

Codman Academy Charter Public School
Board of Trustees

Tuesday, May 6, 2025
5:00pm

[Virtual Only, join us via Zoom:](#)

Meeting ID: 816 2055 4214

Passcode: board

Attendees: Rick Holden, Derrick Ciesla, Dawn Leanness, Ibrahim Wanu, Yves Salomon-Fernandez, Guy Fish, Regina Campbell-Malone,

Other Attendees: Elizabeth Reynolds Lupo, Julia Bott, Soyica Jackson, Heather Geary, Sheila Kuktis, Lubo, Ed Yoo, Amanda Rouillard, Kaylee Henderson, Judith Grant, Kelsey Felder, Julia Kallis, Beth Broxnan, Family, Rosemarie nHunter, Chetna Naimi, Monet Brathwaite, Tanesha, Jen Wetherby.

Minutes

I. Call to Order

- Action Item: Approve minutes from [March 4, 2025](#)
- Motion to accept Regina Campbell-Malone, Second Guy Fish. No discussion. Minutes approved.
- Action Item: Approve minutes from [April 1, 2025](#)
- Motion to accept Regina Campbell-Malone, Second Guy Fish. No discussion. Minutes approved.

II. General Public Comment

- Sheila Kuktis: I am an ed advocate that has been working with a student since last July. I want to be sure that the board knows that there is a PRS complaint for a student that has been denied for the past two years. Her IEP was 6 months late. When there was finally an approval, he is the shared decision maker but was not able to receive it. She has been taught by a non certified special education teacher for two years. This can't be done. The team has changed her designation. The team chair encouraged my client to drop me as an advocate. The team chair also offered to find an alternative advocate.
- Kaylee Henderson: As you know we have been in contract negotiation for over 7 months. We have reached many collaborative agreements. We have been told that we will not be able to discuss financials until the summer. We were told that we will have to choose between staffing and raises. We are told our state funding is being cut. We really need a contract negotiation with a salary agreement
- Ernie: I would like to follow up with the statement the advocate

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made. The director has persuaded my niece to move forward with her education. I believe this will jeopardize her mental health. She is going to be codependent for the rest of her life. I have been to numerous meetings, it seems that Codman wants to do what is best for them and not her. They continue to advocate for her and bypass my wishes. I would like to speak with someone from the board, time is running out in reference to her graduation to listen to my concerns.

III. Board President Report

- We are getting close to the end of the season. Some people made some reference. Political thinking aside and the impact on students and schools is definitely being impacted at both the state and federal level. This requires us to continue to take a look at how we will proceed. This is certainly impacting the us and we have a series of plans

IV. Head of School Report

- [Head of School Report](#)
- We had our last meeting at the end of april. The students and faculty had a much needed break. We were able to unplug and recharge
- The kick off to the break was great. We had an opportunity to participate in the Boston Marathon lead up events. We got to sit down and talk to 4 time marathon runner Bill Rogers who has agreed to come to codman.
- The Berlin Marathon organizers invited our track team to attend their marathon in Germany
- SAT, MCAS and AP exams are in full swing
- We are focused on spending down 240 and 256 grants that will allow us to streamline our system. We are looking to invest in extended school year support as well as platforms like Panorama to support MTSS and SST. This will help us stay in compliance with state and federal expectations.
- We have had some really good news for acceptances as well as some wonderful scholarships to support them with their academic pursuits.
- We are steadily approaching the 345 number. In kindergarten we will reach our numbers with ease. We have the most open spots in grade 9 and are hopeful we will have those filled by the end of the academic year.

V. Finance Committee Report

- Dawn: Two things to report on. Current fiscal year as well as the fiscal year for next year. We are predicting to end this year as a break even or with a small surplus. However we have also been

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told that there was a decrease in per pupil reimbursement rate. In my 15 years this is the first time we will have experienced this. As a result we will likely need the full draw down from the foundation board. Additionally, the average increase in student tuition rate has been 8% this is largely due to two large increases one of 12% and one of 16% that were both post covid. We did not expect this to stay at this point. We expected to be around 5 and it was 4.5 at the projected rate, which is now be reported at 1%. We will now need to adjust for this, because we have not accounted for the 400K deficit. Our plan as a finance committee is to have a new proposed budget ready for July to propose to the board to make up for this deficit.

- Guy Fish: To what do we attribute the double digit (12 to 16%) expense increases? You mentioned COVID, but how did that work, and what else might have been involved
- The rate that we receive is the same that BPS receives. It is a complex algorithm that is published multiple times throughout the year. We get paid out approximately quarterly but can be changed at any time. We are able to make up some of this with foundation funds however most of the dollars that come in from the foundation side are restricted for specific programs. We also use a lot of title 1 funding to support special populations but we have flat funded these for next year bracing for the impact of the federal government.
- Rick: There is no carry over from year to year based on state law
- To that point we are always revising the budget multiple times per year. We also have to show to DESE that we have a reserve of funding in place in case of emergency
- Regina: Does that mean 400K from this years budget and then the same from next year?
- Potentially, the guidance from the charter network has advised us to prepare for this in both this year and next years budget. This is unprecedented in my experience.
- Executive Session - Budget implications on Collective Bargaining.

VI. Academic Committee Report

- Julia Bott: I am happy to provide a quick update. We completed the ELA MCAS 3-8 in the LMS. We ran a very tight ship and many students worked well past the expected time. We are wrapping up 6-8 Math this week and then will move to science. We will then move to launching the US testing in grade 9 as well as the AP exams
- This time of year has a lot of pressure on all fronts. We have seen students make some shifts in their agency and accountability. We have been having 1:1 grade meetings.

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


- We did get some preliminary data back on the WIDA access test. I am in the process of putting together a data report. We have had a number of students FLEP and two thirds making progress toward their DESE benchmark. This is a symptom of the high quality Tier 1 instruction as well as the hard work of our ESL team
- We are also preparing for charter renewal. We do have conditions which will require some additional applications and reports from the school.

VII. New Business

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VIII. Adjourn

Enclosures

- [Minutes from March 4, 2025](#)
- [Head of School Report](#)
-  CACPS_Finance_Memo.03.31.25.docx
-  Codman Academy_Mar_Financial Statements.xlsx
-  Foundation Cash Flow_3.31.25.xlsx