



Palmetto Excel Center

May 30, 2025

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Herbert Drayton III, Chris Harvey, Brian Itzkowitz, Amy Mims, Kellye Whitaker, Dr. Fran Welch

Staff & Consultants present: Jackie Draws, Dr. Jeremy Easley, Mary Ann Gilmer

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Harvey called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Purpose is to do first budget reading for Palmetto Excel Board to review and discuss updates to the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget.

PERSONNEL & STAFFING

- **Enrollment Specialist** role to be eliminated; team-wide recruiting is expected instead.
- **Coaches:** \$2K salary increase recommended due to additional duties (grading, lab support).
- **CCR Manager:** Recommended salary increase for taking on instructional leadership.
- **Layoffs & Severance Messaging:** PG HR support needed for communications.
- **Staff/Student Ratio:** Herbert asked for clarification; Jeremy to follow up.
- **Teacher Salaries:**
 - No cost-of-living increase in the current draft.
 - Salary discrepancies noted—based on experience and degrees.
 - Proposal to benchmark salaries against CCSD and surrounding districts.
 - Jackie had benchmarked previously and will assist Jeremy in re-evaluation.
- **Coaching Duties Sharing:** Considered but not recommended, trust with students is key.

BUDGET & REVENUE DISCUSSIONS

- **State Aid to Classrooms:** Reduced to \$1M, **Grants:** Fully consumed.
- **Revenue Options:**
 - Charter district support (supplies).
 - GEI funding inquiries (Brian).



- Potential SNAP benefits (Mary Ann).
- Business support for certifications (Chris).
- **Lobbying:**
 - GEI covered \$10K attorney fees.
 - School cannot use public funds for lobbying; private funds only.

OPERATIONS

- **Fiscal Services:** Possible transition; Chris and Jackie to meet with Veris.
- **2% Authorizer Fee:** Kept in the budget for now.
- **Copier Lease:** Awaiting final amount (Jackie to check).
- **Marketing:** Jeremy recommends in-house social media over Digital Ignite.
- **Technology Services:** Possible reduction with PG support (MS EDU, phone).
- **Professional Development:** Desire to increase funds, especially for teacher appreciation.
- **Supplies:**
 - Includes Exact Path and elective course materials.
 - Childcare and office supplies based on current year usage.
- **Technology Equipment:** No current needs; all hardware is assumed to be from NC Goodwill.
- **Lease:** Potential increase—Mary Ann is awaiting information.
- **Transportation:** Bus passes and gas cards need replenishment.
- **Liability Insurance:** Renewal submitted; awaiting updates (Chris to follow up).
- **Board Expenses:** Recommendation to remove line for retreat—prioritize teacher appreciation.
- **Bank Fees:** Rolled over from last year.
- **Pupil Activities:** Covers cultural events and student swag.



NEXT STEPS

- **Salary Benchmarking:** Jeremy and Jackie to lead.
- **Revenue Projections:** Herbert to follow up; PG's soft commitment should be reflected.
- **MOU with PG:** Still in process.
- **Fiscal Service Transition:** More info to come after Veris call.
- **Second Reading:** Scheduled for **June 5 at 9 AM.**
- **No vote required** for this first budget reading.

ADJOURNMENT

Chris Harvey adjourned the board meeting at 4:00 pm