

MINUTES for JSC of FLC Board Meeting – May 7, 2026

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Call to Order

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Dr. M. Christopher Marchese, Executive Director at 6:00 pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present:

Rachel Fortney	Waynesboro Area School District
Michael Hayduk	Chambersburg Area School District
Stephanie Gouss	Chambersburg Area School District
Tina McGee	Fannett-Metal School District (virtual)
Ben Raber	Chambersburg Area School District
Dr. Michael Lyman	Shippensburg Area School District
Kevin Hoffman	Tuscarora School District

Others:

Dr. Christopher Marchese	LIU 12 Executive Director
Brent A. Kessler	LIU 12 Director of Finance
Lauren Zima-Engro	Associate Director of Student Services
Jessica Klein	Recording Secretary
Dr. Tara Will	Superintendent of Record

Guests:

Mr. Kevin Stouffer	SEK Auditor
Mr. Ian Shook	SEK Auditor
Kim Ansell	Assistant Director of Finance

Absent:

Eileen Dickinson	Greencastle-Antrim School District
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C. Public Participation

No one was present or participating via Zoom.

D. Approval of the March Joint School Committee Board Minutes

Dr. Marchese opened the floor for discussion of the January 15, 2026, board minutes. Noting there were no minutes for March due to the postponement of that meeting for lack of a quorum. Hearing no concerns, Mr. Hayduck and Ms. Fortney made a motion, they were approved with no revisions by a vote of 7-0-0..

II. BUDGET AND FINANCE**A. Smith, Elliot, Kearns & Co. Presentation of Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2025****i. Motion to accept the Audit as presented by SEK for the year ended June 30, 2025.**

Kevin Stouffer, Certified Public Accountant with SEK, was present at the meeting to provide membership with a summary of the Franklin Learning Center FYE '25 Audit. Various pieces of information were provided in print including the Audit Presentation Summary, Audited Financial Statements Report, and FLC Management Letter.

It was noted that an unmodified audit opinion was again obtained by the Franklin Learning Center, which is the highest level attainable. Secondly, there were no findings related to the audit, which is commendable to the school's operations. Finally, the Capital Reserve Fund account and balance was reported to be in good standing.

Mr. Stouffer reviewed the information that was contained in the presentation summary and highlighted the other documents which led to the audit's outcome. The opportunity for questions was provided.

Ms. Gouse motioned to accept the audit as presented by Smith, Elliott, Kearns & Company for the year ended June 30, 2025, to which Dr. Lyman offered a second. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0-0.

B. Treasurer's Reports and Ratification of Expenditures**i. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports January - April 2026 and Ratification of Expenditures**

A brief highlight of the respective Treasurer's Report of the Franklin Learning Center for January through April 2026 and FYE '26 was conducted by Mr. Kessler. There are no areas of concern; all looks to be in order at this point for this fiscal year.

YTD FYE '26 (January-April 2026) Report Highlights:

Checking Account Balance - \$168.38

Expenditures – 87% usage with 83% of year completed.

Revenue – 82% received; third billing will be going out in May.

Capital Fund Account Balance - \$2,014,035.38

Having no further questions regarding the financial reports, Dr. Lyman motioned, and Ms. Fortney seconded for approval of the Treasurer's Reports dated January-April 2026. A vote was taken with the motion passing 7-0-0.

C. 2026-2027 Joint School Committee Budget**i. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Joint School Committee Budget**

Mr. Kessler presented the budget for next school year. He noted that the business managers have already received the budget. Mr. Kessler mentioned that right now, based on the current enrollment, and some extra seats due to the additional classrooms, and the expenses that are needed, we will have a \$202,000 surplus. There has been one addition to the budget being a SRO (school resource officer) will be added part time. Mr. Kessler also discussed the rate increase for the member and non-member districts. The increase will be 3.93% for member districts, while the non-member district will be increased by 10%. A few questions were asked regarding the tuition rates and overall budget, with the administration providing answers.

Mr. Hayduk motioned to approve, while Ms. Gouse seconded, the approval of the 2026-2027 Joint School Committee budget. The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

VII. BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT-ERIC SANDS

Mr. Sands began with a pool renovation classroom project update. He noted that the completion date is pushed back slightly due to a delay in the installation of the roof top unit. He did mention that it will be complete for the start of the next school year as they had hoped. Mr. Sands shared the GESA project is getting ready to kick off, Mr. Sands also noted that they are beginning to schedule other projects to be completed over the summer as well as the large HVAC/building envelope project.

III. SUPERINTENDENT OF RECORD REPORT – DR. TARA WILL

Dr. Will provided an update on the Pennsylvania Public School and Facilities Grant that herself, Mr. Kessler and Mr. Sands worked together on noting that this grant is designed to offset some of the HVAC/building envelope project costs. There will be further efforts to find out more information on the grant.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – DR. M. CHRISTOPHER MARCHESE

Dr. Marchese began by thanking the FLC staff for all that they do. He also thanked the board for all of their efforts this past year.

V. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – TASHAWNA NICHOLSON

Ms. Nicholson began by updating the board with the enrollment numbers being the highest they have ever been with 179 school age students and 40 pre-school students. Ms. Nicholson highlighted a few events going on at the FLC including a fishing rodeo, prom and graduation happening in the auditorium on May 28, 2026.

VI. STUDENT SERVICES REPORT – LAUREN ZIMA-ENGRO

Ms. Zima-Engro updated the board that they have been meeting with the directors of special education of the different districts to work on trends and referrals for incoming students and students entering kindergarten next school year.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting of the Joint School Committee of Franklin Learning Center is scheduled for September 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Klein
Jessica Klein
JSC Recording Secretary