



THE LABORATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes June 18,
2025
6:00 p.m.**

Virtual ZOOM Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2314020168?pwd=bVAvaVJVV1E1cFFHWGY5NTArSVVGOT09&omn=8498703626>

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm.

Board Member Role Call:

Present: Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President, Karen Slade, Member, Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary, Pinkey Lucas, Member, Elbert Sampson, Treasurer, Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President

Absent: None

Non-Board Members: Dr. Andrea Coleman-Hill, CEO, Joan B. Brown, Director of Human Resources, Jesse Bean, Vertex PA, Alan Epstein, Esq., Attorney

Other: None

Announcement of Executive Session – Legal and Personnel Discussions:

An executive session was held on June 18, 2025 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Nomination Committee Recommendation: None

Approval of Minutes: May 2025 Board Meeting

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion: Karen Slade, Member, Second: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President- Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member-Yes
Karen Slade, Member- Yes
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes
Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary- Yes

Unfinished Business: None

New Business
Finance Report

- Cash Balances are \$283k
- Accounts Payable is \$593k.
- Unrestricted Fund Balance is \$192k

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the Finance Report.
Motion: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer, Second: Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President
Each Member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President- Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member-Yes
Karen Slade, Member- Yes
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes
Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary- Yes

CEO Report

FRIENDSGIVING BREAKFAST REMINDER

The Friendraiser fundraiser is scheduled for June 23, 2025. The goal of the Friendraiser is to broaden awareness of LAB Charter with a community of people outside of education who can support the school and it's growth. The Friendraiser is a breakfast meeting to be held at the Sedgley Campus.

2025-2026 BUDGET

The 2025-2026 Budget is contained in this Board Packet. This is a balanced budget that will meet the June 30, 2025 deadline.

CAMPUS CONSOLIDATION (HENRY AVE. CLOSURE)

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, LAB will consolidate the campuses. A letter was sent notifying the Watchtower Group that the Henry Ave. campus would close. Additionally, the staff and families were notified of the consolidation of the campuses.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Lab Charter has secured two grants and one additional community partnership for the upcoming school year. Below are the details.

1. Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Overview: What is PLTW Launch?

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Launch is a nationally recognized PreK–5 STEM curriculum designed to build foundational STEM skills in early learners, encourage inquiry-based, hands-on learning, support equitable access through inclusive instruction in both English and Spanish, and prepare students for long-term academic success and STEM career pathways. The program equips students with problem-solving, communication, and collaboration skills that support academic excellence and future career readiness.

PLTW Launch Grant Summary

Laboratory Charter School has been awarded a \$7,900 PLTW Launch grant to support implementation. The grant includes:

- \$950 participation fee credit for 2025–26 and 2026–27 school years
- An estimated \$6,000 in PLTW Core Teacher Training credits (up to 12 training seats)
- Grant period: April 17, 2025 – May 31, 2028
- Requirements include remaining an active PLTW school, implementing at least one module annually, and completing training

2. Math Shelf

Overview of Math Shelf

Math Shelf is a research-based, tablet-delivered mathematics program designed to rapidly accelerate early numeracy skills in Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Rooted in the Montessori approach, Math Shelf offers over 1,500 sequenced, adaptive activities that build number sense, place value, arithmetic, geometry, and measurement skills. The platform personalizes instruction for each child, allowing learners to engage at their current skill level and progress at their own pace. Designed with inclusivity in mind, Math Shelf supports diverse learners, including students with IEPs and those on the autism spectrum, through embedded scaffolds and individualized pacing.

Grant Overview

Through a generous grant from Intuit (makers of TurboTax and QuickBooks), Math Shelf offers a Fall Startup Grant valued at \$550 per class. The grant includes:

- Four (4) Amazon Fire 8 tablets per class
- Math Shelf software licenses (August–December 2025)
- Free at-home play access for families
- A 45-minute virtual teacher training session
- Two leadership data review meetings (beginning and end of grant period)

3. Community Partnership: Temple University

LAB has partnered with the Temple University, College of Education and Human Development, to pilot a reading program for the kindergarten classes. The purpose is to bring the science of reading into the classrooms to build language and vocabulary skills of students. Classroom reading will cover cross curriculum topics.

Program Contents: Books, lesson plans, teacher coaching/trainings and stipend. Coaches will come into the classes, twice a year, to observe their lessons and give feedback to the teachers.

KINDERGARTEN BOOTCAMP

June 23, 2025 will begin the first annual Kindergarten Boot Camp. This program targets all incoming Kindergarten scholars and will be a full day program lasting for three weeks. The current kindergarten teachers will instruct the scholars. This will allow for an easier transition into school in August as well as provide academic and social skills content as school is a first-time experience for many of them.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR READING PROGRAM

This summer LAB will also begin the first annual Extended School Year Reading Academy. This program is designed to provide remediation, support and expansion of the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum through skills mastery of the ELA content.

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the CEO Report.

Motion: Karen Slade, Member Second: Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President

Each Member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President- Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member-Yes
Karen Slade, Member- Yes
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes
Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary- Yes

Board Resolutions

Common Consent Agenda

1. 1061820251

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the commission of JT Goldstein, LLC for the completion of the independent audit, year ending June 30, 2025 at a cost of \$33,900.00 and the 990 Tax Return at a cost of \$2,500.00 as presented.

2. 061820252

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby approves and authorizes the submission of its 2024-2025 lease reimbursement forms to the Pennsylvania Department of Education when they are released and available.

3. 061820253

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the 2025-2026 Budget as presented.

4. 061820254

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve a maximum 3% raise for returning staff of the Laboratory Charter School for the 2025-2026 school year.

5. 061820255

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the review of the organization’s Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

6. 061820256

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees ("Board") hereby resolves to approve the consolidation of operations to the Sedgley Ave. campus effective July 1, 2025.

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the Common Consent Agenda.
Motion: Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President, Second: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer
Each Member voted as follows:

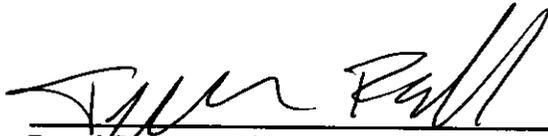
Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President- Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member-Yes
Karen Slade, Member- Yes
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes
Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary- Yes

Public Participation: None

Adjournment

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the Adjournment.
Motion: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary, Second: Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President
Each Member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President- Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member-Yes
Karen Slade, Member- Yes
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes
Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary- Yes



Board Secretary Signature

6/18/25

Date