

APPROVED



E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Minutes

E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday December 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

MS 4th Floor PD Lounge
3600 Georgia Ave NW
Washington, DC 20010

Trustees Present

F. Sutton, G. Oleaga Cala (remote), J. Hanna, J. Niles, K. Simpkins, L. Robinson Mills, M. Hall, M. Kovner, R. Jones, R. Laine (remote), R. Payes

Trustees Absent

L. Johnson-Law

Guests Present

A. Brooks, Alvin Greene, Danielle Jones, Eddie Santiago, J. Rydstrom, K. Wynne, P. Rayamajhi, 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 Dec 10, 2025 at 6:04 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

F. Sutton made a motion to approve the minutes from E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on 09-24-25.

R. Payes seconded the motion.

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

D. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

II. CEO Updates

A. CEO Updates

- Chief Executive Officer Toni R. Barton presented an overview of the Q1 Organizational Dashboard, explaining its structure, highlighting five distinct focus areas, and responding to trustee questions about key metrics.
- She also shared updates on ongoing field opportunities to learn about innovative school models, noting that additional information would be shared with the School Performance Committee and at the February Board meeting.
- T. Barton previewed conversations taking place through the Community Design Groups.
- In response to a question about facilities planning, Senior Advisor Justin Rydstrom shared that he would share the Fielding International findings report.

III. School Performance

A. Q1 and Early Q2 Reflections

- Toni R. Barton shared reflections on Q1 and early Q2 academic data, noting positive trends in ANet performance.
- She also noted that each school is mapping specific instructional goals informed by observations from Lit and Zaretta Hammond coaching, and that the School Performance Committee received an early preview of this work.

IV. Governance

A. Share SY 2025-26 Committee Goals

Governance Committee Chair Roshelle Payes outlined the committee's SY 2025-26 goals:

- Elect a 13th trustee.

- Identify and elect an E.L. Haynes alumnus to serve on the board.
- Identify and elect a middle school parent/caregiver to serve on the board

B. Discuss and VOTE to Elect New Trustee

F. Sutton made a motion to elect Natalie Gordon to serve on the Board of Trustees, effective immediately. Per Section 3.04 of the Bylaws, Natalie Gordon's first term will end on June 30, 2029.

R. Payes seconded the motion.

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

C. Share Trustee Recruitment Updates

Senior Director of External Relations and Strategic Initiatives Katie Wynne shared updates on ongoing efforts to identify and recruit potential trustees, noting that Trustee Michael Hall is working with Trustee Jennie Niles to engage potential alumni.

V. Audit, Finance, and Facilities

A. FY24 Financial Analysis Report

Justin Rydstrom highlighted key findings from the Public Charter School Board's FY24 Financial Analysis Report for E.L. Haynes.

B. FY25 Audit Updates

J. Rydstrom confirmed that the draft FY25 financial audit report has been completed and was approved at the Audit, Finance, and Facilities Committee meeting on November 21, noting that the school remains on track to submit the final report to PCSB by the required deadline.

C. FY26 Q1 Financials

J. Rydstrom highlighted increased revenue, strategic investments, and enrollment growth during his overview of the FY26 Q1 financials, noting that this growth differs from broader citywide enrollment trends.

D. Initial FY27 Budget Planning Updates

J. Rydstrom provided a high-level overview of the budget engagement and planning timeline, including a review of the current-year budget and initiation of next year's planning (January–February), refinement of the proposal (March), presentation of a draft FY27 budget for trustee discussion (April), presentation of the final FY27 budget for approval (May), and submission of the final budget to PCSB (June).

VI. Community Relations Committee

A. Share SY 2025-26 Committee Goals

- Community Relations Committee Chair Grase Oleaga Calá provided an overview of the committee's SY2025–26 goals, including designing and launching a community advisory group and organizing a smaller-scale springtime event.
- G. Oleaga Calá also highlighted an interest in increasing family giving, potentially through tier-based monthly giving programs.
- Trustees encouraged the committee and school to continue emphasizing community relations, morale-building, storytelling, and partnership development.

B. Debrief Our Next Chapter Event and Share End-of-Year Fundraising Progress Report

Katie Wynne facilitated a debrief of the *Our Next Chapter* fundraising event, with trustees reflecting on overall strengths and identifying opportunities to refine timing, engagement, and long-term fundraising strategy.

C. Review FY26 Fundraising Progress

K. Wynne provided an overview of fundraising progress to date and noted the opportunity to reassess the school's fundraising and external relations strategy in light of current conditions, including local financial forecasts, federal workforce impacts, and internal leadership transitions. Trustees agreed and emphasized the importance of increased focus on community relations and partnership development.

D. Highlight Upcoming Community Events

K. Wynne shared a calendar of upcoming community engagement opportunities for trustees.

VII. Closed Session

A. Disciplinary Matters

F. Sutton made a motion to move into closed session to discuss disciplinary and personnel matters, in accordance with DC Code Section 2-575(b).

L. Robinson Mills seconded the motion.

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

B. Personnel Matters

VIII. 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

F. Sutton