

**The College Preparatory & Leadership Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual via Zoom Platform
November 8, 2025 @ 9:00AM**

Members Present: Marcus Brandon (chair), Eugene Slocum, Dr. Benita Varnado, Dr. Michelle Meggs, Dr. Linda McRae, Dr. Michelle Johnson (non-voting)

Members Absent: Dr. Tamara Turner

Others Present: Tacuma Johnson

Public Comments: None.

Minutes

E. Slocum moved, Dr. Meggs seconded to approve the minutes from September 13, 2025. Approved.

Superintendent Report

ADM

ADM has increased from 897 to 912. The school wants to continue with smart, incremental growth.

Academic Data Update

The school has received notification from NCDPI that CPLA is in the top 5% in the state for growth.

Great Schools NC

Great Schools NC is a nonprofit investment entity that invests in charter schools. They came to the school last week as the final step in the grant process. The school is applying to be accepted into a cohort with Great Schools NC next year which lasts 18 months. Dr. Johnson thanks Chairman Brandon for his integral involvement in the process. Great Schools NC is funded through a company owned by Michael Bloomberg. Acceptance comes with a \$150,000 grant.

Finance Report

ERC Update

Two quarters have been approved for credit. The other three quarters were denied for reasons that the school and the attorney believe to be unsubstantiated. The appeal has been filed, and approval is expected.

School Nutrition

Dr. Johnson updated the board on the financials of the school nutrition program. The school has made substantial changes in the operational delivery of meals, and has renegotiated the school nutrition catering contract. This year, for the first time, our school is operating at a surplus in the program based on the costs of food and catering. Specific details were shared. This is a tremendous improvement from last year.

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Federal Funds

All Title and IDEA federal grants have been approved and funded by NCDPI as of last week.

Budget v. Actual Report

Dr Johnson shared the Budget v Actual report in detail and answered questions from the Board.

Approval: E. Slocum moved, Dr. Meggs seconded to approve the Superintendent and Financial Report as presented. Approved.

Adjournment

Dr. McRae moved, Dr. Meggs seconded to adjourn at 9:37AM. Approved.