



Mission Statement: The mission of The RISE Schools is to provide a rigorous and holistic education that develops the minds and character of scholars to be catalysts for social change

**The RISE Schools**  
**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 16, 2025 at 6:00PM**

*The minutes of The Rise Schools meetings need not be verbatim transcripts of the meeting. These minutes are a brief summary of the events of the meeting.*

Date:	Start	End	Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
04/15/2025	6:01PM	6:45PM	05/21/2025	6:00PM	Lara Sterling
Meeting Location:					
RISE					

Attended by:	
Lara Sterling Tanisha Jones Desmond Hardy	Terence Washington Danny Brewington Dr. Camelle Simmons  Parents/Community: Sylvia Iroabuchi Jasmine Fuller
Highlights:	

**Call to Order** – Motion to begin the meeting- Mrs. Jones; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mr. Hardy; Unanimous vote to call the April Board meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda**- Motion to approve the April Agenda- Mrs. Jones; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mr. Hardy; Unanimous vote to approve the April Agenda

**A. Board Chair Report:**

- a. Closure Calendar: Chair Sterling shared the SCSC closure calendar with the board and school leadership. She also reported updates from the meetings with the SCSC and SCSC Closure Monitor.
- b. Bond Holder Update: Ms. Sterling reported that she and the EIP team met with the bondholder for a preliminary discussion around closure details and what that may entail from all parties. She indicated that there is a call scheduled for next week for more details regarding assets, costs, services, and other key details. She outlined that the plan is to work with the bondholder to engage a third party to support/manage the corporation and wind-down business after June 30, 2025.

**B. Principal/Federal Programs Report:**

- a. Milestones/Testing Update: Mr. Cross presented student data from the I-Ready scores which indicated growth.
- b. Enrollment Data: No update provided at this time.
- c. School Closure: Mr. Cross reviewed details of the school closure process. He also shared the Closure FAQs and noted the last day of school is May 21. He indicated that promotion events will occur on May 22 at a church offsite. May 14<sup>th</sup> is the awards ceremony for non-promotional exercises (all grades not K, 5, or 8). Mr. Cross also reported that post-planning will be held that Thursday – Tuesday. During that time parents will receive student records. Mr. Cross outlined the transition plan for families that will include two copies of records as well as report cards. He stated that any report cards not picked up will be mailed and that record requests will be available after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Instructions on how to obtain records has been provided to staff and parents via the FAQ document. Mr. Cross further outlined the registration process for FCS and other charter schools. He outlined the timeline and communication process for each of those options. Mr. Cross said that RISE will engage a third-party vendor for digitizing student records. There are two years of records on-site at the school.

**C. Business Office Report: N/A**

**D. Finance Report:**

- a. Financial Report as of March 31, 2025:
  - i. Mr. Washington presented the monthly report ending on March 31, 2025. He reported on the revenue as affected by the QBE adjustment. Mr. Washington presented highlights on revenue, profit, as well as grant reports. Additionally, he indicated all debts have been paid except debt associated with the bond. As far as the cash balance, Mr. Washington clarified the debt showing reflects the bills owed vs actual debt and clarified the bond/construction costs were most of those reflected debts. He provided a comparison from the March 2024 financial report to this year with considerable gains in profit/fund balance.
  - ii. Mr. Washington answered questions from the board regarding specific line items and said the projected end-of-year cash will be around the same as it is now.
  - iii. End of Year Activity Budget – Mr. Washington outlined the proposed items included in this budget. The board discussed each line item with Mr. Washington and Mr. Cross. The board approved revisions as outlined on Exhibit A attached to these minutes.
- b. Cleaning Proposal: Mr. Washington presented and reviewed three cleaning quotes and indicated the staff recommendation was Service Master. The request was made to authorize the staff recommendation of Service Master as the cleaning provider. Mr. Hardy made the motion to authorize the contract with ServiceMaster; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mrs. Jones. Unanimous vote.

**E. Proposed Consent Items for Board Meeting:**

- a. Financial Report as of January 31, 2025: Motion to approve the January 31, 2025, financial report- Mr. Hardy; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mrs. Jones; Unanimous vote to approve the financial report.
- b. Financial Report as of February 28, 2025: Motion to approve the January 31, 2025, financial report- Mr. Hardy; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mrs. Jones; Unanimous vote to approve the financial report.
- c. Financial Report as of March 31, 2025: Motion to approve the January 31, 2025, financial report- Mr. Hardy; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mrs. Jones; Unanimous vote to approve the financial report.

**Public Comment-** An attendee requested additional information on the reason for closure. Chair Sterling outlined the process of analysis of CPF and other factors that factored into the decision to request early termination. Mr. Hardy outlined deficiencies across Academics, Operations, and Finance. He outlined the rationale and process specifically focused on the best interest of scholars, families, and stakeholders.

**Next Meeting Date –** TBD

**Adjournment –** Motion to Adjourn was made at 6:45 by Mrs. Jones; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mr. Hardy, Unanimous vote to adjourn.

**Exhibit A - Year End Activity Budget Items**

Expense details	Category	Budget	Notes
After School Labor Cost	Labor	\$3,360.00	After school program started 4/14/25
After School Supplies and Snacks	Food	\$1,000.00	After school program started 4/14/25
Teacher Appreciation	Activities	\$2,000.00	18 teachers
Student Awards	Activities	\$2,000.00	Each student will receive a high quality certificate for being a RISE students, in addition to the tradition awards for perfect attendance, honor role etc.
Six Flags Grades 5-8	Field Trips	\$4,000.00	80 students and 5 free
Aquarium Grades K-4	Field Trips	\$1,000.00	90 students and 10 free adult tickets
Transportation for field trips	Transportation	\$800.00	Per Cross email
		\$14,160.00	