



# THE LABORATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2025  
6:00 p.m.**

## **Virtual ZOOM Meeting Link:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2314020168?pwd=bVAvaVJVVlE1cFFHWGY5NTArSVVGOT09&omn=8498703626>**

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

### Board Member Role Call:

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

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, Tina Carter, Karina Torres, Jovan Goldstein,

Other: None

### Announcement of Executive Session – Legal and Personnel Discussions:

An executive session was held on December 19, 2025 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Nomination Committee Recommendation: None

### Approval of Minutes: November 2025 Board Meeting

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

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

Each member voted as follows:

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

Unfinished Business: None

New Business  
Finance Report

- Cash Balances are \$23k
- Accounts Payable is \$605k
- Unrestricted Fund Balance is \$586k

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the Finance Report.  
Motion: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer, Second: Pinkey Lucas, Member  
Each Member voted as follows:

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

CEO Report

Save the Date LAB Charter Fundraiser March 26, 2026

The first annual LAB Charter Gala fundraiser will be held on Thursday March 26, 2026 at the Marriott, City Line Ave. Please save the date and assist LAB Charter in promoting this fundraiser event. The event flyer is included in the packet.

Revised Balanced Budget

I have worked with Vertex/Charter Choices to revise the budget based on the enrollment. The revised budget is attached for Board approval.

Audit Status Report

JT Goldstein and Associates is scheduled to present the audit at the December meeting. As of the completion of this report, I have not received the audit.

Federal Programs Targeted Support Intervention (TSI) Designation

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) provides Pennsylvania with enhanced flexibility to designate and serve schools in need of support. The process of identifying schools for

support—termed "Annual Meaningful Differentiation" by the federal statute—results in three federally-prescribed designations:

1. Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI): Schools facing the most significant challenges in academic achievement, student growth, and other areas; and
2. Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI): Schools in which performance by one or more student groups is at or below the level of the CSI schools.
3. Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI): Schools in which performance by one or more student groups is at or below state-established standards.

Under ESSA, both CSI and A-TSI schools must be designated at least every three years, and these schools have up to four years to meet state-defined improvement targets. Pennsylvania designated a new cohort of CSI and A-TSI schools in December 2025. ESSA also requires states to annually designate schools for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), a locally managed, annual cycle of school improvement.

What is TSI?

Under Pennsylvania's ESSR Plan, TSI designations function as an early warning system for at-risk student groups and as a signal to schools that may be at future risk for more intensive support and improvement strategies. Accordingly, criteria that drive a TSI designation are more rigorous than criteria associated with CSI and A-TSI designations that relate to the lowest performing five percent of schools. Another important distinction between cyclical CSI and A-TSI designations and annual TSI designations is that TSI procedures draw on the most recent single year of performance data, while higher-stakes CSI and A-TSI procedures draw on multiple years of data from each three-year cycle. The methodology used to designate schools for TSI, including specific cut points, is attached (School-Specific Designation Profile).

Child Nutrition Financial Report

The Food Service Child Nutrition Financial Report has been successfully submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This report is due by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

The Human Resources agenda is attached.

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

Motion: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer, Second: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary

Each Member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President- Yes

Karen Slade, Member- Yes

Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes  
Pinkey Lucas, Member- Yes  
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes  
Tiffany Ferrell- Yes

Board Resolutions

Common Consent Agenda

1. 121920251

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees ("Board") hereby resolves to approve the revised budget as presented.

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

Motion: Norris Bennis, Vice President, Second: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer

Each Member voted as follows:

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

I. Public Participation: None

II. 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  
Karen Slade, Member- Yes  
Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President- Yes  
Pinkey Lucas, Member- Yes  
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer- Yes  
Tiffany Ferrell- Yes

  
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Board Secretary Signature

1/21/2026  
Date