

Board of Directors Meeting
January 6, 2026
6:00 p.m. at GCC conference room

Board members in attendance were: Mike Fawl (President), Brandi Wells (Vice-president), Marshall Madill (Treasurer), Kelli Forbes (Secretary), Cheryl Garrett, Jim Briggs, Dustin Elder and Kit Bostrom. Board member unable to attend was Berrigan Willmott. Also in attendance were Becky Florance, Trina Wood and Caitlin Willmott.

Opening prayer was led by Marshall Madill.

Mike introduced Trina Wood and asked board members to introduce themselves. Mike stated there was an e-mail proposing that Trina come on the board as an Ex officio member between now and July so she can figure out the bookkeeping and finances to have a second person on the board to know how that works.

Motion: I move we appoint Trina as an Ex officio member of the board between now and the end of June. By: Kit Bostrom; Second: Dustin Elder. Motion carried.

Approve agenda and minutes of 12/2/25 meeting: The agenda and minutes of the 12/2/25 meeting were e-mailed to board members and copies were provided prior to the meeting.

Brandi requested to add another executive session at the end of the meeting.

Motion: I move we approve the agenda with the addition. By: Kit Bostrom; Second: Brandi Wells. Motion carried.

A brief discussion was had about VELA, the organization that supports alternative schooling.

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as printed. By: Dustin Elder; Second: Jim Briggs. Motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: Mike welcomed Caitlin Willmott, who is attending the meeting to discuss personnel during an executive session.

Motion: I make a motion we go into executive session to discuss personnel matters for 10 minutes with the board and Becky and Caitlin present. By: Dustin Elder; Second: Marshall Madill. Motion carried.

(Executive session was held with board members, Becky Florance and Caitlin Willmott present from 6:12 p.m. and extended to 6:33 p.m.)

Mike stated that action taken from the executive session will be to draft a guideline for volunteers to read and agree to and sign to be able to volunteer at the school, and Becky will add this to the volunteer form.

Caitlin was asked to speak about the dance on February 14th. She stated they had a meeting today and are excited about the dance. They will hand out tickets on Monday, two for each student so they can invite a guest. Flyers will be sent out and they are requesting dessert donations, but everything else, they will be asking the PTO for the funds. It will be modest dress and they are taking song requests for the DJ. Discussion was had.

Financial report: Marshall distributed and reviewed the financial report. He stated that all of the accounts are in balance. Discussion was had and Mike thanked Marshall for his excellent reports.

Principal's report: Becky read her December report to the board. There were many activities in the month of December. Donations from the Christmas play totaled \$2,269. Hannah Powell hosted the Christmas Market and will have the summer 5K and donate those proceeds as well to the school. The Art and Music program was a success. The school received a \$10,000 grant from VELA, and the Suburban has been transferred to the school's ownership.

The applications for ACE scholarships open February 2nd and the parent meeting will be either that day or Tuesday, February 3rd. Caitlin Willmott agreed to give a talk about ACE scholarships at the parent meeting. The first teen dance will be February 14th, standardized testing is costly and is being considered, Kindergarten Round Up and Promotion/Graduation are upcoming events. Brandi will make flyers for Kindergarten Round Up.

Executive Committee: The second set of teacher evaluations are due in February. A brief discussion was had.

Site Committee: Becky stated they have not had a meeting. Grace Community Church has been doing their five-year plan. She stated she is appreciative of Will Nicoll continuing his work and doing the boys' bathroom downstairs. He has asked to be informed of other repair needs at the school.

Grant-writing Committee: Becky stated that with the grant money received, the goal is to get the security doors for the safety rooms and the metal that goes along the bottom part of the kindergarten classroom for security, and use the remainder of the money to start the playscape.

They will pursue other grant opportunities, and continue looking for the ones that fit us. Cheryl spoke about some grant opportunities and discussion was had.

PTO report: Brandi stated their first dance is coming up. The PTO is going to start constructing their hardship scholarship application.

Yearbook: Brandi stated she has re-done the form and it was agreed she will reach out to the sponsors from last year. Discussion was had and Brandi suggested that Carl Fowler do the yearbook this year and the students do it next year. Caitlin suggested we ask Dan Rooks to help with the yearbook and board members agreed. May 19th is the last day of school and promotion and graduation day. A lengthy discussion was had.

Motion: I move we hire Carl to put the yearbook together digitally for \$900 and we need them done by June 30th so he can include all school activities. By: Brandi Wells; Second: Kit Bostrom. Motion carried.

Upcoming events: The Groundhog Supper will be February 7th. Marshall spoke about the brochures and posters and putting an ad in the Metro Voice. He has been working with Carl to update the school brochure, and it can also be used as a program at the supper. Marshall showed on the screen and reviewed the updated brochure. A lengthy discussion was had. Marshall will ask Carl to make revisions and it can be sent to board members by e-mail and voted on. The cost of printing would be \$566 to print 1,000 brochures.

Motion: I move that we approve the printing of these brochures once the revisions are approved. By: Jim Briggs; Second: Brandi Wells. Motion carried.

Other business: Becky discussed the school's five-year plan, which she had previously e-mailed to board members. A lengthy discussion was had. Kindergarten Roundup will be March 27th if agreeable to Brittany. The board agreed by common consent with the five-year plan into the future from now.

There was discussion about churches supporting the school and how teaching is a calling. Marshall stated that we do so much fund-raising so we can pay teachers, buy curriculum and still keep tuition as low as possible.

Brandi distributed copies of a fundraising opportunity with Emch Fundraising LLC. She explained how it is an optional, tuition-based fundraiser in which students can sell braid breads and cookie dough to go toward their tuition. It is a local company and they deliver to the school. Discussion was had and board members agreed by common consent for Brandi to do this starting in April.

Mike suggested a short break before coming back for an executive session for 30 minutes.

Motion: I move we go into executive session for 30 minutes. By: Dustin Elder; Second: Cheryl Garrett. Motion carried.

(Executive session was held with board members and Becky Florance present from 8:05 p.m. and extended to 8:50 p.m.)

No action was taken from the executive session.

It was agreed that there will be no February meeting due to several board members unable to attend.

Closing prayer was led by Dustin Elder. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m. The next meeting will be on March 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the GCC conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Forbes, Secretary