlotte Griffin ● Leigh Ann Long (Zoom)

Guests:

● Patricia Speller— Bear Grass Charter School Principal
● Ashley Buck—Bear Grass Charter School Assistant Principal

A moment of silence was observed in honor of former board member Phil Hodges.

Board member C. Griffin opened the meeting with a prayer invocation.

The minutes from the June 15, 2026, meeting were approved.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Amy. Motion passed.

Special Recognition:

Coby Beck, a rising senior, was recognized as the 1A Baseball Player of the Year by the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association. He is the first student athlete in Martin County to receive this honor. Some of his other honors this year include First Team All-State, Atlantic Six Conference Pitcher of the Year, First Team All-Conference and Scholar Athlete. He was presented with a plaque for his accomplishment.

Public Comment:

Community member Jerry Rogerson commented that he was sorry to see Mr. Blend resign from BGCS.

Safety:

Principal Speller stated that the state budget had been approved, she hopes the yearly safety grant can be applied for.

Student Enrollment:

Principal Speller provided the headcount by grade for the 2026-2027 academic year.

5th Grade	59	0
6th Grade	75	5
7th Grade	64	7
8th Grade	66	0
9th Grade	75	8
10th Grade	67	4
11th Grade	62	4
12th Grade	55	0
Total Enrollment	523	WL

Epicenter Update:

Nothing is due at this time.

Board/School Policy:

AP Buck reviewed the final revisions and additions to the Student/Parent Handbook. Board members received an email earlier today with the discussed revisions. Board member A. Rogerson questioned if Chromebook obligations are included in the handbook. She was informed that this is in final forms. She also asked about cyberbullying. Principal Speller and Mr. Hale stated that nothing could be done if this occurs on private computers outside of school property. The police would have to be involved. However, if a school issued computer is used for cyberbullying, then he could trace the source. Several TikTok pages are up with the school logo and contain bullying content. Principal Speller will investigate this.

A **motion** was made to approve the Student/Parent Handbook as presented.

Motion: Amy, Second: Charlotte. Motion passed.

Curriculum/Staff Development:

Principal Speller shared a request from the High School English department to adjust the Senior English project. Currently, seniors create a four-career PowerPoint. The department would like to change this to a portfolio that contains a professional resume, analysis of three job opportunities, three written letters of interest, and participate in a mock interview. A career related research paper would be required as well. Their recommendation was accepted.

Federal Programs Update:

No discussion or updates took place.

Buildings and Grounds:

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

- Water fountain has been installed in building
- Some commodes were installed with air assist flush
- Trees have been trimmed in the senior parking lot, around batting cages and tennis courts
- Hooks installed in the sports storage room
- Storage cart with thirty-two white chairs has been ordered
- Some wind damage has been repaired
- Buses have been serviced and washed
- Floors completed and touch-up paint taking place
- Playground equipment being installed this week
- New chips were added to the wastewater system, and he feels that it is headed in the right direction

Technology:

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

- Power outage took out a network switch, access control panel on two doors, and a fire panel. These are being repaired
- Everything is in line with the student computers
- In the process of aiding the Chicken Mull vendors with internet access to utilize their Square app

Public Relations:

BGCS was nominated for Daily Reflector's "Best of" awards. Gold, Silver, and Bronze will be awarded. The banquet will be held sometime in September 2026.

Student Services:

Most of the schedules are completed for the students. Board member C. Griffin stated that a Practical Nurse program is available at MCC and wanted to make sure students were aware.

Child Nutrition:

All vendors are set up for the new year.

Transportation:

Discussed in building and grounds.

Athletics:

Athletic workouts have started. The football team has had some sevens on seven.

Other Discussion:

- Open House August 4th 4:00-6:00 pm floating
- Community Open House August 6th 5:00-7:00 pm floating
- First day of school August 7th
- Handout provided with 2026-2027 board meeting dates

Finance:

Review of the June 2026 budget took place. The auditor is coming in the last week of July.

Human Resources:

To be discussed in close session.

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 6:30 PM, the board entered closed session.

The board came out of closed session at 7:03 PM. **Motion:** Charlotte, Second: Keith.

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

A **motion** was made to approve and seal the June 15, 2026 closed session meeting minutes.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Keith. Motion passed.

A **motion** was made to approve personnel recommendations as discussed.

Motion: Charlotte, Second: Amy. Motion passed.

A **motion** was made to approve board member applicants as discussed.

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

The next scheduled board meeting will be on August 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was adjourned by Delmas Cumbee, Chairman at 7:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Pam Gibbs, Secretary

Approved by:



Delmas Cumbee, Board Chairman