



Palmetto Excel Center
Board of Directors Meeting

December 2, 2025

ROLL CALL

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

Staff & Consultants present: Theresa Craft, Megan Friedman, Mary Ann Gilmer

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Amy Mims to approve a lobbyist search and a charter authorizer transfer application.

LOBBYIST DISCUSSION

- Problem: Communication from the current lobbyist firm has declined over the past 3–4 months.
- Impact: The board is now handling legislative outreach directly, including arranging tours.
- Rationale for Change: The firm agreed that this is an appropriate time for a change given the school's new focus on public image, funding, and securing a new authorizer.
- Decision: The board approved a motion for the Executive Committee (Amy, Herbert, Chris) to serve as the search committee.
- Urgency: A new lobbyist is needed in Columbia as soon as possible. The committee will identify top candidates and call a special board meeting for approval.

CHARTER AUTHORIZER TRANSFER

- Context: The board is seeking a new charter authorizer to replace the South Carolina Public Charter School District.
- Candidate: Voorhees.
- Requirement: Voorhees has published a formal charter transfer process requiring a board-approved application.
- **Decision: The board approved a motion to submit the transfer application to Voorhees.**



NEXT STEPS

- Executive Committee (Amy, Herbert, Chris): Identify top candidates for a new lobbying firm and call a special meeting for board approval.
- Amy Mims: Submit the approved charter transfer application to Voorhees.

ACTION ITEMS

- Lead lobbyist search with Amy and Herbert; conduct outreach, shortlist 1–2 firms, update the board, and schedule a special vote.
- Submit Voorhees charter authorizer transfer application with board approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM.

A recording of this meeting can be accessed here: <https://fathom.video/share/xfw33PPu4tK9v-sz9PJ1fMvWwPZuFSZV>