



Palmetto Excel Center

April 15, 2025

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Amy Mims, Chris Harvey, Michael Saboe, Kellye Whitaker, Dr. Fran Welch, Brian Itzkowitz

Staff & Consultants present: Dr. Jeremy Easley, Megan Friedman, Mary Ann Gilmer

CALL TO ORDER

Amy Mims called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. Approved Meeting Minutes from February.

UPDATES

Letter of intent to revoke received; appealing and negotiating 1-year extension to June 2026; Exploring other authorizers; Lawyer drafting appeal letter and memorandum of agreement.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **Chris Harvey**
 - \$163k cash on hand end of February.
 - Pacing ahead on contract services expenses due to severance/legal fees.
 - Projected year-end loss, but GEI waiving \$3-3.5k monthly fees and rebating \$24k.
 - February financials approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Dr. Jeremy Easley –**
 - 24 students eligible to graduate pending final certificates/credits
 - 140 current students (150 goal); enrolled 20 since recent drop to 120; Average daily attendance: 72.6% Term 1, 60% Term 2, 67% Term 3. Term 2 dip due to holiday break/seasonal jobs and negative press about diplomas.
 - 14 students completed certifications in Term 1-2; 8 more finishing Term 3. The programs include CNA, CDL, Culinary, Medical Billing, Pharmacy Tech, Vet Assistant.

GRADUATION UPDATES

- **Mary Ann Gilmer:**
 - Postpone June 6th graduation; Cancel with venue to avoid fee
 - Work w/ Dr. Easley to schedule new Aug graduation date at Trident Tech and notify charter district to new date
 - Continue monitoring diploma approval process
 - Develop influencer invitation list for new date

PALMETTO GOODWILL AND OTHER UPDATES

- **Brian Itzkowitz, President & CEO:**
 - Update on Palmetto Goodwill placement in 2024; placing 4,013 people



in employment across the 18 counties. This puts PGW at 4 out of 155 Goodwills in U.S. and Canada for placement numbers.

- Darlington store opening next week; Hired 35 people in the area to date
- PGW's Microenterprise program supporting small business gave out \$60,000 worth of prize money.
- **Kellye Whitaker**
 - Kellye brought up recruiting 5-6 new board members.
 - Continue planning board retreat; reach out to board members for ideas/feedback; Contact Herbert re: Governance Committee mtg to discuss board recruitment strategy.
 - Kellye to gather retreat ideas/feedback and report back for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Amy Mims adjourned the board meeting at 5:28 pm.