

**LANGUAGE & LITERACY ACADEMY FOR LEARNING, INC.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

50 2nd St SE Winter Haven, FL 33880

Monday, December 29, 2025 5:30 p.m.

**Draft Board Minutes**

**Time: December 29, 5:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**MISSION**

Accelerate growth in language, literacy, and social skills for students with special needs while engaging parents as lifelong partners in education.

**VISION**

To create a nationally known infant, toddler, Pre-K, K-12 educational institution for students with disabilities that is noted for providing supports that address the child's health conditions (physical body functions & structures, hearing, vision, language, communication & speech, fine motor, visual perceptual, sensory), environmental factors (physical, social, and attitudinal environment in which children live and conduct their lives.

- Call to Order (Board Chair): **5:50 pm**
- Roll Call of Board Members (Dr. Callins): Markeishia Smith, [Eddie Crockett](#), Zelda Abrams
- Public Comment Period (Board Chair) (30 minutes maximum) N/A
  - The Board of Directors welcomes public comments. Each speaker shall sign -up to speak on the sign-in sheet at the entrance to the room. Speakers will be called in order as listed on the sign-in sheet. Speakers shall have no more than 3 minutes to speak. The public comment period will last up to 30 minutes. If the public comment period has ended and there are still individuals wishing to address the Board, there will be an additional public comment period at the end of the meeting to accommodate those individuals.
  - Process for public comments given the limitations of the time available and the purpose of this meeting, the Board will hear your comments but will not engage in any back and forth with speakers. If questions are asked about specific school operations, School staff will be happy to research your question and get back to you.
- Consideration of the Board Minutes. (Board Chair) 3/3
- Agenda Items:
  - Unfinished business item: **N/A**
  - New business:
    - Fundraising Ideas
      - Bowling Tournament
        - April- Bowling Tournament
        - Conducting the bowling tournament during April during Autism awareness month.
        - April 25th: Tentative date

- Goal: \$25,000 (Includes sponsorships, attendees, etc.)
- *To reach \$25,000, the collective board effort may include:*
  - **10 Teams @ \$1,000 = \$10,000**
  - **5 Lane Sponsors @ \$1,500 = \$7,500**
  - **Event Sponsors & Donations = \$7,500**
- We will need the board members to be on board with their contacts, resources, etc.
- Bowling alley is Incredibowl on Dundee. We would rent out the entire bowling alley rather than a couple of lanes.
- Markeisha states that the board members should commit to at least one lane.
- Markeisha states we should have our students there. An idea is to have some of the kids play on the teams.
- The date is on a Saturday so age restriction was not discussed or set.
- **Dancing with the Students**
  - The group discussed plans for a student dance performance event that would include media coverage, interactive elements, and opportunities for audience engagement and fundraising. They addressed concerns about teacher participation and safety protocols, while also discussing the timing and logistics of the events. The team explored various fundraising strategies and event formats, including competitive elements and partnerships with external organizations, before concluding with plans to share meeting notes and reconvene later.
  - The group discussed concerns about the vetting process for teachers who will be dancing with students, particularly regarding safety and appropriate conduct. Dr. Callins mentioned the need for background checks on all participants. Idalis clarified that the event is planned for either November or December. Eddie inquired about the original reasoning behind the timing, which Markeishia explained was mainly due to logistical considerations and the availability of participants.
  - The group discussed organizing a dance event with choreographers, with Eddie offering to use his connections to coordinate efforts and Idalis agreeing to handle direct communication. They decided to create a formal letter introducing the project to potential choreographers and discussed different formats for the event, including performances by choreographers alone or with students. Markeishia suggested sending out information to the board about two fundraisers to gather more ideas before the next meeting.
  - The group discussed plans for a fundraising event involving dancers competing both artistically and in terms of money

raised, with the overall winner being determined by ticket sales and donations. Eddie suggested additional fundraising opportunities including vendor sales at the event, referral incentives for ticket buyers, and corporate sponsorships, while Zelda offered to source concert tickets for a silent auction. The team agreed to create a preliminary flyer, save-the-date notices, and sponsorship packages.

- The group discussed organizing a dance event to raise funds and gather support, with Eddie suggesting involving representatives from various organizations, including the Divine Nine, and Dr. Callins mentioning previous experiences with sponsorship books. Markeishia expressed willingness to dance and suggested finding dancers, while Eddie humorously declined to participate. The conversation ended with plans to type up notes, send them out, and reconvene later, with a brief mention of prayers for Eddie's son applying to Harrison.
- Eddie: Contact Crystal World of Dance, Vincent Miller, and other dance/theater contacts to help recruit choreographers and coordinate with Idalis.
- Idalis: Send out her contact information (phone and email) to Eddie and others for coordination with potential choreographers.
- Idalis: Draft and circulate a formal letter to prospective dance instructors/partners explaining the event, its purpose, and the school's mission for feedback.
- Dr./Idalis: Send out meeting minutes, preliminary flyer, save the date, and sponsorship package to the board and relevant parties.
- All board members: Reach out to personal contacts who may be interested in participating as choreographers or dancers and report back at the next meeting.
- Idalis: Type up and distribute all meeting notes to participants.
- Dr./Idalis: Consider reaching back out to Crystal regarding December event date availability.
- All: Brainstorm and report back on potential sponsors for uniforms/outfits for student participants.
- All: Consider and provide feedback on the format of the event (e.g., choreographers dancing with students, personalities, or both) for the next meeting.
- Idalis/Dr.: Coordinate with Zelda regarding sourcing concert tickets for silent auction.
- All: Begin identifying and contacting potential vendors and sponsors for the event.
- Dr./Idalis: Start development of sponsorship/ad book for the event.

- The event would be engaging for donors by incorporating personal stories and achievements of the students.
  - The event would be open to families and students of all ages, with a focus on creating an enjoyable experience while maintaining the dignity of all participants.
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- Additional Public Comment period for those who signed up at the start of the meeting but the 30 minutes for the public comments had expired (Board Chair). **N/A**
  - Next board meeting date: **January 26, 2026**
  - Adjournment: **6:45 pm**