April Board Meeting

> Date: 2026-04-29 6:30pm
>
> Location: Zoom
> Participants: Kristan Norgrove, Luke Copley, Martha Zornow, Nick Pozek and Joe Sparr.

Meeting Notes

- Introduction to potential new board Candidate - provided introductions and motivations for board involvement - expressed interest in IB curriculum, expanding access via charter schools, and supporting the local community

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Key follow-ups: poll for summer retreat (done by Nick), US Bank process, upcoming investor call, Fourth Sector payments.
- KN noted most items will be covered in finance update; Joe to review in minutes.
- Motion to approve minutes as presented was made, seconded, and carried without objections.
- Conclusion: Minutes approved as presented.

Board candidacy of Doug Worth

- Procedure: Doug temporarily left the meeting for candidacy discussion.
- Motion: Martha moved to recommend Doug Worth to join the board;

The Global Community Charter School Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Douglas Wurth as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on April 29, 2029, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Douglas Wurth is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

Nick seconded; vote in favor
- Conclusion: Doug Worth was approved to join the board; formal welcome extended.

Finance Committee report and financial health

- Budget is close to plan, with movements between general and special education lines; reviewed expense changes due to personnel shifts.
- “Fourth Sector” is performing well as the finance/accounting provider; considering extending engagement longer term.
- Fraud payment investigation is pending; seeking a refined quote and scope comparison from Fourth Sector for board purposes.
- Investor and S&P call update pending; coordination with legal and US Bank noted; investor meeting targeted for May 2026.
- Debt and cash-on-hand covenants remain in compliance.
- Lease/building operations discussion deferred; more work needed.
- **Conclusion**: Continue with Fourth Sector; align on fraud investigation scope and proceed. Maintain covenant focus; prepare for investor interactions in May 2026.

Teacher salary scale revision and certification requirements

- Proposal to implement new salary scales discussed
- Conclusion: Administration will develop detailed salary scale options tied to certification status and budget impacts.

Academic update —

-discussed state testing glitch

- Statewide computer-based testing outage prevented ELA testing on 2026-04-29; uncertainty about completion timing and impact on math testing.
- Administration will keep the board updated as the state resolves the issue.

Science of Reading initiative and fundraising approach

- Principal committed to full implementation in 2026–2027; full plan pending; needs until July 2026 to assemble committee and finalize program, PD, and assessments.
- Board discussed earmarking funds prior to full plan; lead times vary by chosen program.
- Fundraising target discussion
- Emphasis on framing donor asks around full delivery, avoiding partial funding; proposal to create a one-pager (success stories, decodable library, visuals) and to gather vendor/school benchmarks for comprehensive cost estimates.
- Conclusion: Begin earmarked fundraising with clear total cost; gather vendor/school benchmarks; produce donor one-pager; detailed implementation plan due by July 2026.

Education initiatives:

- Elementary focus on Science of Reading to ensure all students become

readers; board alignment needed for renewal.
- Middle school launched financial literacy and a college course; positive parent feedback.
- Next-year focus on appropriate use of AI and tech; staff conversations planned about academic integrity and digital citizenship.
- Conclusion: Continue initiatives; plan staff engagement on AI/tech use; keep board informed for renewal narrative.

Facilities and lease negotiations (building “2350” and alternatives)
- A 31-year condominium deal was rejected after landlord repairs (~$1,000,000); long-term lease (e.g., 18 years) under consideration.

- Broader charter enrollment softness noted; a nearby KIPP high school facility (District 7, ~10 minutes away) is available; site visit planned as potential high school option.

- Conclusion: Continue lease negotiations; assess alternate facility; aim for a long-term solution aligned with enrollment realities.

- **Strategic initiative:**
- - Temporary K–8 colocation due to heat showed logistical feasibility; potential cost savings in operations/facilities and family convenience with single drop-off.
- Pilot of full-day Fridays
- Staff feedback largely positive given lower Friday attendance and family convenience.

Enrollment post-lottery update and market dynamics
- Early childhood grades (Pre-K, K, Grade 1) show weak applications; first grade had 10 applications with no acceptances yet.

- Pre-K class-size constraints: max 18 per class; viable configurations are 18 or 36; current 28 likely causes losses; considering limiting to 18 with a waitlist to ensure full seats.

- Manhattan charter enrollment down ~10% YoY; displacement from wealth inequality reducing the local feeder pool; District 5 saturation and competition from large operators (Success, HCZ, KIPP) with extended hours/weekends/summer.

- Conclusion: Monitor enrollment; consider Pre-K configuration to avoid losses; adapt to competitive and demographic pressures.

Charter renewal preparation
- Renewal due in fall; liaison to conduct a remote session with school

leaders this spring; pre-renewal board call in May uncertain due to liaison leave.
- Preparing a ~100-page renewal document from May–August; board to review and align responses to benchmarks.

- Board updates and executive session