

Blended Learning Academies
1754 E Clark Rd.
Lansing MI 48906

Approved

Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2025
6:00 pm

Mission:

Blended Learning Academies supports the emotional and academic strengths of 9-12 grade students in an educational environment that encourages all students to meet or exceed their intellectual and personal potential.

Vision:

Blended Learning Academies will cultivate a supportive learning environment that exposes students, through innovative teaching and learning practices, to events, opportunities, and environments that will help them become successful and productive citizens in college, work, and life.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Marcus Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Bill Jaconette, Elizabeth Curry, Darin Southworth, Marcus Kirkpatrick and Melissa Leigh

Absent: Louis Schiavone and Amy Hovey

Others Present: Tim Brannan, Susan Wakefield, David Stibich, Marcelle Monchanin and Kate Travis

II. Public Comment* (limited to agenda items only)

None.

III. Approval of Agenda

Darin Southworth moved to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business – Fall Board Policy Update and Darin Southworth reappointment. Old Business - 31aa. Supported by Melissa Leigh. Unanimously carried by those present.

IV. Consent Calendar

a. Approval of proposed Regular Minutes November 11, 2025

Darin Southworth moved to approve the minutes as presented. Supported by Bill Jaconette. Unanimously carried by those present.

V. Correspondence

a. FSU Board Communication

Susan Wakefield provided an update on Blended compliance on the MUSIC requirements and the FSU November Board Communication.

VI. Treasurer's Report

a. Financial Statements

David Stibich provided an overview of the November financial statements.

VII. New Business

a. Darin Southworth Reappointment to the Board of Directors

Bill Jaconette moved to recommend to the Ferris State University Board of Trustees Darin Southworth's reappointment to the Blended Academies Board of Directors. Supported by Melissa Leigh. Unanimously carried by those present.

b. Fall 2025 Board Policy Updates

Kate Travis provided an overview and reviewed summary of the Fall Board Policy Updates.

Bill Jaconette moved to approve the Fall Board Policy Updates as presented. Supported by Melissa Leigh. Unanimously carried by those present.

VIII. Old Business

a. 31aa

Kate Travis and David Stibich provided an update on 31aa. Federal and State lawsuit challenging the provision of Section 31aa that requires schools to waive privilege as a condition of receiving funding.

Darin Southworth moved to amend the motion on November 11, 2025 regarding 31aa funds. Blended Academies' Board of Education may accept Section 31aa funds for school safety or related purpose, contingent upon upcoming legal hearings and the removal of the statutory condition requiring a waiver of legal privilege under section 31aa (9) of the State School Aid Act. The Board affirms that this condition presents an unacceptable risk to the district's legal protections and confidentiality obligations. Supported by Melissa Leigh. Unanimously carried by those present.

IX. Business/Management Report

a. School Leader/Curriculum Director Update

Marcelle Monchanin provided an update on the following:

- FSU and Blended Academies Academic Goals – overview of 2024-25 goals and initiative to address goals for 2025-26 school year
- Life Skills Club.
- Professional Development (Staff participation)
- Ms. Monchanin is currently enrolled in the Path to Leadership Program (PTL) by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)

b. Management Company Update

Kate Travis provided an update on the following:

- Leadership Change. Greg Morris has stepped down in his role as school Leader. Marcelle Monchanin is the acting school leader as of December 1, 2025.

- Thankful to Greg Morris for exceptional vision, culture building, commitment and leadership to Blended Academies.
- Greg Morris will provide remote Special Education work on a contracted hourly basis.
- Staff Holidays Stipends
- School Dance – Great event.

Tim Brannan thanked the Board for their continued commitment to Blended Learning Academies.

X. Ferris State University

Sue Wakefield updated on ta CSO hire, Ahmed Wright, College Support Specialist.

XI. Extended Public Comment (non-agenda items only)*

None

XII. Comments from the Board

Marcus Kirkptraick thanked everyone for the commitment and hard work and wished everyone a safe and happy holidays season.


XIII. Reconfirmation of Next Meeting Date: January 13, 2026

XIV. Adjournment

Bill Jaconette moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. Supported by Darin Southworth. Unanimously carried by those present.

Prepared by: Kate Travis

Date: 12/17/2025

Approved By: 

Date: 1/13/25