



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
Governing Board Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025 at 6 PM

The minutes of Sunshine Law 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:
5/14/25	6:12 PM	8:05PM	6/15/2025	6:00PM	Camelle Simmons
Meeting Location:					
Rise					
Attended by:					
Lara Sterling Demond Hary Tanisha Jones		Zedric Cross Dr. Camelle Simmons Terrence Washington Ms. Sharon Garrett Ty Harrison Danny Brewington			
Highlights:					

I. Administrative Functions

1. Call to Order - *Motion to call to order made by Ms. Taylor-Jones, 2nd by Mr. Hardy, unanimous at 6:12 PM.*
2. Approval of Agenda - *Motion to approve the agenda as presented by made by Ms. Taylor-Jones; 2nd by Mr. Hardy; motion passes with unanimous consent.*
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the April 15, 2025 board meeting - *Motion to approve the April 15, 2025 board meeting minutes as presented made by Ms. Taylor-Jones; 2nd by Mr. Hardy; motion passes with unanimous consent.*

A. Board Chair Report - Chair Sterling presented the following topics for discussion by the Board:

1. **Gymnasium Construction Project (Pay Applications and Change Orders)** - Change orders and pay applications that were executed in connection with the new gym construction project were reviewed by the Board. Ms. Sterling confirmed that she was authorized to execute all documents related to the bond and construction project on behalf of the Board. Ms. Sterling requested that her signature on bond and construction related documentation be ratified and approved as part of the consent agenda.
2. **Listing Agreement with T. Dallas Smith & Company, Inc.** - Bond requested that the school execute an Exclusive Listing Agreement with T. Dallas Smith & Company, Inc. in connection with the listing of the RISE facility for sale. Ms. Sterling requested that her

execution of the listing agreement, in her capacity as President of the Board of Directors, be ratified and approved.

3. **Post Closure Proposed Contracts** – Due to lack of staffing in the building to complete the required closure activities as provided in the SCSC guidelines, and activities that may be required by the nonprofit beyond June 30, 2025. The Board reviewed proposals offered by various vendors, per the school’s procurement policy, and now desires to enter into the following contracts immediately. **[INSERT LINGO FROM MORGAN]**
 - i. **Leah Rosser – Out of the Box Ops** – Amount not to exceed \$_____. Human Resources provider for all matters related to separation of employees from the RISE Schools
 - ii. **Image Freeway** – Digitization of Records – Amount Not to exceed \$20,000. This was the only vendor that responded to proposal request. Board member Hardy will work with this vendor to ensure that it has proper certifications to handle sensitive student records prior to execution of final contract.
 - iii. **CharterfiGuy** – Financial Services/Inventory/Facilities/Asset Distribution – Amount not to exceed \$70,000. Cross & Dott offered and rescinded its proposal to provide financial services. Due to the skillset required for charter school financial work, the school was unable to obtain RFPs for more than two vendors. Mr. Washington is currently providing financial services to the school and the board deemed it in the best interest of the school for Mr. Washington to continue in this role for the closure and post closure needs of the school.
 - iv. **Ed Innovation Partners (EIP)** – SCSC Closure and Post Closure Services related to bond disposition – SCSC Closure Services – Amount not to exceed \$30,000. EIP is currently providing services to the school under that certain contract dated June 21, 2024 and amended on October 28, 2024, which includes governance, academic and leadership support.
 1. EIPs presented the board with an amended contract for Closure services (as delineated in the SCSC guidelines and checklist) and post closure services related to the (i) disposition of the bond and RISE facility, (ii) management of the affairs of the nonprofit entity, RISE Preparatory Charter School, Inc. post closure with the SCSC, and (iii) the winding up and dissolution of the nonprofit once its debts and liabilities have been resolved. The board is in the process of negotiating post closure services with EIP. The cost quoted under the draft proposal for closure and post closure services is \$114,000.00.

B. Principal Report – Mr. Cross provided updates on school closure action items, which included (i) Employee close out procedures - Individualized checklists provided by Mr. Cross and Dr. Simmons to all staff 5/8/25 with a follow up email to all May 14, 2025 outlining required year-end procedures; (ii) Data collections and compliance related items - Vendor will be engaged to ensure finalization of all data collections and compliance related items by the GaDOE deadlines; (iii) Digitization Project and how the school can support this work until May 27, 2025 (last day of school for staff), and (iv) Staffing needs until June 30, 2025.

C. Finance Report – Mr. Washington presented on the following to the Board:

1. Financial Report as of April 30, 2025
 - i. Review of April financials
 - ii. Update on Federal Programs and Inventory Projects
 - iii. Current cash flow is indicated as of May 14, 2025, is \$1.2M. In June, there will be an anticipated deficit upon the amended budget based upon year end and post closure proposed spending.
2. Proposed amended FY25 was presented and discussed with the Board. The board discussed approving the amended 2025 budget conditionally with the understanding that it would be revised and presented for approval and ratification at the June 2025 board meeting.

3. End of Year Celebrations Budget - Board reviewed collectively the amendment to the EOY celebrations budget based on spending made by the school following the April board meeting. The amount approved in April was \$14K. The final amount of spending was determined to be approximately \$22K. The school leader is requesting the board to approve the additional spending.
 - a. Mr. Cross was asked by the Board to provide copies of all executed permission slips and liability waivers to the Board for the EOY field trips.

D. Consent Agenda Action Items:

1. Authorize and ratify Ms. Sterling's execution of all documents related to the bond and construction projects at the RISE Schools – Motion made by Ms. Taylor – Jones; 2nd by Mr. Hardy, Motion passed with unanimous consent of all board members.
2. Authorize and ratify the execution of the Exclusive Listing Agreement with T. Dallas Smith & Company, Inc. – ***Motion made by Mr. Hardy; 2nd by Ms. Taylor -Jones; Motion passed with unanimous consent of all board members.***
3. Amended End of Year Celebrations Budget to increase allocated expenditure from \$14,000.00 to \$22,991.32. ***Motion made by Ms. Taylor-Jones; 2nd by Mr. Hardy, Ms. Sterling voted nay. Motion passed with vote of board members 2 to 1.***
4. Approval of execution of service provider contracts in connection with closure and post closure services as presented with the understanding that services and/or costs are subject to reduction based upon SCSC direction. ***Motion to approve all post closure contracts per additional review. All Board Members approved.***
5. Financial Report as of April 30, 2025 as presented - ***Motion to approve the financial report as of April 30, 2025. All Board members approved.***
6. Conditional approval of the amended FY2025 budget based on approved revisions to be ratified at the June 2025 Board Meeting – ***Motion made by Mr. Hardy; 2nd by Ms. Taylor-Jones; Motion passed with unanimous consent of all board members.***

E. Public Comment – No public comment

F. Next Meeting Date – June Meeting Date to be determined.

G. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Taylor-Jones; 2nd by Mr. Hardy. Motion to adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm passed with unanimous consent.