

**BEEKMAN CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025
6:00 PM (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS)
CAFETERIA**

1. Call to Order. Keith Huntsman

The Beekman Charter School Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Keith Huntsman.

2. Roll Call.

Roll call was conducted by Abigail Atkins. The results were as follows:

- Members present: Mario Bershell, Michael Edmonds, Sarah Ellingburg, Keith Huntsman, Mike Stephens, Lori Wallace
- Members absent: Tamika Farrell
- Others in attendance: Samantha Mann, John Merritt, Abigail Kilcrease, Amy Dantzler, and Abigail Atkins

3. Pledge and Prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sarah Ellingburg. The prayer was led by Mario Bershell.

4. To recognize North Delta Regional Essay winner, Scarlett Johnson. –Samantha Mann

Mrs. Mann recognized a BCS sixth grade student, Scarlett Johnson for her achievement as North Delta Regional Essay winner.

5. To enter into a Q & A discussion with bond attorney, Wes Shafto. –Samantha Mann

Wes Shafto sent resolutions to attorney Steve Katz for Morehouse Parish School Board, and it was determined that the resolution that does not include refunding should be used. He explained that Morehouse Parish would pledge the constitutional tax to make the loan eligible with banks that normally would not loan to charter schools. This would make us eligible for a tax exempt 501(c)(3) loan with a lower interest rate than most loans. We hope the resolution will be approved at the Morehouse Parish School Board meeting next Thursday. He answered questions, clarifying that terms of payments would be coordinated with the bank and the Bond Commission's duty was strictly to approve the loan within certain parameters. No action was taken.

6. Consent Agenda.

A. To approve the July 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

The minutes were approved with no revisions.

7. To receive August, 2025 Committee Meeting action item reports:

a. Building and Properties – Mike Stephens

- i. *There are no items for this committee.*

- b. Personnel and Student Affairs- Lori Wallace**
 - i. There are no items for this committee.*
- c. Finance Committee- Tamika Farrell**
 - i. To receive an update to the June, 2025 Financial Reports.*
No action was taken.
 - ii. To receive and approve the July, 2025 Financial Report.*
Mike Stephens moved to approve the July, 2025 Financial Report.
Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried.
- d. Academic Excellence Committee- Sarah Ellingburg**
 - i. There are no items for this committee.*

8. To receive a resignation letter from board member, Tamika Farrell. –Keith Huntsman

Tamika Farrell's resignation was rescinded. The Board of Directors agreed to make adjustments to the Board Action Calendar to better accommodate Mrs. Farrell's schedule. It was agreed that the Board Meeting scheduled for September 25, 2025 would be moved from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The following meetings would be scheduled for the second Thursday of each month when feasible. A motion to move the board meetings to the second Thursday of each month beginning in October was made by Mario Bershell. Seconded by Lori Wallace. Motion carried.

9. To discuss tasking Mrs. Mann with finding information on the original TBA agreement or Letter of Record/Intent. –Keith Huntsman

Keith Huntsman explained that TBA billed \$37,000.00 for work that did not need to be done. We switched from Taylor Wallace to TBA because TBA made promises of getting us a USDA loan that came up empty upon finalizing the details. Mr. Huntsman would like to know if there is information in writing that reflected their agreement to secure the USDA loan. Mrs. Mann stated that she had not found any paperwork that showed securing the USDA loan as part of the agreement with TBA. She will continue to look through the paperwork for that information. He further explained he would like to know how much we have paid to TBA for this project. No action was taken.

10. To receive Administrative Reports from:

- a. Zemarcus Mays, Operations Manager
Mr. Mays was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent his reports to the Board of Directors. Included with his report was an updated budget for the Tiger Athletic Facility.
- b. John Merritt, Principal
Mr. Merritt's report included updates on academics, activities, and athletics.
- c. Samantha Mann, Executive Director
Mrs. Mann's report provided information about enrollment, MFP, and conferences. Mr. Huntsman had questions about financials. He wanted to know where we were with the payment to pay down the \$700,000.00 loan. He would like to see that information at next month's meeting.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.