



## Youth Connection Charter School Board Meeting

**1/30/2025      5:30 P.M.      VIRTUAL**

TYPE OF MEETING	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING CALLED BY	President Molina called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.
OPENING REMARKS	Welcome
PUBLIC COMMENTS	None
ROLL CALL	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Mr. Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President, Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson, Vice President, Mr. James Lyles, Treasurer, Angela Gibson, Secretary, Dr. Fabricio Balcazar, Senior Advisor, and Members, Dr. Richard Blackmon Jr., and Mr. Arthur Ward.</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Members, Ms. Christine Bowden, and Dr. Jermaine Morales.</p> <p><b>A quorum was present.</b></p>
STAFF	<p>Sheila Venson, Executive Director, L. Vaughn, G. Carrera, A. Buabeng, T. Brown, R. Williams, C. LaGroon, J. Whitenhill, G. Alejos, L. Smith-Rayfield, C. Rallins, Y. Thomas, D. Santell-Cote, W. Moore, and E. Morrow.</p> <p>Campuses/Others: Mr. James Hurlburt – LYHS</p>
AGENDA	Opening Remarks, Public Comments, Roll Call, reading of 12.5.2024 Board Meeting Minutes, 1.30.2025 Executive/Finance Committee Report, Financial Reports Ending December 31, 2024, 1.30.2025 Directors Report, Board Actions/Resolutions and Adjournment.

### Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 12.5.2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

Motioned by Member **Blackmon, Jr.** Seconded by Member **Johnson**

There was or **X** was no discussion of the item.

Vote: In Favor **7** Opposed \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_\_\_

**X** Vote carried **7** Vote did not carry \_\_\_\_\_

### **1. Renewal Update**

The YCCS Executive /Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the Options/CPS renewal process that included the public hearing on Feb. 6, the CPS board votes on YCCS renewal on Thursday, Feb. 27 and the YCCS three-year budget projection.

Executive Director Venson discussed the nuances and discrepancies of the current performance standards under Options versus I and I. Board members can review this information in your board folder.

YCCS has made performance based on the contract accountability standards. YCCS has one campus that did not make performance over the three-year renewal cycle. Under the compliance areas YCCS did not make the testing on time for SpEd, however, we did make it by the end of the school year. The same would apply to EL/Bilingual performance metrics.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> Options will inform YCCS of their renewal recommendations to the CPS Board. Additionally, Options required YCCS to complete a three-year financial sustainability projection. As a result, YCCS has been asked further questions about remaining financially stable within the renewal term. A meeting has been scheduled with YCCS senior management team and Options on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025. The budget projections and narrative were reviewed and discussed by the Executive/Finance Committee. The areas that are adversely impacting our budget projections are:

1. Enrollment obstacles because of CPS transfer policy
2. Diverse learners served throughout any given school year- The time in which they take a snapshot for payment annually is in March, which does not reflect the total number of diverse learners YCCS serves throughout the year. These factors create a revenue deficit, YCCS has requested a different formula by appealing the funding. Additional strategies were discussed & explored by the Executive/Finance committee to make a case for YCCS financial sustainability. The Committee recommended that the YCCS staff stress to CPS the deficits resulting in underfunding of SpEd services and obstacles to enrollment because of CPS policies.

2024 Campus Performance Remediation Plans were reviewed and discussed for Antonia Pantoja. The Executive/Finance Committee asked staff to include stronger language be added in the remediation plans around EL/Bilingual needs & programming, organizational commitments, consequences for not making progress over SY23-24 performance by June 2025.

The committee also reviewed the remediation plan for Innovations High School. Board members can review the proposed remediation plans in their folders.

Funding Support Request from Academy of Scholastic Achievement (ASA)-

The Executive/Finance Committee discussed and reviewed a request from ASA for support. The Comptroller presented the finances and sustainability of ASA. Executive/Finance recommends that YCCS continues to support campuses who are struggling financially. The committee recommends that YCCS approve the loan of \$400,000 to ASA.

1. Reduction in Force Severance Policy Discussion-The Executive/Finance Committee discussed a severance policy given our current financial situation. employees or not. The committee recommended that the Finance Committee be tasked with developing a severance policy after seeking out legal guidelines in drafting the policy.

#### **Board Action**

It was motioned to approve the 1.30.25 Executive/Finance Committee Report:

Motioned by Member Balcazar Seconded by Member Johnson

There **X** was or    was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor   7   Opposed    Abstained   

**X** Vote carried   7   Vote did not carry

#### **Board Meeting**

The meeting covered the following key topics:

##### **1. Gladys Simpson's Legacy and YCCS Schools:**

- The board members shared their experiences and appreciation for Gladys Simpson's dedication to providing quality education to underserved youth through YCCS schools.
- The unique care and attention YCCS schools provide for students was highlighted, contrasting it with other public schools.

##### **2. CPS Renewal Process and Financial Stability:**

- The CPS renewal process was discussed, including the public hearing on February 6 and the board vote on February 27.
- YCCS's performance on various metrics was reviewed, and the committee recommended strategies to address the funding deficits and enrollment obstacles.
- Remediation plans for Antonia Pantoja and Innovation High School were reviewed, with a focus on strengthening the language around English language and bilingual needs.

##### **3. Funding Support for Academy of Scholastic Achievement (ASA):**

- The executive finance committee recommended a \$400,000 loan to ASA, with repayment terms of four years at 3%, with the board approving the loan recommendation.

##### **4. Renewal Update and Public Hearing Preparation:**

- The board was updated on the renewal process, including the public hearing and the efforts to gather letters of support and video testimonials from stakeholders.
- Board members were encouraged to submit written statements of support for the renewal process.

##### **5. Remediation Plans and Support for Schools:**

- The board discussed the remediation plans for Antonia Pantoja and Innovation High School, emphasizing the need for a supportive approach rather than a punitive one.
- The board agreed to provide the necessary resources and support to help the schools improve.

##### **6. Financial Report and Director's Report:**

- The financial report was presented, highlighting the current balance, operating surplus, and deficits for various

schools.  
- The director's report covered attendance rates, enrollment numbers, and the impact of the PowerSchool hack.

**Financial Report**

Comptroller Buabeng presented Financial Reports Ending December 31, 2024, for review and discussion.

**Board Action**

It was motioned to approve the Financial Reports Ending December 31, 2024:

Motioned by: Member **Blackmon, Jr.** Seconded by: Member **Johnson**

There **X** was or    was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor   7   Opposed    Abstained   

**X** Vote carried   7   Vote did not carry

**Director’s Report**

**Membership Status Summary**

*As of January 28, 2024 (see attached Accountability Summaries for Enrollment):*

- Attendance Average           66.46%
- Enrollment                   2320
- STLS                         456
- Lunch Compliance           95.51%
- Medical compliance         92.41%
- YTD Drops                 1012
- January 2025 Graduates     124

**Administrative**

- YCCS/PLA submitted the AFA for relocation
- PowerSchool was breached nationally and some of YCCS data was compromised
- PowerSchool Corporate offices were hit by a Cybersecurity Incident which has impacted YCCS. YCCS Student Information Systems (SIS) data was breached. We are coordinating with PowerSchool to provide the necessary notifications and responses to our campuses. Campuses have been notified of the breach and have received information of the SIS data that impacted their campus.
- PowerSchool will provide identity protection and credit monitoring services for all impacted individuals. This would include 2 years of credit monitoring services at no cost for our students and teachers.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Violence**

- Since the previous directors’ report There have been 2 students shot (PLA - 1, CCA - 1). The students are recovering from the injuries.

**Board Action**

It was motioned to approve 1.30.2025 Directors Report:

Motioned by: Member Johnson Seconded by: Member Ward

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 7 Opposed \_\_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_\_

**X** Vote carried 7 Vote did not carry

**Board Action**

It was motioned to approve the Campus Performance Remediation Plan:

Motioned by: Member Gibson Seconded by: Member Johnson

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 7 Opposed \_\_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_\_

**X** Vote carried 7 Vote did not carry

**Board Action**

It was motioned to approve the recommendation of the Executive/Finance Committee to grant funding to ASA as detailed in the 1.30.25 Executive/Finance Committee report:

Motioned by: Member Balcazar Seconded by: Member Gibson

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 7 Opposed \_\_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_\_

**X** Vote carried 7 Vote did not carry

**Board Action**

It was motioned to end the closed session and adjourn the meeting at 6:41 PM CST:

Motioned by: Member Ward Seconded by: Member Molina

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 7 Opposed \_\_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_\_

**X** Vote carried 7 Vote did not carry

**Board Minutes Adopted: February 27, 2025**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President

Signed by:  
  
 Angela Gibson, Secretary