



Palmetto Excel Center

June 5, 2025

ROLL CALL

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Purpose is to do budget reading #2 for Palmetto Excel Board to review and discuss updates to the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. Budget Reading #1 took place on May 30.

BUDGET UPDATES

- Revenue increased to \$1,252,400 with \$250,000 Palmetto Goodwill donation
- Audit services placeholder of \$24,000, awaiting quote from Elliott Davis
- Board/Legal services reduced to \$25,000 from \$52,000
- VAERS fiscal services reduced from \$44,000 to \$25,800 annually
- District fee decreased to \$20,000 due to state funding reduction
- Marketing expenses significantly reduced by eliminating Digital Ignite
- Professional development budget set at \$1,000, may increase if funding allows

PERSONNEL/STAFFING

- Potential change for History Teacher position (budget \$50-60k if needed)
- Troy Barnes moved to Lead Instructor role (same salary)
- Certification Specialist role to be internal "stretch" position (\$2k compensation)
- YLCC (childcare) staff transitioning to 11-month employment for 2025-26, 10-month for 2026-27
- Enrollment Specialist position being eliminated; 1-month severance proposed

- **Salary:**



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 3% cost of living increase discussed but likely not feasible
- Market analysis to be conducted comparing Excel salaries to CCSD, Berkeley, and Dorchester districts. Staff aware of financial constraints; no expectations for increases
- **Funding Gap:**
 - Current deficit of ~\$324,000 remains
 - Discussions ongoing with GEI and Palmetto Goodwill board regarding additional funding
 - Contingency plan needed to cover deficit for upcoming fiscal year

NEXT STEPS

- Schedule final budget reading/approval meeting for next week
- Complete market salary analysis (Jackie, Jeremy, Mary Ann to collaborate)
 - Compare Excel Center to CCSD, Berkeley, Dorchester County.
- Brian to present funding request to Palmetto Goodwill board on June 26th
- Finalize internal MOU between Excel and Goodwill (Amy and Herbert to meet)
- Obtain updated insurance premiums from McGriff
- Confirm Trident Tech lease terms and copier/cell phone expenses
- Develop contingency plan to address remaining budget deficit
- Schedule final budget reading

ADJOURNMENT Chair Hammer dissolved the board meeting at 9:53 AM