

PROVIDENCE HALL CHARTER SCHOOL

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Location: Providence Hall Elementary School Board Room, 4795 W Patriot Ridge Dr, Herriman UT

WORK SESSION — 5:05 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mindy Fotheringham, Katie Eckman-Jelitto, Stacy Hurst, Angie Fugate, Lorena Iorg (Board Chair), Kim Crandall, Liz Starley, Gary Arndt, Rich Wilson

Recognitions

- Elementary student Israel was recognized as “Student of the Month”; his teacher and mother (a special-ed paraprofessional) were commended for his character.

Trustee Re-Election (prior to Oath of Office)

- Gary Arndt was re-elected to a 3-year board term. Motion by Lorena Iorg, seconded by Stacy Hurst; approved unanimously by roll call.
- Rich Wilson was re-elected to a 3-year board term. Motion by Lorena Iorg, seconded by Elizabeth Starley; approved unanimously by roll call.
- Liz Starley was re-elected to a 3-year board term. Motion by Katie Jelitto-Eckman, seconded by Kim Crandall; approved unanimously by roll call.

Charter Educational Resource Center — Fiscal Agent Update

- Nate Marshall updated the board on Providence Hall's role as fiscal agent for the new Charter Educational Resource Center.
- State USBE confirmed no liability/indemnification concerns; Charter Educational Resource Center operates under PHCS financial policies but is its own legal entity.
- Funds held until October; meeting planned with USBE and Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones for further clarification.
- Charter Educational Resource Center director position to be hired through Providence Hall (virtual/remote, must reside in Utah).
- 43 charter schools have expressed interest; 7 have committed to board seats.

APEX Grant Update

- Total award: \$4.954 million, part of a consortium (Providence Hall + AAI + others, ~12 charters) modeled after JATC/CTE hub programs.
- AAI (South Jordan) will host manufacturing/welding/culinary programs in a new ~5,400 sq. ft. building; Providence Hall will build a companion CTE facility (health sciences, animal science, culinary/hospitality).
- Board reviewed conceptual site plans for the CTE building and animal-science stalls; discussed parking impact, insurance/risk management for livestock, and site layout.
- Budget will need to be amended by approximately \$4.7 million for FY to allow the project to proceed; formal budget vote scheduled later in the board meeting.
- Curtis's group (architect/GC from the junior high project) proposed as procurement partner for the CTE facility, consistent with state RFP/procurement rules.

Oath of Office

- A notary administered the Oath of Office to newly re-elected/continuing trustees per state-required legislative language.

Recognition — Charter School Rankings

- Providence Hall High School moved up significantly in state charter rankings; leadership credited the shift from IB to the AP Scholars program for improved college-readiness metrics.
- Providence Hall was also named Charter School of the Year at the Utah Charter Network Symposium; Beverly was individually recognized as an award-winning illustrator.

Dress Code Follow-Up (High School)

- High school administration requested clarification on two recurring issues: (1) whether “brown/chocolate brown” qualifies as an acceptable shade of “tan,” and (2) sheer/lace overlay tops.
- Consensus: keep the policy language as “tan” (which is understood to include lighter shades of brown) rather than amending the written policy; administrators to use discretion in enforcement.
- Sheer/see-through garments remain not permitted regardless of shoulder coverage.

Driver's Education Program Update

- Providence Hall is moving driver's ed in-house (own vehicle/instructor) rather than contracting a private company; the \$225 fee was previously added to the fee schedule.
- State denied the request to operate a second, off-site vehicle for another school; both vehicles must stay on PHCS campus.
- Program expected to serve up to ~250 eligible students (9th–10th grade) over time; a driver/instructor will be hired, potentially through the state in the interim.

Performing Arts Center — Fundraising Committee

- Board approved formation of a Providence Hall Performing Arts Center Capital Campaign subcommittee (compliance point of contact: Beverly).
- Discussion of fundraising target (initial estimate ~\$2 million toward an ~\$8–12 million project) and planned events: Hearts for the Arts Gala (Feb. 5, elementary school/aux gym) and a fall golf tournament.
- Full committee structure and budget to be finalized and presented at the September meeting.

Trustee Research Presentation

- A trustee presented findings from a statewide doctoral study (669 respondents) on factors driving charter vs. traditional public school enrollment.
- Key takeaway: academics and school values are the top drivers of charter enrollment (vs. extracurriculars/facilities for traditional public schools); recommended the board continue to lean into academic differentiation and clearly articulated values.

Adjournment of Work Session

- The work session was adjourned. Motion by Stacey Hurst, seconded by Lorena Iorg; approved unanimously by roll call. Work session ended at 6:52 PM; board recessed until 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEETING — 7:05 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mindy Fotheringham, Katie Eckman-Jelitto, Stacy Hurst, Angie Fugate, Lorena Iorg (Board Chair), Rich Wilson, Gary Arndt, Kim Crandall. Liz Starley excused.

Public Comment

- A written parent comment was read regarding inconsistent dress code policy across elementary vs. junior high/high school campuses, requesting uniform application of updated dress code guidance to all ages. Board noted this will be discussed with elementary administration.

New Staff Introduction

- Scott Fields was introduced as the high school's new Vice Principal / Athletic Director; a fuller program presentation planned for a future meeting.

School Updates

- Enrollment: 2,071 students (budgeted 2,066; goal 2,108); online program up 20% (18 students); after-school program enrollment up ~75% (about 40 students), though the program continues to run at a loss above the agreed vendor rate.
- Junior High renovation project: on schedule, targeting Nov. 1 completion (hallway opening ~Aug. 31); only two change orders to date; temporary outdoor lunch program has gone smoothly.

Financial Report (June 2026 / FY26 Year-End)

- Beverly presented the FY26 year-end financial report: total revenue ahead of budget, expenditures under budget, positive net income, cash-on-hand and debt service coverage both exceeding bond covenant requirements.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The board approved the minutes for June 18, 2026, July 9, 2026, and July 30, 2026. Motion by Rich Wilson, seconded by Mindy Fotheringham; approved unanimously by roll call.

Board Officer Positions

- Lorena Iorg was renewed as Board Chair. Motion by Kim Crandall, seconded by Stacy Hurst; approved unanimously by roll call.
- Gary Arndt was renewed as Vice Chair. Motion by Stacey Hurst, seconded by Lorena Iorg; approved unanimously by roll call.
- Rich Wilson was renewed as Treasurer. Motion by Lorena Iorg, seconded by Gary Arndt; approved unanimously by roll call.
- Liz Starley was renewed as Secretary. Motion by Stacy Hurst, seconded by Katie Jelitto-Eckman; approved unanimously by roll call.

APEX Grant Budget Approval

- The board approved the APEX Grant budget as presented, accepting the state grant funding into the FY budget. Motion by Gary Arndt, seconded by Lorena Iorg; approved unanimously by roll call.

Fee Schedule (2026–27)

- The board approved the updated fee schedule, adding a \$225 driver's ed fee and increasing the high school t-shirt fee from \$7 to \$10. Motion by Rich Wilson, seconded by Gary Arndt; approved unanimously by roll call.

Student Handbook Amendment

- The board approved the amendment to the student handbook incorporating the updated uniform/dress code policy. Motion by Kim Crandall, seconded by Lorena Iorg; approved unanimously by roll call.

Fee Policy (2026–27)

- The board approved the updated fee policy, clarifying “service in lieu of fee waiver” language for students facing financial hardship. Motion by Lorena Iorg, seconded by Kim Crandall; approved unanimously by roll call.

Board Policies (200, 210, 220, 610, 700, 740) and Fiscal Procedures

- The board approved, as a group, Policy 200 (Board Authority), 210 (Administrative Authority), 220 (Compliance with Laws), 610 (Vending Machines), 700 (Payroll-Related Expenditures), 740 (Employee Travel), and the Fiscal Procedures. Notable change: adopts a per diem travel meal reimbursement (\$53/full day, \$39.75/partial day) in place of itemized receipts. Motion by Mindy Fotheringham, seconded by Lorena Iorg; approved unanimously by roll call.

Wellness Policy (2026–27)

- The board approved the updated wellness policy, clarifying that Smart Snack standards apply only to items sold to students, not items provided free of charge (e.g., classroom rewards). Motion by Stacy Hurst, seconded by Lorena Iorg; approved unanimously by roll call.

Discussion Items

- Reminder for all trustees to complete and log required board training.
- Next regular board meeting: discussed moving from Wednesday, Sept. 9 to Thursday, Sept. 10 to avoid a PTO scheduling conflict; Decided to leave the meeting at the High School on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026

Adjournment of Board Meeting

- The Board Meeting was adjourned. Motion by Kim Crandall, seconded by Katie Jelitto-Eckman; approved unanimously by roll call. Board Meeting ended at 8:09 pm
Roll Call - Present: Mindy Fotheringham, Katie Jelitto-Eckman, Stacy Hurst, Angie Fugate, Lorena Iorg (Board Chair), Rich Wilson, Gary Arndt, Kim Crandall. Liz Starley excused.

