BEEKMAN CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026
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.**
   The roll call results were as follows:
   - Members present: Mario Bershell, Mike Edmonds, Sarah Ellingburg, Keith Huntsman, Mike Stephens, Lori Wallace
   - Members absent: Tamika Jones
   - Others in attendance: Samantha Mann, John Merritt, Zemarcus Mays, Abigail Kilcrease, Amy Dantzler, Kayce Waller, Jessica Allred, Carrie Evans, Abigail Atkins, Amanda Wilkinson, and Earl Crumley

3. **Pledge and Prayer.**
   The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sarah Ellingburg. The prayer was led by Mike Edmonds.

   A motion to amend the agenda to add as Item #8, "To approve the drawings sent by Greg Wallace," was made by Mike Stephens. Seconded by Lori Wallace. A roll call vote was conducted. The results were as follows:
   - Mario Bershell: yes
   - Mike Edmonds: yes
   - Sarah Ellingburg: yes
   - Keith Huntsman: yes
   - Tamika Jones: absent
   - Mike Stephens: yes
   - Lori Wallace: yes

   Motion carried.

4. **To accept a nomination for an alternate board member. –Keith Huntsman**
   Keith Huntsman nominated Amanda Wilkinson for a position as an alternate board member. Motion to approve the nomination for Amanda Wilkinson as an alternate board member was made by Sarah Ellingburg. Seconded by Mario Bershell. Motion carried.

5. **To enter into executive session to interview alternate board members. –Keith Huntsman**
   A motion to enter into executive session was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg.
   A roll call vote was conducted. The results were as follows:
   - Mario Bershell: yes

- Mike Edmonds: yes
- Sarah Ellingburg: yes
- Keith Huntsman: yes
- Tamika Jones: absent
- Mike Stephens: yes
- Lori Wallace: yes

Motion carried.

A motion to exit executive session was made by Sarah Ellingburg. Seconded by Mario Bershell.
A roll call vote was conducted. The results were as follows:

- Mario Bershell: yes
- Mike Edmonds: yes
- Sarah Ellingburg: yes
- Keith Huntsman: yes
- Tamika Jones: absent
- Mike Stephens: yes
- Lori Wallace: yes

Motion carried.

A motion to accept Earl Crumley as an alternate board member was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Mike Edmonds. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Amanda Wilkinson as an alternate board member was made by Sarah Ellingburg. Seconded by Mario Bershell. Motion carried.

Earl Crumley and Amanda Wilkinson were sworn in as alternate board members by notary, Lisa Chain.

6. Consent Agenda.

A. To approve the June 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.

B. To approve the July 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
The minutes were approved with no revisions.

7. To receive August 13, 2026 Committee Meeting action item reports:

a. Building and Properties – Mike Stephens

i. To discuss and approve the purchase of a bus that has been accounted for within the budget.
Mike Stephens moved to approve the purchase of a bus that has been accounted for within the budget. Seconded by Lori Wallace. Motion carried.

b. Personnel and Student Affairs- Lori Wallace

i. There were no items on the agenda for this committee.

c. Finance Committee- Tamika Jones

i. To receive the June, 2026 Financial Report.

Keith Huntsman moved to approve the June, 2026 Financial Report. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried.

ii. *To receive and approve the July, 2026 Financial Report.*
Keith Huntsman moved to approve the July, 2026 Financial Report. Seconded by Mario Bershell. Motion carried.

d. ***Academic Excellence Committee- Sarah Ellingburg***

i. *There were no items on the agenda for this committee.*

8. **To approve the drawings sent by Greg Wallace. –Zemarcus Mays**
Mr. Mays provided blueprints and a narrative from Ben Cunningham, explaining that if the project comes in below the base bid, there are options for alternate additions. A motion to approve the drawings sent by Greg Wallace was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Michael Edmonds. Motion carried.

9. **To discuss whether to renew or not to renew the excessive auto policy this year. –Zemarcus Mays**
Having been previously advised to carry this insurance, we have since learned that this coverage may be unnecessary. This covers approximately $105,000.00. Mr. Mays would like to leave that amount in the budget allocated for accidents, but discontinue the policy. Mike Stephens made a motion not to renew the excessive auto policy this year. Seconded by Mario Bershell. Motion carried.

10. **To approve authorizing Mrs. Mann to notify the Morehouse Parish School Board of its intent to seek charter renewal. –Samantha Mann**
Mrs. Mann sent the charter to the Board to review. Important changes would include becoming our own LEA under the Type 3 Charter. That would allow us to receive federal funding directly, not filtered through the Morehouse Parish School Board. The state funding for MFP would still funnel through MPSB, but many other sources of funding could come to us directly. A motion to approve authorizing Mrs. Mann to notify the Morehouse Parish School Board of our intent to seek charter renewal was made by Michael Edmonds. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried.

11. **To discuss and receive approval to proceed with changing banks from Huntington to Century Next as part of the bond loan agreement. –Abigail Kilcrease**
Wes Shafto communicated to us that Century Next bank wants all of our business as part of the bond loan agreement. A motion to approve proceeding with changing banks from Huntington to Century Next as part of the bond loan agreement was made by Mike Stephens. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried.

12. **To approve closing the Money Market account at Huntington and investing in a Money Market account at Century Next Bank. –Abigail Kilcrease**
Part of moving our business to Century Next Bank, as discussed in the previous item, would be to transfer our Money Market investment from Huntington Bank to Century Next Bank. A motion to approve closing the Money Market account at Huntington and investing in a Money Market account at Century Next Bank was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Michael Edmonds. Motion carried.

13. **To approve closing out the Sundae Tanner fund and distributing remaining funds according to the family's request. –Abigail Kilcrease**
Sundae Tanner's daughter contacted Mrs. Kilcrease to inquire about the balance of this scholarship fund. Since one recipient of this scholarship did not utilize all of the funds allocated to them, there is $12,051.25 available. Ms. Tanner would like to pay this out to a pharmacy student. A motion to approve closing out the Sundae Tanner fund and distributing remaining funds according to the family's request was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried.

14. **To discuss and clarify purchasing guidelines for purchases greater than $10,000.00, limiting that restriction to General Fund purchases, not Student Activity Fund purchases. –Abigail Kilcrease**
At a recent meeting, a motion was made that would require board approval for purchases over $10,000.00. Mrs. Kilcrease would like to clarify that motion so that Student Activity Fund purchasing is not included in the requirement. Mike Stephens made a motion to approve requiring board approval for purchases greater than $10,000.00 for General Fund purchases, not Student Activity Fund purchases. Seconded by Mario Bershell. Motion carried.

15. **To approve the FY27 budget. –Abigail Kilcrease**
Mrs. Kilcrease explained that the budget is still based on a student count of 970 students, however the release of rates by the LDOE has changed the rate originally utilized from FY26. This rate change showed increases in both state and local funding. We will see a total revenue increase from the initial budget in the amount of $863,465.20. Other changes included: adding funding to operational budgets as a result of inflation; one-time stipend per Legislature; and, increases to the 13th and 14th checks. A motion to approve the FY27 budget was made by Mike Stephens. Seconded by Michael Edmonds. Motion carried.

16. **To approve pay scale revisions effective retroactive to July 1, 2026. –Samantha Mann**
Mrs. Mann provided a revised pay scale that showed increases in the 13th and 14th checks as well as a revised administrative salary schedule. A motion to approve pay scale revisions effective retroactive to July 1, 2026 was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Mike Stephens. Sarah Ellingburg preferred to recuse herself from voting on this item. Keith Huntsman cast a vote of "no", but with majority vote, the motion carried.

17. **To receive information from Mrs. Mann in reference to Type 3 vs. Type 2 charter schools. –Keith Huntsman**
One of the big advantages of operating as a Type 2 Charter is that all of the funding flows directly to the charter school. Disadvantages of operating as a Type 2 Charter would be the amount of state involvement, shorter charter renewal terms that are based on the schools grade, and the loss of shared services. Mrs. Mann also mentioned that operating as a Type 3 Charter where we are our own LEA would offer advantages as well. We would still be covered under the umbrella of the parish school board, but we would have

more direct funding options and greater independence in some areas. No action was taken.

18. To approve the employee handbook and the student handbooks. –Samantha Mann

Mrs. Mann explained that policies haven't changed much in recent years. However, the Board would like to review a copy of the current handbooks and revisit this item. Lori Wallace made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Mike Stephens. Motion carried.

19. To discuss exit procedures for members of the Board of Directors with the LA Board of Ethics. –Keith Huntsman

Some former board members have incurred fines from the LA Board of Ethics after resigning from the BCS Board of Directors due to failure to file the Tier 3 Financial Disclosure after resignation. The Tier 3 Financial Disclosure Form 418A was provided to the Board to raise awareness that this process must be completed the year following resignation from the BCS Board. By filing this form, Board members are also giving notification to the Board of Ethics of end of service. No action was taken.

20. To receive Administrative Reports from:

a. Zemarcus Mays, Operations Manager

Mr. Mays provided updates regarding maintenance and operations as well as Insurance claims.

b. John Merritt, Principal

Mr. Merritt's report highlighted academics, various campus activities, and Athletics. He also submitted data that was gathered by Mrs. Dantzler showing Comparisons between our school and surrounding charter schools and academic Growth.

d. Samantha Mann, Executive Director

With Mrs. Mann's report she added the charter renewal, updates on the bond, and More.

21. Adjourn

The Beekman Charter School Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.