

LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY

900 W. LINDLEY AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION:
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

DATE & TIME:
AUGUST 18, 2026
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER

Opening Colloquy

This meeting of the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney Board of Trustees is hereby called to order. The time is 6:04 P.M. My name is Reginald Howard. I am the President of this Board of Trustees, and I will facilitate this meeting.

This meeting is being held via video teleconference. This is a public meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney that was properly advertised pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. The public notice included instructions for how the public could participate in tonight's meeting. The public meeting schedule is posted at the school and on the website in the monthly calendar.

All members of the public are welcome to sit and listen to the Board of Trustees conduct its business tonight. Members of the public who have registered with the Administrative Office to participate in public comment by 5:00 P.M. on the day before this scheduled meeting may participate in public comment. At this time, I would ask that the Executive Administration submit the list of commenters to our General Counsel. Comments will be limited to three minutes unless the Board decides to grant additional time.

At this time, I will ask that Roll Call be taken.

A. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	By Invitation: Non-Board Members:
Reginald Howard — President Sandra Farmer — Vice President Evette Alliston — Trustee ¹ Dr. Kathleen Taylor – Trustee Dr. Kaitlin Moran - Trustee	Dr. Margery Covello, CEO Nancy White, Principal Elaine Latimer, Director of Special Education Ashley Redfearn, CEO, APS Kristine Magargee, Chief Academic Officer, APS Scott Kramer, Chief Talent Officer, APS Samuel Mercanti, Santilli & Thomson, LLC Abigail Lipow, Esq.
Board Members Absent: Regina Felder — Trustee	

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION *BY REGINALD HOWARD*

I'd like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that the Board of Trustees did not meet in Executive Session prior to this Board Meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:
KATHLEEN
TAYLOR

SECOND:
SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:
☒ PASS
☐ FAIL

Resolution 260818.01 Approval of the August 18, 2026 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the **August 18, 2026** Agenda.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:
KATHLEEN
TAYLOR

SECOND:
SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:
☒ PASS
☐ FAIL

Resolution 260818.02 Approval of the June 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the Minutes of the **June 16, 2026** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney.

¹ Ms. Alliston joined the meeting at 6:11 PM.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

SECTION II: REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)

Good evening. My name is Abigail Lipow, and I am with Sand & Saidel, P.C., General Counsel to the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney Board of Trustees. Will you please state your name for our records?

You will have three minutes to address the Board of Trustees. Any documents or communications with which you might supplement your comment should be submitted to me. I will keep the time and notify the Board when three minutes have elapsed.

This Board may choose not to comment, question, or respond in any way to your public comment. I will begin the time now.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

A. LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY CEO

+*Dr. Covello presented the monthly CEO report, copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting the following:*

- *Mission Moment: Kindergarten Bridge Program*
- *Reviewed current enrollment numbers with the Board*
 - *2026-2027 starting enrollment numbers are higher than the last school year*
- *Discussed updates on summer meetings, professional development, and grant applications*
- *Provided update on the charter renewal timeline*
- *Reviewed Academic Strategic Plan for 2026-2027 school year with the Board*

B. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO

+*S. Kramer and K. Magargee presented the monthly CEO report, copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting the following:*

- *Reviewed results of engagement survey with the Board*
- *Reviewed the academic team's planning and progress over the summer*

C. BUSINESS CONTROLLER

+S. Mercanti presented the monthly financial report, copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting the following:

- Presented June 2026 financial report to the Board
- Financial audit for year ending 2026 is due to start in about two weeks; books are close to being final for 2025-2026 school year

SECTION III: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION:
SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:
KATHLEEN
TAYLOR

VOTE:
☒ PASS
☐ FAIL

Resolution 260818.03 Approval of Reports

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney accepts the report of the CEO of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney and all documents submitted thereby, which shall be incorporated into the record of this meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney accepts the report of American Paradigm Schools and all documents submitted thereby, which shall be incorporated into the record of this meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby reviews and accepts the Financial Report of Samuel Mercanti of Santilli & Thomson and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the Treasurer's Report and the documents presented by Samuel Mercanti to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

MOTION:
EVETTE ALLISTON

SECOND:
SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:
☒ PASS
☐ FAIL

Resolution 260818.04 Officers

RESOLVED, in accordance with Section 7 of the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney Bylaws, the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby elects the following Officers for the terms of office listed below:

President: Reginald Howard, 7/1/26 – 6/30/27

Vice President: Sandra Farmer, 7/1/26 – 6/30/27
Secretary: Evette Alliston, 7/1/26 – 6/30/27
Treasurer: Dr. Kathleen Taylor, 7/1/26 – 6/30/27

By Roll Call:

Reginald Howard – *aye*
Sandra Farmer – *aye*
Regina Felder – *aye*
Evette Alliston – *aye*
Dr. Kathleen Taylor – *aye*
Dr. Kaitlin Moran – *aye*

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

MOTION:
SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:
EVETTE ALLISTON

VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 260818.05 Professional Services Contracts

RESOLVED, the contract/s and associated report/s listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, Business Controller, and General Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate contract/s for the professional services described below;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the President is authorized to execute any document or delegate any task necessary to effectuate this resolution.

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
Specialized Education of Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$274/per diem	2026-2027 3 Placement Spots at High Roads School

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

UPON MOTION BY SANDRA FARMER, AND SECOND BY EVETTE ALLISTON, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS AND CONSULT WITH A PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR.

UPON MOTION BY SANDRA FARMER, AND SECOND BY DR. KAITLIN MORAN,
THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENTER OPEN SESSION.

MOTION:
SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:
KAITLIN MORAN

VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 260818.06 Confidential Settlement Agreement in re: T.S.

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves of the Confidential Settlement Agreement in re: T.S., as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

MOTION:
EVETTE ALLISTON

SECOND:
KATHLEEN
TAYLOR

VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 260818.07 Human Resources

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves of the human resources changes, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Dr. Covello</i>	<i>Discussed HR updates with the Board.</i>

MOTION:
EVETTE ALLISTON

SECOND:
SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 260818.08 2026-2027 Employee Handbook

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves of the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

MOTION:
SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:
EVETTE ALLISTON

VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 260818.09 2026-2027 Student Handbook

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General Discussion</i>

UPON MOTION BY DR. KAITLIN MORAN AND SECOND BY EVETTE ALLISTON, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD RESOLUTION 260818.10.

MOTION:
SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:
KAITLIN MORAN

VOTE:
☒ PASS
☐ FAIL

Resolution 260818.10 Gerald Santilli Founder's Day

WHEREAS, Gerald Santilli was the founder of American Paradigm Schools and played an instrumental role in establishing, developing, and advancing the mission, values, and educational vision of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Santilli's leadership, commitment to children and families, and dedication to providing high-quality educational opportunities have had a lasting impact upon American Paradigm Schools, its schools, employees, students, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees believes it is appropriate and meaningful to formally recognize Mr. Santilli's legacy and ensure that his contributions remain an enduring part of the history and culture of American Paradigm Schools; and

WHEREAS, American Paradigm Schools presently observes the Wednesday immediately preceding Thanksgiving Day as a day on which its schools and administrative offices are closed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney desires to formally designate that existing day as "Gerald Santilli Founder's Day" as an annual day of remembrance, gratitude, reflection, and recognition of the values and vision upon which American Paradigm Schools was founded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby designates the Wednesday immediately preceding Thanksgiving Day each year as "Gerald Santilli Founder's Day," beginning with the 2026–2027 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Gerald Santilli Founder's Day shall replace the existing designation for the Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving and shall not constitute the creation of an additional holiday, paid day off, or additional school closure beyond that already provided in the approved school and organizational calendars.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>S. Kramer</i>	<i>Discussed decision to honor Mr. Santilli through a Founder's Day holiday designation</i>

B. UPCOMING EVENTS

- NEXT BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 6PM
- BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: AUGUST 20, 2026 5 PM TO 6:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:59 PM

MOTION:
EVETTE ALLISTON
SECOND:
KAITLIN MORAN
VOTE:
☒ PASS
☐ FAIL
