

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

17350 Hazel Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456

Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 5:00 PM

MINUTES – DRAFT

- I. **Call to Order** – President Nick Lootens called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM
- II. **Roll Call – Declaration of a Quorum** – Present: Nick Lootens (President), Brooke Karl (Treasurer), Tiffany Moody (Trustee). Also present: Maggie Malone (Superintendent/Head of School), Liz Johnson (Business Office Support), Courtney Stahl (GVSU Rep). Absent: Melisa Sass (Vice President)
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Reading of West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics Mission Statement:**
Creating life-long community through arts integration
- V. **Approval of Agenda** – N. Lootens moved governance to the action items. A motion was made by B. Karl, supported by T. Moody to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor 3-0, motion passed.
- VI. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.
- VII. **Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes 9/14/26** – A motion was made by B. Karl, supported by T. Moody to approve the minutes as written. All in favor 3-0, motion passed.
- VIII. **Superintendent/Head of School's Report**
 - a. New Teacher Mentor Presentation/Big picture of academics – Kristi Whalen reported on the new teacher orientation, teacher mentors will be assigned to groups and will provide on-going support. The big picture goal is to add more coaching cycles for teachers. Dave Berube and Kristi Whalen will be sharing this responsibility with the goal of equity and fidelity.
 - b. Growth from intervention/curriculum change / UFLI - Steph Berg reported there are curriculum changes regarding ELA UFLI and Bookworms. 4th grade test results show 75% of students are already at or above benchmark; 10% in yellow, 15% in red that are receiving supports.
 - c. Update Capital Campaign – Josh Spencer – the pre-feasibility stage was from April – June, he had 9 touchpoints with potential donors/leaders. He also stated the size of the budget needed to be reduced and brought the figure down to \$13 million from \$25 million (lower square footage). Mr. Spencer will make a presentation to the board prior to the feasibility study. Ideally, there would be 5 potential donors that would be carrying the load then phase 2 would reach out to others. He is asking that board members continue to build their donor lists.
 - d. Principal Report – Bill Martin – great start to the school year, welcomed Pre-k families last week, majority of the construction is finished, he had his first family information night and another one next week.
 - e. Highlights of Written Report – M. Malone- the art room sink/cabinet project will happen over Thanksgiving break because the students need to use the sinks for class. For the first time, we have a student who is auditioning for the MSBOA state wide honors band, playing the oboe.
- IX. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Audit – B. Karl – met with L. Johnson, M. Malone and K. Nave from Partner Solutions, regarding financials, not much to report, on track with spending for this time of year. The audit field work is still ongoing, and a potential revised budget at the next board meeting.
 - b. Arts & Academics – There was no meeting.
 - c. Governance – moved to action items
- X. **Action Items**
 - a. Potential Board Member Update – A motion was made by B. Karl, supported by T. Moody to recommend Chad Thompson to be the 5th board member. All in favor 3-0, motion passed.
 - b. Nomination for Board Secretary – A motion was made by N. Lootens, supported by B. Karl to nominate Tiffany Moody as Board Secretary. All in favor 3-0, motion passed.

- XI. GVSU Report – C. Stahl – the board president leadership retreat on November 5th, is open to all board members. GVSU will pay for the first night lodging. We will be receiving our academic grant in February, for statics from the prior school year.
- XII. Closed Session – student discipline
 - a. A motion was made by B. Karl, supported by T. Moody to move into closed session at 5:23 PM. A roll call vote – Tiffany Moody – aye, Brooke Karl – aye, Nick Lootens – aye. All in favor 3-0, motion passed.
 - b. The board moved out of closed session at 5:45 PM.
- XIII. **Potential Topics for November 17, 2026 Board Meeting**
 - a. Revised budget, review of board retreat, fall play is Nov 13,14
- XIV. **Public Comments** – N. Lootens reviewed with the public expectations of public comment.
 - a. Carla Read – Wanted clarification of emergency procedures and timing of notification to parents and staff, and indicated office staff was not aware when she called the school.
 - b. Jenna Wenger – She was wondering why this situation wasn't mentioned at last week's family information meeting.
 - c. Jill Kingsbury – Her son is new, but feels disconnected and it is still unclear.
 - d. Kevin Read - He asked if we do drills for things like this.
 - e. James Wenger – He wanted to know why communication was so late.
 - f. Jill Kingsbury – New TK and being her. Feels unclear about what happened and wants clarify.
- XV. **Adjournment** – N. Lootens adjourned the meeting at 6:18 PM.

Approved 10/12/2026
[Signature]
David Messner