JACKSON CHARTER SCHOOL
ROCKFORD CHARTER SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

315 Summit Street Rockford IL, 61107
815.316.0093 | JacksonCharterSchool.org

Rockford Charter School Organization Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2026
11:30 a.m.
Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107
In-Person Meeting

1. Call to Order – at 11:50 a.m.
    a. Present: Tamir Bell, Jessica Iasparro, Erika Hannah, Carla Redd, Executive Director, Dr. Ebony Wrenn, Business and Compliance Manager, Frank Bisconti, MTSS Coordinator, Emily Tran (virtual), Leslie Cruz (CSBM), Shenita Johnson (ElevatED Spaces, LLC), Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski
    b. Not Present: Quentin Wainwright, Antonio Johnson, Mary Simmons
2. Approval of Agenda
    a. A motion was made to amend the agenda by Erika Hannah and seconded by Carla Redd, moving Item 5c. to 5a., and Item 6e. to 5b., with the rest of the Items to be renumbered accordingly.
        i. Voice Vote: All members voting aye.
        ii. Motion passed.
3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2026
    a. A motion to Approve the Board Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2026, was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Jessica Iasparro.
        i. Voice Vote: All members voting aye.
        ii. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment – None.
5. Finance Committee Report/Finance Manager Report
    a. Midland States Bank Presentation
        i. Tamir Bell explained that the Finance Committee has had several conversations about the direction they would like to go as it relates to who the school banks with. He stated that the school currently banks with UMB, but the Finance Committee has taken the time to identify and compare other banks to see how the school could benefit. He informed the Board that Midland States Bank has been brought in to make a presentation to the Board as to what they could do for the school as it relates to a banking partnership.
        ii. Martesha Brown informed the Board that when looking at banking opportunities, it is not just a financial relationship – Midland States Bank ("Midland") looks to see how they can serve and support the client. She informed the Board that Midland does whatever they can to support their community. She stated that from 2025 to present, they have around 7,500 hours that have been volunteered in the community, with 85% of those hours being volunteered in the Rockford region.
        iii. Martesha Brown informed the Board that she is the Market President and oversees the Belvidere and Rockford region. Shazma Jones informed the Board that she is the Commercial Services Sales Officer, so she deals with the commercial accounts and makes sure the bank aligns their client's goals to what the bank can offer.

iv. Martesha Brown informed the Board that over the course of two years, Midland has committed around $59 million in support as it pertains to the community in various ways, whether it's community development loans, sponsorships or donations. Martesha Brown explained that they have the Midland Foundation and Local Giving, so when the school is having family parties, family nights, or other events, they should consider reaching out for sponsorship.
v. Martesha Brown explained that another way Midland can partner with Jackson beyond financial services is through their team that works with local donors. She stated that those individuals have great connections with those who are looking to give. She explained that if these individuals are looking to support education, knowing that they have the partnership, Midland would suggest that these donors consider Jackson Charter School.
vi. Martesha Brown informed the Board that they offer lessons on financial empowerment. If the school has an event, or is looking to provide support for team members, Midland can come out and teach financial empowerment. She stated that this is free of charge and is a way for the bank to educate populations of the community.
vii. Shazma Jones informed the Board that as it relates to treasury management services, Midland's services include ACH processing, wire transfers, fraud protection, and remote deposit captures. Martesha Brown advised the Board that Midland primarily has everything that large banks would have, but with localized decision making.

b. Monthly Presentation by Consultant ElevatED Spaces, LLC
   i. Shenita Johnson explained that the work done by ElevatED Spaces, LLC during their consultancy has included fiscal analysis, policy analysis and revisions, FY26 budget preparation, staffing models, compensation analysis, renewal application and submission, and follow-on support and special education consultancy.
   ii. Shenita Johnson stated that there are opportunities for continued partnership. She explained based on some areas that have been identified through their work, ElevatED Spaces, LLC, could provide continued leadership consulting, problem of practice consultancies, and curriculum support.
c. YTD Budget Actuals
   i. Leslie Cruz explained that the year-end forecast for total revenue is $3,965,967.00, and total expenses are at $4,825,975.00, yielding a net income loss of $860,007.00.
   ii. Leslie Cruz went over the draft FY27 budget with the Board. She explained that CSBM is expecting total revenue to be $4,444,959.00, and total expenses to be $4,861,303.00. Leslie Cruz stated that this would yield a deficit of $416,344.00.
d. YTD Cashflow Update
   i. Leslie Cruz informed the Board that the bank account is currently at $2,390,233.00, and accounts receivable are expected to be at $768,737.00.
e. Capital Campaign Proposal
   i. Dr. Wrenn explained that she and Frank Bisconti have discussed the wide range of building needs. She stated that as a result, Frank put together a list of what the school's projects look like and the cost associated.
   ii. Frank Bisconti explained that these projects are basic needs to keep moving the school forward. He stated that the biggest chunk of the list falls on the technology side. Frank Bisconti explained that the technology at the school is very old – some devices being as much as 10 or 12 years old. He stated that the constant maintenance poses a challenge for the school and also affects learning.
   iii. Frank Bisconti informed the Board that one of the biggest costs is the challenge the school has with the locks and keys throughout the building. He explained that

he is unsure how it has developed over the years, but they are not the same locks on all of the doors, and many doors do not have double sided keys, so teachers cannot lock doors from the inside in case of emergency.

iv. Frank Bisconti explained that other repairs include ceiling replacements, bathroom fixture repairs and upgrades, automatic fire door repairs, parking lot sealing and striping, and drinking fountain replacement. He stated that this list was put together to initiate a type of capital campaign to try to raise money to complete these projects.

v. Dr. Wrenn explained that another project that is not on the list is air conditioning. She acknowledged that it would cost millions to get central air, but the building is not conducive for learning in the summer or fall. She informed the Board that the school did get some parent complaints about how hot the school is. Dr. Wrenn stated that there needs to be serious consideration as far as what to do for next steps to address the lack of air conditioning. She explained that she and Frank Bisconti have discussed having an initial assessment to determine the most cost-effective route.

vi. Carla Redd informed the Board that ComEd installed a central air unit at the Boys and Girls Club. Tamir Bell stated that he would make the connection to the team at ComEd to inquire about the school's options for air conditioning.

vii. The Board came to a consensus to prioritize finding a new board member with community connections and experience in fundraising to help with finding funding for the school, including these capital projects.

f. Foreman Grant Proposal

i. Tamir Bell informed the Board that he connected Dr. Wrenn with an individual that has experience in the grant writing realm. He stated that she has most recently worked with Rockford Promise and has also been able to secure funds for the Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation (TCMF).

ii. Dr. Wrenn informed the Board that she has connected with Gabrielle Foreman of Foreman Grant Consulting. Dr. Wrenn informed the Board that Gabrielle Foreman does have experience in the non-profit space, not necessarily in the school sector, but stated that she does think it is added value that she does have experience in the non-profit arena. Dr. Wrenn explained that the question is, if the school does bring on a grant writer, how is that being allocated and how would that expense be sourced. Dr. Wrenn informed the Board that the school has a semi-unrestricted grant, and a portion of it could go towards the small scope if the Board wanted to move forward with the consultant.

iii. Tamir Bell informed the Board that he thinks it would be helpful to have Gabrielle Foreman come to the next meeting to give a presentation and answer any questions from the Board.

6. New Business

a. Discuss/Approve Project Proposals from Helm Service for Boiler Loop Pump Seal Replacement in the amount of $1,828.00, Supply Fan VFD Replacement in the amount of $10,774.00, and the repair of Pumps 6 and 7 in the amount of $ $5,777.00.

i. Frank Bisconti informed the Board that these specific repairs are the result of a pipe that burst back in January. Frank stated that the school has already received over $11,000.00 in insurance money, which will be directly applied to the cost of these repairs.

1. A motion to Approve the Project Proposals from Helm Service for Boiler Loop Pump Seal Replacement in the amount of $1,828.00, Supply Fan VFD Replacement in the amount of $10,774.00, and the repair of Pumps 6 and 7 in the amount of $5,777.00, was made by Jessica Iasparro and

seconded by Tamir Bell.

a. Roll Call Vote:
    i. Tamir Bell – Aye.
    ii. Jessica Iasparro – Aye.
    iii. Erika Hannah – Aye.
    iv. Carla Redd – Aye.
b. All members voting aye. Motion passed.

b. Discuss/Approve Client Services Agreement with Birch Agency for the hire of a 5th Grade Elementary Teacher, Retroactive to April 1, 2026
    i. A motion to Approve the Client Services Agreement with Birch Agency for the hire of a 5th Grade Elementary Teacher, Retroactive to April 1, 2026, was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Carla Redd.
        1. Roll Call Vote:
            a. Tamir Bell – Aye.
            b. Jessica Iasparro – Aye.
            c. Erika Hannah – Aye.
            d. Carla Redd – Aye.
        2. All members voting aye. Motion passed.
c. Discuss/Approve Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report from Sikich, Retroactive to March 30, 2026
    i. A motion to lay over the Discussion/Approval of the Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report from Sikich, Retroactive to March 30, 2026, was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Carla Redd.
        1. Voice Vote: All members voting aye.
        2. Motion passed.
d. Discuss/Approve Fourth Restatement Extension of Charter School Agreement between the Board of Education of the Rockford Public Schools, District No. 205, Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois and Rockford Charter School Organization
    i. Attorney Sosnowski informed the Board that this is the same agreement that has been previously circulated to the Board. She explained that the only new language since the Board saw the agreement last was that there was a change in state statute as it relates to unionization. Attorney Sosnowski stated that now in charter agreements, there is a requirement to have a clear statement in charter agreements between authorizing districts and charter schools regarding charter schools not interfering with any union activity.
    ii. Attorney Sosnowski explained that there were some efforts at the last board meeting to attempt to lengthen the term of the charter agreement. She stated that at least one board member on behalf of RPS 205 made that motion, but the motion failed to receive the required number of votes in order to make that change to the agreement, so the agreement sits at the same term previously provided, which is a two-year term.
        1. A motion was made to Approve the Fourth Restatement Extension of Charter School Agreement between the Board of Education of the Rockford Public Schools, District No. 205, Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois and Rockford Charter School Organization, by Jessica Iasparro and seconded by Erika Hannah.
            a. Roll Call Vote:
                i. Tamir Bell – Aye.
                ii. Jessica Iasparro – Aye.
                iii. Erika Hannah – Aye.
                iv. Carla Redd – Aye.

b. All members voting aye. Motion passed.

7. Old Business
8. Marketing Committee Report
    a. No report made.
9. Executive Director Report
    a. No oral report made. Written report was included in board packets.
10. Director of Student Support & Engagement Report
    a. No oral report made. Written report was included in board packets.
11. Executive Session – (if needed)
    a. Personnel - Go into Closed Session to Review Closed Session Minutes and to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
        i. A motion to enter executive session was made by Carla Redd and seconded by Erika Hannah.
            1. Voice Vote: All members voting aye.
            2. Motion passed. Entered executive session at 1:16 p.m.
        ii. A motion to exit executive session was made by and seconded by Tamir Bell and seconded by Carla Redd.
            1. Voice Vote: All members voting aye.
            2. Motion passed. Exited executive session at 1:22 p.m.
12. Adjournment
    a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Erika Hannah and seconded by Tamir Bell.
        i. Voice Vote: All members voting aye.
        ii. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: May 21, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. (Meeting will be held in-person at Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107)