

APPROVED



E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Minutes

E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

HS Think Tank
4501 Kansas Ave NW
Washington, DC 2011

Trustees Present

F. Sutton, J. Hanna, J. Niles (remote), K. Simpkins, L. Johnson-Law, L. Robinson Mills, M. Hall, M. Kovner, R. Jones, R. Laine, R. Payes

Trustees Absent

G. Oleaga Cala

Guests Present

A. Brooks, Alvin Greene, Brittany Wagner-Friel, Dominique Moore, Grasyon Moore, J. Rydstrom, K. Wynne, P. Rayamajhi, Rohey Mbenga (remote), T. Barton

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

F. Sutton called a meeting of the board of trustees of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School to order on Wednesday Sep 24, 2025 at 6:06 PM.

C. **VOTE to Approve Minutes from May 29, 2025 Meeting**

F. Sutton made a motion to approve the minutes from E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on 05-29-25.

R. Jones seconded the motion.

Trustees voted to approve the minutes, pending the correction of minor typos.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

II. **CEO Update**

A. **CEO Update**

- **School Year Launch:** Chief Executive Officer Toni R. Barton provided an overview of pre-service and the first weeks of school, highlighting a smooth start and strong community engagement.
- **Listening Sessions:** Dr. Barton shared key themes from staff, family, and student listening sessions and described how this feedback is informing the organization's strategic direction.
- **All-Staff Institute:** Dr. Barton summarized outcomes from the All-Staff Institute, emphasizing alignment, collaboration, and positive staff feedback.
- **First 90 Days:** Dr. Barton reviewed major accomplishments across four focus areas: culture and community, vision and strategy, academics, and partnerships and professional learning.
- **Staff Reflections:** Representatives from across the network shared perspectives on the start of the year:
 - Brittany Wagner-Friel, Elementary School Principal (remarks delivered in person)
 - Rohey Mbenga, Middle School Assistant Principal (remarks delivered virtually)
 - Judith Bhatia, Elementary Math Teacher (video remarks)
 - Nicole Smith, High School Dean of Culture (video remarks)
- **Academic Alignment:** In response to trustee questions, Dr. Barton explained updates to the academic leadership structure designed to strengthen PK3–12 alignment and elevate internal leaders with deep institutional knowledge.
- **Safety and Security:** Chief Operating Officer Pankaj Rayamajhi provided operational and safety updates.

III. **School Performance Committee**

A.

Review SY 2024-25 DC CAPE Data

Toni R. Barton reviewed DC CAPE data from the 2024–2025 school year, highlighting areas of notable growth as well as opportunities for continued improvement.

B. Share SY 2025-26 Academic Vision and Strategy

Grounded in DC CAPE assessment data, Toni R. Barton shared the organization’s academic growth goals: achieving 20% increases in both Math and ELA proficiency each year for the next three years. Dr. Barton also presented the SY 2025–26 academic vision.

After sharing the year’s academic vision and strategy, trustees asked questions and provided feedback.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Confirm and Vote to Elect a Secretary for SY 2025-26

L. Johnson-Law made a motion to elect Roshelle Payes to serve as Secretary on the E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees, effective September 25, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

M. Hall seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Introduce the Community Relations Committee’s Expanded Scope

Katie Wynne shared the Community Relations Committee’s expanded scope. Moving forward, the committee will work to:

- Strengthen relationships with families, alumni, neighbors, and community leaders, including launching a community advisory group.
- Champion E.L. Haynes externally by identifying and engaging strategically aligned organizations and individuals, and by leveraging personal and professional connections.
- Support large-scale events and community-building activities, including fundraising initiatives and donor engagement.

C. Confirm Committee Assignments and Chairs

After reviewing SY 2024–25 committee assignments and discussing the Community Relations Committee’s expanded scope, the Board approved the following committee assignments:

School Performance Committee

- Richard Laine (Chair)
- Lenora Robinson-Mills
- Jaymes Hanna

- Keylon Simpkins
- Roy Jones
- Fonda Sutton (Ex Officio)

Audit, Finance, and Facilities Committee

- Jaymes Hanna (Chair)
- Michael Hall
- Richard Laine
- Jennie Niles
- Keylon Simpkins
- Fonda Sutton (Ex Officio)

Governance Committee

- Roshelle Payes (Chair)
- Michael Hall
- Mark Kovner
- Fonda Sutton (Ex Officio)

Community Relations Committee

- Grase Olaga Cala (Chair)
- LaJoy Johnson-Law
- Roy Jones
- Fonda Sutton (Ex Officio)

D. Discuss SY 2025-26 Board Recruitment Updates and Next Steps

Fonda Sutton shared an overview of the organization's current trustee recruitment and succession planning needs, noting the urgency of identifying and electing a 13th trustee.

E. Discuss Conflict of Interest Policy

Katie Wynne shared an overview of the Conflict of Interest Policy, encouraging trustees to review the document and identify any potential conflicts. Trustees are asked to return a signed disclosure form to K. Wynne by mid-October.

V. Audit, Finance, and Facilities

A. FY25 Fiscal Updates and KPIs

Senior Advisor Justin Rydstrom shared key end-of-year fiscal updates for the 2025 fiscal year:

- The organization maintained strong financial performance through Quarter 4, ending with 207 days of cash on hand.

- Cash reserves increased throughout the year, closing with a net income of \$8 million.
- The annual fiscal audit began in September.

B. FY26 Preview: Financial Updates

Justin Rydstrom provided financial updates for FY26, highlighting strategic staffing updates, contracts, and enrollment-related revenue projections. Following his presentation, trustees engaged in a brief Q&A.

VI. Community Relations Committee

A. FY26 Annual Fund Progress Update

Katie Wynne provided an overview of the FY26 Annual Fund, including year-end goals and funds raised to date.

B. Our Next Chapter Fundraiser Event Updates and Asks

Katie Wynne provided an overview of the upcoming fundraising event and asked trustees to support by identifying new attendees and supporters, assisting with event outreach, and attending an upcoming fundraising training.

C. Share Upcoming Community Events

Katie Wynne highlighted several upcoming community events for the Board to attend.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
F. Sutton