

POLARIS

CHARTER ACADEMY

WHERE LEARNING HAS NO BOUNDARIES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES			
Date	October 20, 2025	Time	6:30pm
Location	Polaris Charter Academy, 620 North Sawyer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois		
Board Members in Attendance		Board Members Absent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tina Yarovsky—Chair• Roel Vivit—Vice Chair• Yaa Boakye—Secretary• Mike Davison—Treasurer• Ayanna Berry• Antonio Gonzalez• Sam Bottum• Luis Polanco Rodriguez• Michelle Navarre—Ex Officio		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wendy Silva—Parent Representative• Bennett Brenton	
School Staff in Attendance		Guests in Attendance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Francesca Peck• Lissette Sanchez• John Lydon• Elizabeth Whiting		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	
Call to Order			
The meeting of the Board of Directors of Polaris Charter Academy was called to order by the Chair at 6:37pm . A quorum was established.			

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes	
Discussion	The August meeting minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. Two corrections were noted: (1) A typo indicated December meeting minutes were approved, which should have reflected June meeting minutes, (2) Michelle noted that for compliance purposes, all board meeting minutes must include a statement that open space for public comment was provided, and that no one was present.
Motion	Roel moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted. Antonio seconded the motion.
Vote	In Favor: Unanimous “Aye”

POLARIS

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	Opposed: None Motion carried, and minutes approved.
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AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments

Open space for public comment was provided. No one was present and public comments were neither presented at the meeting nor submitted in advance.

AGENDA ITEM: New Board Member Introduction

Discussion	Tina introduced Luis Polanco Rodriguez as the newest board member, whose membership was officially approved at the prior meeting.
Motion	—
Vote	—

AGENDA ITEM: Board Officer Elections (2025–2026)

Discussion	<p>Tina noted that the October meeting serves as the annual meeting where officer positions are revisited. She announced that she would be rolling off as Chair and off the board entirely, as communicated one year prior.</p> <p>Officer Slate Presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair: Roel Vivit• Vice Chair: Antonio Gonzalez• Treasurer: Mike Davison• Secretary: Wendy Silva
Motion	Tina moved to approve the 2025–2026 board officer slate as presented. Luis seconded the motion.
Vote	In Favor: Unanimous “Aye” Opposed: None Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: State of the School Report

Discussion	<p>Presenter: Michelle Navarre</p> <p>ISBE Summative Designation</p> <p>Michelle presented information regarding the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) annual summative designation, which</p>
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POLARIS

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evaluates how individual schools meet the needs of their students. The designation is based on:

- Academic indicators: 75% of total score
- School quality/student success indicators: 25% of total score
 - Chronic Absenteeism: 20% of total score

Designation Categories (from highest to lowest): Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted Support, Comprehensive Support, Intensive Support

Current Year Status: For the first time, Polaris is receiving a Targeted designation. This information is currently embargoed. The Polaris team will work with CPS to understand the full implications of this designation and keep the board informed.

Playground installation is complete.

Proactive ICE Policy – Polaris team has proactively designed ICE policies to keep students, families and staff safe at school and on school grounds.

Y25 End of Year Star Data – Polaris team discussed the year end Star data and answered board questions

20th Day Enrollment

- Reached 340 students
- We are not getting the full \$19.7K per student (long term debt, short term debt, and pension obligation is deducted). The actual amount is \$14.8K per student
- Bloomwell Group Lead
 - Michelle would like Lyman Millard from the organization to present the strategy for next year

Programs

- Site Seminars – hosting 2 site seminars this year on school culture and mathematics (EL Education & Eduquate)
- Reflection Codification
 - Polaris team will be working with Camille Farrington to update their reflection practices.

POLARIS

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	Staffing – Currently a third and a 7-8 math position open
Motion	—
Vote	—

AGENDA ITEM: Finance & Operations Committee Report

Discussion	<p>Presenter: Lissette Sanchez</p> <p>Budget vs. Actuals: Almost closed with Sept</p> <p>\$103,000 below budget at this time; biggest reason = salaries and timing; but \$160K of pending revenue should cover this shortfall.</p> <p>Balance Sheet: Cash equivalent = \$200K (decrease from prior years)</p> <p>Audit: Decline in net assets of \$500K</p>
Motion	—
Vote	—

AGENDA ITEM: Governance Committee Report

Discussion	<p>Presenter: Tina Yarovsky</p> <p>Board Member Pipeline: need assistance from board to help with pipeline.</p> <p>Tina shared sample of board member profile document to assist with board member outreach. PDF in the board packet.</p> <p>Charter Board Member Training – Tina requested for access to on demand recorded INCS training. Luis and Wendy (New board members) complete 4. Returning members complete 2. Complete by December 10. There is 1 live training on November 3rd that you can register through INCS.</p>
Motion	—
Vote	—

AGENDA ITEM: Development Committee Report

POLARIS

CHARTER ACADEMY

WHERE LEARNING HAS NO BOUNDARIES

Discussion	<p>Presenter: Roel Vivit</p> <p>Our fundraising goal for 2025-2026 is \$470K (up from \$440K last year); this can be broken down into the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year-End Campaign: Looking to raise \$25K in 2025; reach out to your networks; we will launch the campaign on Giving Tuesday (12/02) and will continue with both social media and physical mailers; reach out to Elizabeth if you would like to personalize any holiday cards for your networks• Corporate Giving: Board members are asked to think about any leads on the corporate giving front
Motion	—
Vote	—

CALL TO CLOSE

Motion	There being no further business, Antonio motioned to close the meeting. Luis seconded.
Vote	<p>In Favor: Unanimous "Aye"</p> <p>Opposed: None</p> <p>Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.</p>