Board Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2026
5:30pm

Lower Academy – 2605 School St (In person)

GRCS Board Meeting June 1, 20226

Location: 2605 School St. Rockford Il, 61101

Meeting Called to order at 5:36pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

Attendance:

Present- Michael Lane, David Taber, Patrick Love, Joshua Binning, Javier Cruz

Absent- Dr. Jon Lippitz

Public Comment

- Review of March 17, 2026 Minutes
    - Minutes approved

- Introduction and board vote of Anne Weerda for open board position (replacing Josh Matthews)
    - Vote to add Anne Weerda to the board
    - Motion to approve Anne Weerda
    - Motion passes, unanimously

- Glows (Ellis, Oliver, Hildreth, Jones)
    - Ellis: Experiential Learning projects, trips, and visits went very well, big shift in engagement
    - Oliver: Volunteer Day on May 22
    - Hildreth: Washington DC trip for 8th grade

- S. Nelson- Larson Architects presentation- Facility- Exploring gym – initial plans attached to this.
    - Done work for RPS, been around for 65 years
    - Worked with 40 different school districts in Northern Illinois in the last four years
    - Gym and support space building drawings (plans) were presented
    - Next step would be to meet with a project manager, would need 2-3 months to put documents together, would take about 6-8 months to build
        - Can we consider moving the building to the edge of the parking lot?
        - Met with the IFF. We have $700,000 in debt with them, but they are very interested in funding this project perhaps up to 90%.

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- Staffing Update (Kettelhut)
  - Recent Hires: Fanicka Lingelbach, EOW & Marisa Renteria, Book Keeper (both new positions)
  - Positions to be filled:
    - 7 classroom instructor positions open for next year, 3 have been filled
    - 2 aide positions
    - Enrichment Manager

- Academic Update- (Ellis, Hildreth)
  - Math- 35th to 33rd percentile, 46th percentile in growth
  - Reading- 37th to 43rd percentile, 55th percentile in growth
  - Review of Fall to Spring Bright Spots & Areas for Growth

- Financial Reports (Lane) Financials through March 2026
  - Balance sheet remains strong
  - PNL- Positive net increase in assets

- Attendance 2025-26 (Oliver)
  - 88.41 percent overall
  - Half a point down from last year

- Enrichment Update (Lane)
  - Spain, Costa Rica, Utah will run, Africa was canceled due to safety concerns

- Enrollment Report (Kettelhut)
  - Current enrollment is 346, 123 new scholars
  - 59 withdrawals throughout the year, External (38) Internal (21)
  - 246 are enrolled for next school year

- Re-Chartering- Vote of Approval
  - Vote to Approve Renewal Contract
  - Motion to approve called
  - Motion passes, 6-1

- Graduation June 3, 2026 at UA -5:00pm

Closed Session to be called: including Board, Lane and Boeddeker

Whistleblower Complaint from former employee, Branden Bauer
95 page complaint sent to us, RPS, ISBE, etc.
Appeared to be mostly AI generated
Attorneys advised that we should collect information and investigate the complaint

Reminders

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Michael sent out two training opportunities for board. The next one is:

Aug 3- Best Practices for School Boards

Sam Mathias, MABE Legal & Policy Services Director

Galapagos Rockford Charter School is dedicated to preparing scholars to be responsible, productive, college-educated adults capable of adapting and prospering in the changing global economy.

Core Values of Galapagos: Grit Drive Growth Mindset

Next Board Meeting: Lower Academy-2605 School St. – Board Meeting for FY 2027 TBD