

**WALTON ACADEMY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026

Time: 10:00am

Location: Walton Academy Charter School/Meeting also accessible via Zoom
389 Dorsey Avenue
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

I. Call to Order, Review of Public Notice, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Neale at 10:10am. Board members present were Robert Neale, Vickie Sykes, and Edward Graham. Guests present included: Ray Sansom, Dr. Allison Schnell, Kara Griffin, and Elizabeth Daters.

II. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Graham made a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Sykes seconded. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

The last meeting's minutes from January 21st, 2026 were approved on a motion by Ms. Sykes, seconded by Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comments by Pre-Registered guests, if any

No guests were present.

V. Reports

- A. Walton Academy Director's Report & Title I Update – Mr. Sansom provided the Director's report and stated that Ms. Laurino is retiring and thanked her for everything she has done and her excellent work in education. Mr. Sansom informed the board that Mr. Schmidt will be the new Director effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Sansom stated that Walton Academy had a really good school year. Mr. Sansom stated that Mr. Schmidt's leadership and relationship with the school district will help enrollment grow in the 2026-2027 school year. He stated that several school improvement projects are going on this summer to get ready for the next year and he thanked the staff for their dedication and The Rader Group for their management during this last school year.
- B. Management Report – Mr. Sansom stated that the Director's Report covers the Management Report.

VI. Discussion & Action Items

VII. Reports

Human Resources

- A. Walton Academy Personnel Report – The personnel report for Walton Academy was presented by Ms. Daters. Walton Academy has 14 current employees and 1 vacancy. Ms. Sykes made a motion to approve the personnel report, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.
- B. Updated Salary Schedule – The updated salary schedule was presented by Ms. Daters. She stated that this salary schedule is for instructional and non-instructional employees, as well as substitute teachers. Ms. Sykes made a motion to approve the revised salary schedule, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

Financials

- A. Walton Academy Financial Reports – Ms. Griffin presented the Walton Academy Financial Report. She stated that total assets as of April 30th are currently at \$1,162,131.57. The school remains in a strong financial position and expenses are on track for the end of the school year. Ms. Sykes made a motion to approve the financials, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.
- B. 25-26 Walton Academy Revised Budget – Ms. Griffin stated that the revised budget reflects adjustments made throughout the school year to better align projected expenses with actual spending and current operation needs. The current projection estimates total expenditures for the school year to come in at just under \$2 million, with total funding projected at \$2,024,519.76. We anticipate closing the fiscal year with a fund balance of \$1,071,951.35. This will offer a modest cushion to cover any outstanding obligations beyond June 30th and serve as a slight reserve heading into the new fiscal year. Ms. Sykes made a motion to approve the revised budget, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.
- C. 25-26 Audit Engagement Letter – Ms. Griffin thanked Mr. Neale for reviewing and signing the engagement letter so promptly. The letter was forwarded to our auditor, and we are now proceeding with the next steps in launching the audit for Walton Academy. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the audit engagement letter, Ms. Sykes seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. General

- A. Next Board Meeting – The next board meeting will be scheduled for late July or early August.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40. Ms. Sykes made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Graham seconded.