

Community Charter School of Cambridge
Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, April 2, 2025, 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Present: (all remote) Uche Amaechi, Farhan Altaf, Courtney Burns, Christy Felix, José Juves, Cindy Albert Link, Laurie McIntosh, Kathy Ofsthun, Emma Stellman, Kimberly Scheltz, Myra Washington Forrester

Absent: Elon Fyfield, Alex Saltonstall, Rob Shapiro

Ex officios: (all remote) Bill Brosseau, Elizabeth Debraggio, Becki Norris

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom

- [Agenda](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [March Minutes](#)
- [Head of School Update](#)
- [CCSC Context Check](#)
- [CCSC Strategic Goals](#)
- [Fiscal 2026 Budget Priorities](#)
- [Strategic Planning: CCSC Vision](#)
- [Development Update](#)
- [Governor’s Advocacy Toolkit](#)

I. Discussion Items

- A. Uche led a quick check-in from each attendee
- B. At 6:15pm Uche called the meeting to order
- C. Cindy Albert Link, designated as the notetaker, recorded attendance.
- D. Uche motioned, seconded by Kim, to approve the March minutes. They were approved unanimously:

Name	Vote to Approve March Minutes	Name	Vote to Approve March Minutes
Uche Amaechi	Yes	Cindy Albert Link	Yes
Farhan Altaf	Yes	Laurie McIntosh	Yes
Courtney Burns	Yes	Kathy Ofsthun	Yes
Christy Felix	Yes	Alex Saltonstall	Absent
Myra Washington Forrester	Yes	Rob Shapiro	Absent
Elon Fyfield	Absent	Kim Scheltz	Yes

José Juves	Yes	Emma Stellman	Yes
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E. Head of School Update

- i. Renewal Update: CCSC has officially been renewed with no conditions!
- ii. College Acceptances: Becki summarized a list of college acceptances, itemized in the enclosed HoS Update. It was exciting to learn of student success.
- iii. Becki offered an enthusiastic background and congratulations to Naatuere Ajanaku, who will be our next principal. CCSC will hold a series of informal ways to meet her and the more formal opportunity is during Round Tables, when families can sit down with her to enjoy tea and a bite to eat.
- iv. Alumni Persistence Project: Fundraising efforts have been successful, and we now have raised enough to hire an Alumni Success Manager who will “own” the program
- v. Becki summarized opportunities to sponsor CCSC events and shared the information and application form.
- vi. We held our first-ever accepted students’ day, which went well. All felt that it strengthened the feeling of community and, hopefully, bolstered the acceptance rate.
- vii. Although MCAS are not required by MA, they still are a graduation requirement for CCSC.
- viii. Q3 exams started today and seemed to go well so far. However, Becki observed that Middle School lunch period can be difficult to manage during benchmark exam week if the meal providers are delayed.
- ix. Becki ticked off “up next” items as detailed in the Head of School Update document.

F. CCSC Vision Statement

- i. Becki outlined the Vision development Process (included as a link at the beginning of these minutes) and presented the proposed Vision Statement:

CCSC is committed to eliminating inequities in educational access and opportunity. As a welcoming, safe, and trusting community of lifelong learners, we champion and challenge the whole student through high expectations, engaging and evidence-based instruction, and individualized support. Our students and alumni build meaningful relationships as they grow into critical, compassionate, and reflective thinkers who make positive contributions while nurturing their passions.

- ii. Becki asked for questions and comments: Kathy said she loved it. Emma thinks it’s fantastic and is grateful for the commitment to the process. Although it’s long and complicated, she appreciates the nuance and recognizes that the vision statement not only is ok, it’s also complicated and filled with complex ideas. It reflects that education is hard and that there is no magic switch. José echoed previous comments and noted that the vision statement is fulsome and complete, and resonated with him. Jose asked for background on the clause: “Our students and alumni build meaningful relationships...” Courtney explained that this is intended
- iii. Courtney moved that the Board vote to approve the Vision as presented, seconded by Uche. It was approved unanimously and enthusiastically.

Name	Vote to Approve the Vision Statement	Name	Vote to Approve the Vision Statement
Uche Amaechi	Yes	Cindy Albert Link	Yes
Farhan Altaf	Yes	Laurie McIntosh	Yes
Courtney Burns	Yes	Kathy Ofsthun	Yes
Christy Felix	Yes	Alex Saltonstall	Absent
Myra Washington Forrester	Yes	Kim Scheltz	Yes
Elon Fyfield	Absent	Rob Shapiro	Absent
José Juves	Yes	Emma Stellman	Yes

G. Governance: Uche asked Emma Stellman to present the work of the Governance committee. For Board and HoS evaluation, the committee is working on tracking performance to goals to ensure that we are fulfilling our mission and addressing our sustainability needs. Emma explained that the Board and Head of School goals are intrinsically connected, so measuring performance to goals is critical to the success of both the Board and the HoS. Emma then presented the process and timeline for Board recruitment and explained that an interview guide is in development. She then turned to the Board Follow-up Survey, stressing that 100% of the Board must participate. Uche asked Emma for any further points she wished to emphasize, and Emma responded that they would appreciate it if Board members would plan to email their thoughts, questions and reactions to the guide as there is no time to discuss during a Board meeting.

Uche observed that this the first year that we'll have a Strategic Plan to structure the interviews and Board recruitment process. He asked if Board members had other people whom they'd like to involve in the process, either as potential Board or committee members. DAO, Governance and the Student Committee have needs. Committee chairs make the decision about adding individuals, For the Board, there is a process. Uche summarized: There are 14 Board members. 3 will rotate off next year: Uche, Alex and José; plus one staff member.

H. DAO (Today's Board meeting focuses on Development and Advocacy)
 Uche introduced this segment by offering an overview on Development as a strategic priority, as is Advocacy, and asked Elizabeth to talk about Development. Elizabeth presented a summary with a PowerPoint (included at the beginning of these minutes) and concluded by stating that it would be very helpful to hear from the Board about what ways the Board might like to engage.

José observed that it is very helpful to have specific examples of what funding will support, like the one that Elizabeth gave about art supplies. He also said that it would be useful to segment the prospective donors. Although he hasn't successfully raised funds up to now, he has talked about CCSC with his fellow Kendall Square entrepreneurs, he starts by saying that there is a school right in their back yards that has a huge positive impact, and it would be helpful to have specific examples to inspire them as well. Bill agreed that explicitly describing the use of funds helps motivate giving.

Emma stated that the website is very helpful. She pointed out that both College Persistence and college acceptance list with information about how much money came in for scholarships was very compelling. People felt, "Oh I'm not just paying for basketball uniforms but clearly believe that College Acceptance reveals that CCSC is doing a good job."

- I. Budget 2026
 - i. Becki presented information on the FY2025 budget
 - ii. She then looked ahead to the forecast for FY2026 and outlined priorities:
 1. Increase Middle School Staffing/decrease class sizes where appropriate
 2. Address Middle School student needs, which continue to grow
 3. Increase inclusion support for all students
 4. Provide regional student transportation (a new budget line)
 - iii. Where will funds come from to fund these incremental expenses?
 1. Increased enrollment
 2. Cambridge tuition projections
 3. Decrease FTE on the non-teaching side to support FTE increases to teaching side
 - a. Only one non-teaching FTE (but still a very hard thing)

II. Adjournment

With no public comment submissions, the CCSC Board meeting adjourned to Executive Session.