

**BEEKMAN CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
5:00 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: Michael Edmonds, Sarah Ellingburg, Keith Huntsman, Mike Stephens, Lori Wallace
- Members absent: Mario Bershell and Tamika Farrell
- Others in attendance: Samantha Mann, John Merritt, Zemarcus Mays, Abigail Kilcrease, Jessica Allred, Kayce Waller, Amy Dantzler, Abigail Atkins

3. Pledge and Prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sarah Ellingburg. The prayer was led by Michael Edmonds

A motion to amend the agenda to add as line item #4, "To receive and approve the August, 2025 Financial Report," was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Michael Edmonds. A roll call vote was conducted. The results were as follows:

- Mario Bershell: absent
 - Michael Edmonds: yes
 - Sarah Ellingburg: yes
 - Tamika Farrell: absent
 - Keith Huntsman: yes
 - Mike Stephens: yes
 - Lori Wallace: yes
- Motion carried.

4. To receive and approve the August, 2025 Financial Report. –Abigail Kilcrease

Abigail Kilcrease provided the August, 2025 Finance Report. Revenue collected was \$1,943,498.73. Expenditures were \$1,208,708.22. The General Fund Balance as of August 31, 2025 was \$1,837,318.99. Motion to approve the August, 2025 Finance Report was made by Mike Stephens. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried.

5. To discuss the loan process with Wes Shaftho. –Samantha Mann

Wes Shaftho explained that the Morehouse Parish School Board recently met and approved the preliminary resolution.

(Tamika Farrell arrived at 5:18 p.m.)

He further explained MPSB's hesitation to approve the entire millage, since Beekman Charter School has a third of the students. After talking with Century Next Bank, they decided to compromise by doing approximately one third. Instead of levying 6 mils, they would propose 2.25 mils, a number that is more proportional to the population. For example, the current property tax is 6 mils (as in millage). The parish would only pledge 2.25 mils of the current 6 mil tax. Bill Wilson and Nick Austin with Century Next Bank estimated a 10 year rate at 5.45%, and a 15 year rate at approximately 5.65%. They would be looking at an amortization payment schedule based on 25 years. Wes Shafto will talk to Morehouse Parish's attorneys to draft a new proposal before the next board meeting for Morehouse Parish on October 7th. No action was taken.

6. Consent Agenda.

A. To approve the August 28, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

The minutes were approved with no revisions.

7. To receive September, 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 and approve the August, 2025 Financial Report.

This meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

d. Academic Excellence Committee- Sarah Ellingburg

i. There are no items for this committee.

8. To approve a one-time certified and support staff stipend per 2025 Legislative Session. –Abigail Kilcrease

Mrs. Kilcrease explained that during the 2025 Legislative Session, a one-time stipend for certified and support staff was approved. Per the LDOE, these funds were released September 5, 2025. They must be paid out by December 15, 2025. We plan to pay this stipend to our employees October 10, 2025. Motion to approve the one-time certified and support staff stipend per 2025 Legislative session was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Tamika Farrell. Motion carried.

9. To request approval to pay off the remaining balance of the \$700,000.00 loan. – Samantha Mann and Abigail Kilcrease

Mrs. Kilcrease provided the ten day payoff, \$696,575.60. The \$700,000.00 loan has the highest interest rate. Tamika Farrell made a motion to approve to pay off the remaining balance of \$696,575.60 on the loan that has the highest interest rate. Seconded by Sarah Ellingburg. Motion carried

10. To discuss future loan payments for current loans with Century Next. –Samantha Mann

Mrs. Mann opened discussion by explaining that our budget has a line item of \$20,000.00 monthly to pay toward building facilities. When we took out the CD loan with Century

Next Bank, we made minimum monthly payments toward the balance with funds from that budgeted line item. She asked the board if they would like us to continue paying interest only, or if they would like us to pay the full \$20,000.00 each month. Keith Huntsman would like \$20,000.00 per month to be paid for the remainder of the year. He would also like us to make payments retroactive to July, 2025 to catch up. The board of directors seemed to be in agreement. No action was taken.

11. To approve the engagement letter of new legal counsel for the Larma lawsuit. – Zemarcus Mays

Mr. Mays stated the Larma wants to switch to a new attorney for our lawsuit. Motion to approve the engagement letter of new legal counsel for the Larma lawsuit was made by Lori Wallace. Seconded by Michael Edmonds. Motion carried.

12. To receive Administrative Reports from:

a. Zemarcus Mays, Operations Manager

Mr. Mays' report highlighted the Tiger Athletic Pavilion, maintenance, janitorial, transportation, technology, insurance, the junior high building, cafeteria, and safety.

b. John Merritt, Principal

Mr. Merritt's report included updates on academics, campus activities, and Athletics. We also received information from the Elementary Assistant Principal, Jr. High Assistant Principal, and Curriculum Supervisor.

c. Samantha Mann, Executive Director

Mrs. Mann's report touched on enrollment, the Morehouse Parish School Board Meeting, the LDOE meeting, and Larma.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.