



Palmetto Excel Center
Board Meeting

June 27, 2025

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Chris Harvey, Brian Itzkowitz, Kelley Jarrett, Amy Mims, Kellye Whitaker

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Amy Mims at 11:00AM to review and approve the 2025–2026 budget, discuss operational updates, and plan for the upcoming graduation and legislative engagement.

BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2025–2026

- State funding cut from \$1.3M to \$1M
- Palmetto Goodwill bridging \$625,000 gap
- Expenses streamlined, including reduced Veris contract (\$10,000 annual savings)
- \$128,000 fund balance maintained (≈1 month operating expenses)
- Budget approved unanimously

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

- 20 out of 24 anticipated students graduating
- Post-graduation outcomes: 5 continuing education, 6 in medical field, 1 in culinary, 1 business owner, 1 in property rental, 5 in job interview process
- Focus areas for improvement: ELL student support, student retention, streamlined recruiting, and real-world certification experiences

FINANCE REPORT

- May financial package approved with no significant variances
- Insurance policy renewed with minimal 8% increase, added \$100,000 employee dishonesty coverage

GRADUATION PLANNING (AUGUST 16)

- Location: Aviation Room, theater-style seating for ~200 attendees
- Potential guest speaker: Senator Larry Brooms
- Legislative luncheon planned post-graduation to engage lawmakers



MOU UPDATES

- SC Public Charter School District: Revisions in progress, aiming for August 14th board consideration
- Palmetto Goodwill: Draft under review, finalizing soon

NEW CHARTER AUTHORIZER SEARCH

- Promising discussions with Limestone Charter Association/Citadel partnership
- Voorhees also expressing high interest
- Charleston County School District not currently a viable option

DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION

- Dr. Easley's PDEPT evaluation completed for year one
- Positive feedback from national GEI team on Dr. Easley's leadership and improvements

NEXT STEPS

- Schedule special board meeting to review/approve SC Public Charter School District MOU revisions before August 14th
 - Finalize MOU with Palmetto Goodwill
 - Review Randy's proposed revisions to Palmetto Goodwill-Excel MOU when available
- Continue discussions with potential new charter authorizers
 - Compile info on Limestone/Citadel & Voorhees charter authorizer options for board review
- Prep & send official grad invites with RSVP (due Aug 4) in ~2 weeks
- Schedule call with Sen. Larry Brooms regarding graduation speaker & Excel info
- Plan post-graduation legislative luncheon (student panel, funding needs, transition info)
- Distribute Dr. Easley's PDEPT evaluation to board before next quarterly meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Amy Mims adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:53AM.