



FOCUS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, March 30, 2026

Minutes

4:30 p.m.

Meeting Called to order:

Board Chair James Rossman called the meeting to order at 4:35. Board members James Ballard, Doug Amoroso, Karl Langefeld, and Beth McIntyre were present. Staff members Josephine Isenbergh, Elisabeth Kraft-Radka, and Meagan Zaharakes were present. Clayton Clemens with Project Focus was present. Board member Ildes Sotelo and staff member Loretta Gallo-Lopez were absent.

Members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

James Ballard sought approval for consent agenda. Doug Amoroso moved; James Ballard made a second motion. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Board Chair James Rossman permitted a parent to provide public comment despite the parent not following the formal request-to-speak procedure. The parent expressed concern regarding her student's attendance record and requested that the student be allowed to remain enrolled at the school.

FOCUS MOMENT-

One of the Focus Forward clients who is an alumni of Focus Academy completed 10 pull ups while visiting CrossFit Hyde Park. This was caught on camera as the news was there and 40 people cheered him on .

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

No Comments.

COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

Financial Committee-

Outstanding funding issues continue to be addressed, and further direction is pending.

The committee discussed the proposal from Greenberg Traurig to review all business documents in preparation for the reorganization of Focus Academy and its related programs. The Finance Committee expressed concerns regarding the associated costs. Josephine Isenbergh clarified that billing will be allocated by program, ensuring each program is responsible for its proportionate share of expenses.

The proposal was also reviewed by each committee individually. Ms. Isenbergh informed the board that any additional questions will be addressed during an upcoming meeting with GT. She further noted that all Focus programs have held board meetings regarding the reorganization and have individually approved moving forward.

The Finance Committee also reviewed the district financials.

Governance Committee-

The Governance Committee expressed concerns about the costs associated with the reorganization; however, members supported the decision, acknowledging that these expenses can be billed separately.

The committee also reviewed and discussed the attendance policy, emphasizing the importance of daily attendance. Elisabeth Kraft Radka noted that the policy aligns with the district's guidelines and explained that it serves as a valuable process to help both students and families understand the importance of consistent attendance for academic success.

Marketing Committee –

The Committee Chair discussed the reorganization and concurred with other regarding the costs and the importance of being able to clearly delineate the different components of each program. Enrollment for the upcoming year is progressing well. While the school may receive applications from students who do not qualify for Focus Academy, there is now an opportunity to offer an alternative program for those interested in the school's services.

The committee also discussed inviting a representative from the Recreation Center to present at the April Parent Seminar on water safety. It was noted that a significant percentage of drowning deaths among individuals over the age of five involve individuals with autism. Addressing this topic during the seminar will emphasize the importance of water safety for students of all ages.

For the coming year, the school will aim to maintain an enrollment of 115–120 students.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

We have a student whose attendance has been an ongoing concern since enrolled at Focus Academy. During the current school year, the student accumulated 37 absences. After reaching 10 absences, a meeting was held to review the school's attendance policy and establish an attendance improvement plan. Despite this intervention, additional absences occurred.

The Principal later notified the parent that the student would be permitted to remain enrolled through the end of the school year, but that re-enrollment for the following year would be subject to review. Following this notification, the student demonstrated significant improvement, attending school consistently for six consecutive weeks.

Based on this progress, it is now recommended that the student be allowed to return for the next school year, contingent upon maintaining good standing with attendance.

Board member Beth McIntyre made a motion to allow the student to complete the current school year and register for the fall semester under the condition that they maintain satisfactory attendance. The motion included a provision that if attendance declines, the board will revisit the decision. The motion was seconded by James Ballard and approved unanimously.

The board will review this matter again at the end of the current school year and at the beginning of the next school year.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Our conversations with the development team remain positive. A potential property has been identified approximately 2.5 miles from the current school location. Updated renderings now reflect the inclusion of multiple program elements and partner entities, aligning with the broader vision for the campus.

We've also begun engaging with the county regarding rezoning. The foundation is actively coordinating with county officials and land-use attorneys to navigate the rezoning process and ensure the site can support the intended use.

Community Engagement & Events

Recent outreach efforts continue to build momentum. The breakfast event was very successful, generating strong engagement and support. Looking ahead, several events are on the calendar, including Glow Row.

This Thursday, the Day School will be featured in a special highlight. Additionally, Loretta will appear on Fox 13 in three 15-minute segments to discuss drama therapy and its impact.

PROJECT MANAGER REPORT

Our project manager is now a part time employee of Focus Academy. She will be helping with Medicaid billing and special projects moving forward.

COMMITTEE/ACTION ITEMS

The board reviewed and approved the January and February district financials. The motion was made by James and seconded by Beth. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Karl Langfeld to proceed with Phase One of the reorganization of Focus Entities, with a financial commitment not to exceed \$20,000 for Focus Academy. James Ballard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings: April 20, 2026; May 18, 2026

Adjournment:

Board Chair Rossman accepted a motion to adjourn.

Doug Amoroso made the motion; Beth McIntyre made a second motion. All approved.
Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Meagan Zaharakes, approved by board vote and confirmed by signature below:

JAMES M. ROSSMAN CHAIR

Print Name Title

James M. Rossman

April 28, 2026

Signature and Date