



# GERALD DAWKINS ACADEMY

November 12, 2024 – 10:00 am  
Gerald Dawkins Academy  
1050 Fisk Road SE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

## Board Meeting Minutes

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.
- II. **ROLL CALL**  
Board Members Present: Mr. Jerry McComb, Reverend Jerry Bishop, Ms. Melisha Reid Roberts, Dr. Andrea Smith, and Mr. Brian Cloyd  
Center for Sound Literacy: Mrs. Teresa Weatherall Neal, Mr. John Kennedy, Mrs. Nancy Kennedy, and Ms. Angela O'Brien  
GVSU Charter Schools Office: Mrs. Cheryl Edwards-Cannon and Ms. Gretchen LaHaie  
Gerald Dawkins Academy: Mr. Lacey James  
Veritas : Ms. Danielle Corbeil (virtual)  
Taylor Morgan: Mr. Mike Mackenzie  
General Public: Mr. Joe Jones, Ms. Kelly Price, Ms. Gladys Martinez, and Ms. Teresa Lott
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY** – There was no public comment.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
  - a. Brian Cloyd made a motion to add the following action item to the agenda – accept the resignation of the current legal counsel (Mr. Doug McNeil) and approve the appointment of a new legal counsel.
  - b. Jerry Bishop made a motion to approve the November 12 meeting agenda with the additional action item listed above. Melisha Reid Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **PRINCIPAL UPDATE** – Mr. James introduced two parents who shared their satisfaction with the learning environment at GDA. The Principal's Report was given.
- VI. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  - a. Financial Update – Angela O'Brien introduced Danielle Corbeil to review the financials through the end of September. A budget revision will be presented at the December board meeting.
  - b. 2023-2024 Annual Audit Update – Angela O'Brien introduced Mike Mackenzie, Taylor Morgan, who presented the annual audit to the board.
  - c. Open Enrollment for 2025-2026 School Year – Angela O'Brien presented the proposal around open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year and answered the board members' questions. The board decided to have open enrollment as an action item at the December meeting.

**VII. AUTHORIZERS COMMENTS**

- a. Cheryl Edwards-Cannon indicated Jerry McComb attended the board president meeting last month in Ann Arbor.
- b. Cheryl encouraged the board members to sign up for board trainings and specifically encouraged Melisha Reid Roberts to attend the school finance training.
- c. Cheryl will be sending information to the board about applying for the Core Values Award. This year the award is centered on GVSU's core value related to international perspectives. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash award.
- d. The School Performance Report from the CSO will be presented in January.

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Brian Cloyd made a motion to move the communication request from Public Comment to Action Items as recorded in the October 1, 2024 meeting minutes. Andrea Smith made a motion to approve the October 1, 2024 meeting minutes with this requested change. Jerry Bishop seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Jerry Bishop made a motion to accept Doug McNeil's resignation as the board's legal counsel and appoint Cathy Tracey from Miller Johnson as the board's new legal counsel. Melisha Reid Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Lacey James thanked Jerry Bishop and Lifequest for providing lunch for the GDA staff and coordinating a coat drive for students.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 10:00 am  
Gerald Dawkins Academy  
1050 Fisk Road, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Board Meeting Minutes Approved**

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Signature

*Handwritten signature*

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Date

*12-3-24*