

The Ranches Academy School Board Meeting Minutes

Date	08/24/26
Board Members Present	Josh Marsh, Preston Griffin, Michelle Bennett, Amy Harrison, Morgan Call, Parker Hatt
Board Members Absent	None
Others Present	Stephanie Colson, Executive Director Levi Anderson, Academic Director Haydn Stender, Red Apple Business Manager
Guests	None
Start time	6:40 PM
End time	8:13 PM
Location	The Ranches Academy

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Motions/Actions
Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance	Roll call was administered and all present but Preston Griffin; he arrived shortly before any voting occurred	
Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes	The Board approved minutes from 7/20/2026.	MOTION: A motion by Parker Hatt and a second by Michelle Bennett to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt

		AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
Update on School Expansion	The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, provided an update on outstanding facility and technology projects associated with the school and expansion efforts. The Board was informed that several items remain in progress, including the installation of the Phone system and PA system. The Executive Director also reported that following a recent storm, roofers returned to address leaks identified in the newly expanded portion of the building. Repairs were completed. The Board was informed that the scheduled and financial school expansion update would be postponed due to Jeff's absence from the meeting. The Board agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting.	
Budget Review	Haydn Stender, Red Apple Business Manager, presented the Financial Report as of July 31, 2026, and reviewed the organization's financial position with the Board. Overall revenues are expenditures are tracking favorably and remain in good standing. Expense Item 700 is trending higher due to the purchase of furniture associated with the school's expansion efforts. The school reported an ending cash balance of \$2,791,418, representing	

	approximately 240 days of cash on hand. The following balances were reviewed: PTIF Account Balance: \$1,787,125 New PTIF Reserve Balance: \$1,793,078 Forecasted PTIF Reserve Balance: \$1,858,563 Enrollment Update: Current student enrollment stands at 364 students. The Board reviewed the financial report and noted the positive financial position, healthy cash reserves, and enrollment status. The increase in furniture-related expenses was discussed and attributed to expansion-related needs. The financial report was accepted and filed for record.	
Vote on IT Service Company	The Board discussed the status of the school's current IT service contract. The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, reported that alternative IT service providers are being evaluated due to concerns and issues associated with the current contract. Research is ongoing to identify potential options that better meet the school's operational and technology support needs. The Board agreed to table this agenda item until the September Board meeting to allow additional time for the Director to complete the evaluation and present recommendations for consideration.	
Review and approve Parking Lot and	The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, presented and reviewed	MOTION: A motion by Morgan Call and a second

Playground blacktop quotes	proposals submitted by Eckles Paving and R&R Paving for the Parking lot and playground asphalt project. The Board discussed the differences between the proposals, including the scope of work, project specifications, and related maintenance services offered by each vendor. Following discussion and evaluation of the proposals, the Board determined that Eckles Paving provided the most suitable option for the school's needs.	by Preston Griffin to approve the proposal from Eckles Paving for the Parking lot and Playground blacktop. The motion passed unanimously. FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
Discuss Vendor Service Committee	The Board discussed the need to establish a committee responsible for monitoring and maintaining of the school's vendor services, contracts, and related agreements. The purpose of the committee would be to help ensure vendor information remains current and that services continue to meet the school's operational needs. The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, was tasked with compiling a comprehensive list of school vendors, including relevant contract information and service agreements. The Board agreed that maintaining a centralized inventory of vendor information and agreements would support effective oversight and periodic review of vendor services. The Board agreed to further discuss the formation, structure, and	

	responsibilities of a vendor committee at the next Board Meeting.	
Review and approve Technology Purchases	The board reviewed a Technology equipment proposal submitted by Onward Technology and discussed the recommended purchases presented by the Executive Director. The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, outlined the purpose of the equipment and its intended use in supporting classroom instruction and technology needs. The Board discussed the proposed purchases and their benefits to the school. Following discussion, the Board approved the purchase of the Technology equipment as presented in the Onward proposal.	MOTION: A motion by Parker Hatt and a second by Preston Griffin to approve the purchase of the technology equipment as presented in the Onward proposal. The motion passed unanimously. FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
Review Emergency Purchase of Freezer	The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, discussed the school's need for a new freezer and presented the freezer quotes that had been obtained for Board's review. The Board reviewed the available options and discussed the importance of replacing the freezer to support school operations and food service needs. The Executive Director reported that, due to an emergency need and the timing of the school opening prior to the scheduled Board meeting, a freezer was purchased from Commercial Kitchen Supply (CKS) on August 18th 2026, to ensure uninterrupted operations.	

	The Board acknowledged the circumstances that necessitated the emergency purchase and expressed understanding of the decision to proceed prior to formal Board approval. The Board agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the next Board meeting and conduct a formal vote to ratify and approve the emergency freezer purchase from CKS.	
School Safety Update and Safety Grant	The Executive Director, Stephanie Colson, provided the Board with an update on the school's safety initiatives and the status of the safety grant. The Board was informed that the final purchase made using grant funds was the installation of a PA System, which fully exhausted the available safety grant funding. The Executive Director reported that a school safety walkthrough was completed prior to the start of the new school year. In addition, the school's expansion building received the necessary safety approval. The Board was also informed that Ranches Academy submitted a request for an exception regarding the Safety Specialist requirement due to limited staffing resources and has applied for additional safety grant funding. The Executive Director reported that the school is currently in compliance with all applicable safety guidelines and requirements. The Board reviewed the updates and acknowledged the school's continued	Keep on the Agenda.

	efforts to maintain a safe learning environment and compliance with state safety requirements.	
Motion to Enter Into Closed Session for the Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Property; Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation; the Character, Professional Competence, or the Physical or Mental Health of an Individual; or the Deployment of Security or Security Personnel, Devices, or Systems		MOTION: A motion by Preston Griffin and a second by Michelle Bennett to enter into closed session pursuant to applicable law to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation and the character, and professional competence of an individual. The motion passed unanimously. FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
Motion to leave the Closed Session for the Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Property; Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation; the Character, Professional Competence, or the Physical or Mental Health of an Individual; or the Deployment of Security or Security Personnel, Devices, or Systems		MOTION: A motion by Preston Griffin and a second by Parker Hatt to leave the closed session. The motion passed unanimously. FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt

		AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
Director Evaluation	The Board reviewed the Executive Director's progress toward and completion of established goals for the prior school year. The Board discussed the outcomes achieved and the school's progress during the review period. The Board expressed appreciation for the Executive Director's leadership and contributions to the school's operations and continued success. Following discussion, the Board approved a 4% salary increase for the Executive Director, effective in accordance with applicable school policies and procedures.	MOTION: A motion by Preston Griffin and a second by Amy Harrison to approve a 4% salary increase for the Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously. FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
New Business	ACTION: The Board identified the following for the September 14 agenda: (1) vote on IT Service Company; (2) vote on Freezer purchase; (3) discuss vendor service committee. Next Meeting: September 14th at 6:30 PM at the Ranches Academy	
Adjourn	Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM	A motion by Amy Harrison and second by Michelle Bennett to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

		FOR: Josh Marsh Preston Griffin Michelle Bennett Amy Harrison Morgan Call Parker Hatt AGAINST: None ABSENT: None
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