



Board of Trustees Meeting * 06/10/2025 * 5:00 PM
Location: Venture High School - Venture Higher Conference Room
Minutes - DRAFT

- I. Call To Order: Sharmilla
 - A. In attendance: Sharmilla, Kevin, Karl, Andrea, Nissa, Christina, Steve, Sara, and Mark. Christel and Michelle were absent.
- II. Welcome: Kevin
 - A. Venture Values review
- III. Approval of minutes
 - A. Action:** Sara moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 22, 2025, Kevin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment - none
- V. Monthly Enrollment Lottery - skipped during this meeting, will run and post it before the next meeting.
- VI. Mission Statement & Vision/Training
- VII. Operations
 - A. Budget Review
 - 1. Final budget for the year about to end on June 30, 92% of the way through the year. Approving forecast columns and major categories' budgets.
 - 2. Everything is in good shape, either in white or green so doing well in executing.
 - 3. Did tweak some budget categories, but some stayed the same. Projected to be under budget. The reserve number also looks good.
 - B. Action: Final Budget FY2025
 - 1. **Action:** Andrea moved to approve the FY2025 final budget. Kevin seconded, and it passed unanimously.
 - C. Action: FY26 Budget
 - 1. Some changes in line items for state funds, programs that they have done away with. \$840K increase on the same student count.
 - 2. Line item 3884 called out, added stipends for classified school employees. Nice to have that acknowledgement of those individuals.
 - 3. Federal: some we are not sure we will get again, but in general will increase our revenues by \$690-840K.

4. Excellent job putting extra money towards raises. Health insurance cost increase in other districts was a bit of a scare, but ours is only 5% which is a great result.
5. Some negatives: classroom budgets and donations from parents and community start lower and are increased as funds come in.
6. **Action:** Sara moved to approve the FY2026 budget. Andrea seconded, and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Reports

A. Director's Report

1. Graduated another class of great students. Many of them showed a lot of gratitude for their school experience and the staff.
2. School Safety Law: applied for nearly \$.5M grant. Some things are approved in the grant for spending. PA system that is reliable and does a variety of different things. Audio Enhancement does a PA system that is integrated into classrooms and becomes an audio system for classrooms, mics for the teachers on a lanyard. It feels like that would be very helpful. Also has an early alert or office alert button that is integrated. The grant provided about half the amount needed to approve this system. In addition, a portion is for locks on the doors that have been designed to be simply locked from the inside and function for egress. Also, a portion for upgrading exterior security camera system. Got about a \$.25M approved.
3. We are not certain how we'll be fulfilling some of the requirements of the law, like the additional person who is carrying a firearm. We are obligated once school starts to provide that.

B. HS Principal Report

1. PD in June. The first day was planning intensives in a way that is intentional with quality learning targets and deep learning. Workshopped all day to refine them and make them better. Felt it was very successful and they got good feedback from the teachers. The model can be applied to their other curriculum designs as well. Second day they got to actually apply the changes and improvements to their classes.
2. Lottery and enrollment is looking very strong. Has a large wait list.
3. July PD will be pushing where they left off. Will be focusing on math department and improving math scores. Looking at potentially a new math curriculum. The idea is getting them off computers and on to paper so they are thinking through the problems and showing their work. Ultimate vision is to have a companion math class with Sec 1, 2, 3. It is a reteaching companion class to their class they completed to make sure

concepts are reinforced and fully learned. Great math paraprofessionals to provide support.

C. K-8 Principal Report

1. Kinder full day change: the data looks very good in the math and reading end of year benchmarks. Significant 20-30% increase in those scores is a huge improvement.
2. Moving Bailey Taylor (4th grade teacher) to 2nd grade to help the 2nd graders build their math foundation. She is a very strong teacher to help them get their basic knowledge and skills in place.
3. Intensives were a lot of fun. Were intentional about intensive planning, and the new teachers also really stepped up. Highlighted the stained glass intensive.
4. Kindergarten did graduation in the auditorium for the first time.
5. PD first day: celebrate and reflect on what happened during the year. Talked about the Venture vision and what it looks like for each of the subjects. Collected feedback from the teachers about PD, and they loved the reflection piece. They also looked at the goals for the next year and the teachers provided feedback about what felt achievable as well as challenging.

IX. Business

A. Sign updated Venture Charter Agreement

1. Mark provided, and it was signed by all present board members.

B. Action: Record of determination re: MH screening

1. Provided by the state to screen for mental health status of students, although it is optional. Proposing opting out because there's nothing on the backend to do anything with the results. Would be helpful to have a better school community health connection, but the resources are not currently there. The collecting of parent permission is also a large hurdle. Feels like it could also be a potential liability to have screened for that and the expectation of intervention is there.
2. **Action:** Kevin moved to opt out of the mental health screening as presented. Sara seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Action: Human Sexuality Curriculum Committee, proposed: Ashley Cason, JR Felgenhauer, Nissa Green (parent), Shawna Norton (parent), Molly Sirks (nurse), and Stacy Swapp (parent).

1. Nissa will add a few names to the list that are parents only so that view is represented, will bring it back to the board for approval.
2. Believes there are no changes to the content that was previously approved. If there are some in August, the board will review those for approval.

3. **Action:** Andrea moved to approve the human sexuality curriculum committee as it currently stands. Karl seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Action: Approve Board calendar for 2025-2026

1. Sharmilla suggests that we change the board meeting to the third Tuesday of the month. The exception would be the June meeting which will stay on the second Tuesday.
2. **Action:** Andrea moved to approve the updated Board meeting calendar and assignments. Sara seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Action: Approve Board sponsored teacher luncheons August 7 and 8 at noon

1. August 7 for K-8, 8 for High School
2. **Action:** Sara moved to approve the Board sponsored teacher luncheons. Andrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Michelle will organize, Board to please attend.

X. Policy

A. Action: HS Dress Code Policy

1. Clarifications: logos on pants to prohibited.
2. Hats: official Venture hats may be worn.
3. Facial hair may not be dyed unnatural hair colors. This sentence modified to be clearer.
4. Modesty clause added for school casual activities.
5. Religious belief section updated. Review by building principal required for exceptions.
6. **Action:** Sara moved to approve the High School dress code changes. Andrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. Public Comment - none

XII. Executive Session - Mark review. Kevin motioned to go into executive session to discuss the character and competence of an individual at 6:40 pm. Andrea seconded. Sharmilla, Kevin, Andrea and Karl vote aye. The board exited the executive session at 6:47pm. No action was taken.

- A. **Action:** Kevin motions to approve Mark's compensation as discussed. Andrea seconds and It passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. **Action:** Andrea motions to adjourn, Karl seconded. It passes unanimously.

XIV. Next Meeting: Proposed date: August 19, 2025



*The Mission of Venture Academy is to **Inspire** the rising generation to reach the heights of their potential. **Ignite** their curiosity to venture into challenging new learning experiences, and through service, **Empower** them to be leaders who are committed to family and community...then they can **Achieve** their dreams and shape their world.*