



Palmetto Excel Center  
First Reading of the Budget,  
Board of Directors Meeting

June 18, 2026

## ROLL CALL

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

**Staff & Consultants present:** Katie Bustamente, Theresa Craft, Jeremy Easley, Megan Friedman, Mary Ann Gilmer

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM by Amy Mims read and discuss Palmetto Goodwill Excel budget for 2026-2027.

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## Revenue Assumptions

- State aid projected at \$839,000, pending authorizer outcome.
- Palmetto Goodwill contribution proposed at \$850,000 (increase of \$225,000 YOY).
- Additional funding sources (grants, SNAP benefits) under discussion but not included in budget.
- Teachers will receive a \$2,400 state supply allocation.

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## Personnel & Staffing

- Salaries include benefits (health insurance and retirement).
- All staff receive a 3% cost-of-living increase.
- Targeted Salary Adjustment:
  - Kadeja (Career Readiness Specialist) adjusted to market range (\$65K–\$70K).
- Position Changes:
  - Young Learners Assistant reduced to part-time (no benefits).
  - Office Manager role replaced with Office Assistant (estimated \$5K–\$12K savings).
  - History teacher position budgeted at \$78,741 and expected to be filled.
- Personnel forecast requires validation due to prior vacancies and under-budget payroll spending.

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## Operating Expenses

- Travel budget: \$5,000 (new director onboarding and conferences).
- Audit services: \$38,000 placeholder (new firm required).



- Lobbying increased to \$5,000/month (from \$3,500).
  - Legal expenses: \$10,000 contingency added.
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### Programs & Instruction

- Transition from Edmentum diagnostic testing to IXL platform, generating savings.
  - Adult certification costs expected to decrease through SNAP-to-Work participation (estimated 60% eligibility).
  - Professional development largely conducted in-house to reduce costs.
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### Supplies & Student Support

- Budget adjustments correct prior misclassification of expenses.
  - Slight overall savings (~\$2,400).
  - Increased allocation for:
    - Student engagement activities
    - Campus events
    - School culture initiatives
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### Facilities

- Lease increase of approximately \$5,000 (first increase since occupancy).
  - Board to explore lease extension options due to uncertainty around future authorizer.
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### Insurance & Other

- Insurance costs increased; added employee dishonesty coverage.
  - Board retreat budget: \$1,500.
  - GEI membership included (status pending discussion).
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### Student Activities

- Graduation budgeted at \$2,000 (noted as likely underestimated).
  - Additional funds allocated for student outreach and engagement.
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### Financial Position

- Beginning fund balance projected: ~\$200,000
- Ending fund balance projected: ~\$129,000
- Reserve level equals approximately 1 month of operating expenses.



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### Next Steps

- Chris Harvey: Verify personnel forecast with Veris
- Mary Ann Gilmer & Jeremy Easley: Estimate SNAP-related savings
- Amy Mims: Coordinate lease discussions with Trident Tech
- Finance Team: Revise and finalize budget draft for next meeting

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Amy Mims at 5PM following motion and approval.

A transcript and audio of this meeting are available in the materials provided for this meeting.