



E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Minutes

E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

L. Johnson-Law, R. Jones, R. Reeder

Guests Present

A. Brooks

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 Tuesday Sep 15, 2026 at 6:07 PM.

C. Approve May 2026 General Meeting Minutes

J. Niles made a motion to approve the minutes from E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Special Meeting on 08-04-26.

M. Kovner seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve August 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on 05-20-26.

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

E. Public Comment

No public comment attendees were present at this meeting.

II. CEO Updates

A. Mission Moment: Staff Institute

T. Barton shared that at All Staff Institute, staff recommitted to our mission and core values, and to be part of future of Haynes and the new Taylor Street building. Institute key speakers such as Aylon Samouha (Extraordinary Learning for All) were present, and we launched the Social Justice Series with an initial conversation with Michelle Molitor (founding ES principal) and Dena Simmons (national equity leader).

B. 2025-2026 DC CAPE Results

T. Barton share CAPE results with community in August, highlighting notable growth in literacy., and strong gains across all three schools (examples include ES reaching its highest post-pandemic growth levels, and remarkable 22% literacy growth at the MS). T. Barton shared we are prioritizing that this year's investments to support this growth include the EmpowerK12 grant, Comprehensive State Literacy Development Grant, and continued partnerships with Lit and Zaretta Hammond.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

T. Barton shared that Haynes selected Volution Advisors as the partner for the 2027-2032 strategic plan, and that this work will kickoff in October. Their partnership will provide the following areas of expertise: deep knowledge of DC landscape, STEAM integration, an evidence-driven process, and execution focused architecture. Volution Partners also includes Jacquelyn Davis, a former founding board member, and Haynes is excited for this continued show up support. The goal is to have board approval of the 2027-32 strategic plan by the April or May board meeting.

D. 2026-2027 Organizational Priorities

T. Barton shared the 5 pillars of our strategic priorities for the year: Academic Excellence, Growth & Advancement, Team Alignment & Excellence, Student Culture & Belonging, Operations & Sustainability. A Brooks shared the monitoring and accountability structures put in place to support meeting goals over the course of the year.

E. 2026-2027 Annual Fundraiser

T. Barton shared that our annual fall fundraiser will transition to STEAMCon, a spring kickoff of our STEAM academic identity that includes student exhibitions and POLs, auctions, and involving students and staff. Staff will lead the steering committee for this work.

III. Governance

A. Confirm Sub-Committee Assignments

M. Kovner shared where additional capacity is needed with current committees. Additional information will be shared to support the start of committees via email for this year.

B. OMA Training for Trustees

A. Brooks shared PCBS's updated training requirements for Trustees, and will ensure trustees receive information related to the specific requirements they are expected to fulfill.

C. Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and Policy

Trustees were made aware of the Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and Policy. All Trustees and Chiefs will sign via Docusign.

IV. Audit, Finance, and Facilities

A. FY26 Fiscal Update

J. Rydstrom shared there was a strong soft close to FY26, citing indicators such as ERTC, OSSE teacher funds, and earnings investments. J. Rydstrom also shared that the annual financial audit has begun.

B. Update on Facilities

T. Barton shared that the lease was signed for Taylor Street in late August, and we have launched Phase 1 work with architect Shinberg + Levinas. T. Barton discussed the level of engagement with community to ensure transparency (webinars, ANC meeting, facilities page to website, family and staff surveys), noting there will be continuous opportunities for staff and family engagement sessions through the planning process this year.

C. Update on Enrollment Ceiling Increase

T. Barton noted that we are currently in the public comment period of the Enrollment Ceiling Increase (ECI) application. The PCSB hearing will take place on September 28, and Haynes will be notified of the decision in late October.

V. Community Relations

A. Student Recruitment and Engagement

K.Cromewell shared work has already begun to set the foundation for recruiting 75 new students next year, including a strategy that leverages the full continuum of student recruitment, cultivation, and engagement. K. Cromwell also noted that this will be an integrative plan that focuses on early grades, increased retention in grades 4-6, and commitment to equitable access.

VI. Closed Session

A. Contract Negotiations

Update were shared regarding the ECI and Taylor Street application in preparation for the PCSB hearing on 9/28.