



Youth Connection Charter School Board Meeting

2/27/2025 5:30 P.M. VIRTUAL

TYPE OF MEETING	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING CALLED BY	President Molina called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m.
OPENING REMARKS	Welcome
PUBLIC COMMENTS	None
ROLL CALL	<p>In attendance: 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 Dr. Jermaine Morales.</p> <p>Absent: Members, Ms. Christine Bowden, and Mr. Arthur Ward.</p> <p>A quorum was present.</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, and E. Morrow.</p> <p>Campuses/Others: N/A</p>
AGENDA	Opening Remarks, Public Comments, Roll Call, reading of 1.30.2025 Board Meeting Minutes, 2.27.2025 Executive/Finance Committee Report, Financial Reports Ending January 31, 2024, 2.27.2025 Directors Report, Board Actions/Resolutions and Adjournment.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 1.30.2025, Board Meeting Minutes:

Motioned by Member **Balcazar** Seconded by Member **Molina**

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

Vote: In Favor **7** Opposed _____ Abstained _____

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

Executive/Finance Committee Report

1. CPS/Renewal Updates

a. Renewal Recommendation -

The Executive/Finance Committee discussed the proposed YCCS recommendation. The Options network informed YCCS that the recommendation will be on the Board agenda in March 2025. Sheila Venson, Executive Director, provided context to the presented in the document, however, the details are not currently unavailable. The conditions have not yet been provided, additionally information that informed the Options decision on the four-year recommendation term is based upon the ratings. The Executive/Finance Committee asked about the conditions, and they were informed that we did not receive the conditions. President Molina asked about an opportunity to push back on the rating as, YCCS has not been able to negotiate the contract terms in the past. Ms. Venson, the Executive Director, shared that the conditions will likely be in the Charter contract from CPS. Individual school information (ratings) was not shared in the Options document, the information is about the YCCS overall performance. YCCS has challenged the site visits being used as part of our performance. Currently, the metrics and ratings have not been shared.

b. CPS Response to Board Communication -

Executive Director, Venson provided the response to the Board letter from Options. The determination should be made on whether we should respond or not. The recommendation from the Executive/Finance Committee is that the reading & decision will be made at the full board meeting.

2. Board Compliance - The Executive Committee discussed the following:

a. **Annual Training(s)** - Crescent will share the required training needed with each board member.

b. **Annual Meeting re: Term Slate/Elections** - The Executive/Finance Committee recommended that the officer and Board members' elections take place at the March meeting.

3. **Relocation of Progressive Leadership (PLA) MFA Status** - Gersom Carrera, Operations Director, shared that all the required documents for the PLA relocation have been submitted. The CPS Board will make the determination of the approval in March.

4. **YCCS Finance Committee Report** - The finance committee met February 26, 2025. Those present were James Lyles, Dr. Balcazar and YCCS staff. The committee discussed the consideration of establishing a severance plan if there is a need for staff layoffs due to a decrease in revenue. The committee discussed the current five budget projections and discussed various severance options. The committee tasked YCCS staff with bringing forward proposals for severance packages that would include various severance options (including cash amounts, extension of Cobra, and 403b contributions), as well as their associated costs, and considering all employee groups.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 2.27.25 Executive/Finance Committee Report:

Motioned by: Member **Lyles** Seconded by: Member **Balcazar**

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 several key areas:

1. Renewal Recommendation: CPS recommended a 4-year renewal for YCCS, which was seen as a positive outcome after extensive town hall meetings and advocacy.
2. CPS Response to Board Complaints: The board discussed a detailed response from CPS addressing their previous concerns, with mixed reactions about its substantive content. Executive Director Venson and others discussed the need to wait until after the board votes on the renewal prior to finalizing the response.
3. Financial Report: The organization is facing a \$611,000 operating deficit, primarily due to enrollment challenges and special education funding issues.
4. Director's Report: Highlighted 64% attendance, 2,531 enrollment, and ongoing community involvement.

The meeting emphasized the importance of the town halls in securing the renewal, ongoing challenges with CPS funding and accountability, and the need for continued advocacy for the organization's schools.

Financial Report

Comptroller Buabeng presented Financial Reports Ending January 31, 2025, for review and discussion.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the Financial Reports Ending January 31, 2025:

Motioned by: Member **Johnson** Seconded by: Member **Lyles**

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 February 25, 2025 (see attached Accountability Summaries for Enrollment):

- Attendance Average 63.66%
- Enrollment 2531
- STLS 554
- Lunch Compliance 90.53%
- Medical compliance 86.05%
- YTD Drops 1183

Administrative

- CPS Board has postponed voting on renewal term recommendations till their March Meeting
- YCCS and the steering committee held a meet and greet with three CPS board members on February 19th at Greater West Town.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Violence

- Since the previous directors' report There has been 1 student shot (YCLA -1). The student is recovering from the injuries.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve 2.27.2025 Directors Report:

Motioned by: Member Lyles 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 end the closed session and adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM CST:

Motioned by: Member Morales Seconded by: Member Lyles

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: March 27, 2025

DocuSigned by:

Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis

Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President

Signed by:

Angela Gibson

Angela Gibson, Secretary