



Learning Gate Community School
16215 Hanna Road Lutz, FL 33549
Phone: 813-948-4190 Fax: 813-948-7587
WWW.LEARNINGGATE.ORG

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Monday – September 15, 2025

MISSION

To cultivate students through academic excellence, critical thinking and environmental responsibility, focusing on student success, outdoor education and serving the community.

VISION

To be a leader in education and environmental stewardship in Tampa Bay, contributing to a sustainable world.

I. Call meeting to order 6:00 P.M.

- Verification and acknowledgement that a quorum is present

II. Announcements

III. Public Input

Attendees that wish to provide public input should follow the process below:

A signup genius link has been provided on the Board of Director's page of the School's website: www.learninggate.org The signup link will be open until 2 hours before the start of the scheduled board meeting. When called upon, the attendee will be unmuted and should state their first and last name for appropriate record keeping in the meeting minutes. All attendees will be muted until they are called on by the board president. Speakers will be granted three minutes to address the board. When 10 or more speakers wish to speak during public comment, the board may reduce the time per speaker. The Board reserves the right to modify the speaking time based on the circumstances of any individual Board meeting. The Board respects the public's right to speak to the board, but we cannot tolerate behavior intended to interrupt the orderly conduct of this meeting. Our civility policy is in effect.

IV. Executive Committee Updates

- Secretary – Minutes – Ezra Johnson
- Treasurer – Financial Reports - Denelle Miller

V. Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Denelle Miller -24-25 Audit
Governance – Chrissie Price
Communication – Denelle Miller
Facilities - John Zdanowicz
Fundraising – Denelle Miller

VI. Principal's Update

Michelle Mason – 26-27 Calendar – B&B Capital Proposal

VII. Staff Updates

Kathy Goltermann
Kelly Fox
Carlos Jordan
Kris Smith – HR handbook update -TSIA plan - Bids

VIII. Parent Liaison Update

Brigitte Oates - Hanna Campus
OPEN - Lutz Lake Campus

IX. Strategic Planning

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

XII. Adjournment

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Sept 15, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Stan Kroh, Chrissie Price, Ezra Johnson, Trina Halfhide, John Zdanowicz, Mauricio Arias, Steve McCarty

Board Members Absent:

Denelle Miller

Staff in Attendance:

Michelle Mason, Kris Smith, Kelly Fox, Kathy Goltermann, Dr Carlos Jordan

Parent Liaisons:

- **Brigette Oates** – Hanna Campus
Lutz Lake Fern Campus- *position to be filled.*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM** by **Stan Kroh**.

Public Input-

Executive Committee Updates

- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **Ezra Johnson** presented the August minutes for approval.
Trina H moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Chrissie P, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Kris) – Financials are in order. Draft audit came in and had no finding which is great!

Chrissie P motioned to accept the audit report, Trina H seconded, motion passed.

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Committee Updates:

Finance Committee (Denelle Miller)-

Governance Committee (Chrissie Price)- We have an application for the board Thania Clevenger who has been active on the foundation committee.

Steve M motioned to approve Thania Clevenger's application to the board, Chrissie P seconded, Motion passed.

Fundraising Committee (Denelle Miller)-

Communication Committee (Denelle Miller)- Denelle would like to have a in-person meeting to discuss communication. This will be done at the next Board Meeting, which is in person at the LLF campus on Oct 20th.

Facilities Committee (John Zdanowicz)-

24K bid for stairs and landing for 6th grade landing seems high. Need more bids.

Principal's Update (Michelle Mason)

This year with reduction in monies that schools are getting. "A money" is now only allowed to be given to instructional personal. That means staff and administration can't share in it.

School improvement team has met which is a great help. Thanks to all involved!

2026-27 calendar needs to be approved.

Ezra J motioned to approve 2026-27 calendar, Trina H seconded, motion passed.

Shoutout to new teachers and staff!!- Amy Love, Ms. Mary, Ms. Chrissie, Ms. Gabby, Mr. Alex all doing a great job.

Preschool information- Lots of details being studied. We are passionate about getting this done. And bringing 2,3 and 4 yr olds into LG.

We would like to have a specific preschool meeting. It will need to be a board meeting. We're going to need to take out a bond. Meeting will be held Friday Sept 26th at 8:00 am. All are welcome to discuss preschool.

CSL- Charter School Leaders, meets once a month and goes to Tallahassee to lobby for charter schools.

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Staff Updates

Kathy Goltermann – Help the Heron is off to a slow start but we're getting the word out.

- We are diversifying and looking to get corporate matches.
- 25th spirit night at "The Main Event"

Dr. Carlos Jordan

Athletics- we're expanding teams to make room for all the kids who want to play. Kudos and gratitude to all the coaches and all involved with the Athletic Program.

Thanks to Bright Star Chiropractic for the generous donation!!!

New batch of 7th graders are doing great.

Enrolment is going up.

8th grade went to Crystal Springs. Many field trips coming up!

Kris Smith:

Handbook update for HR. Change about leave for FMLA. I ran the policy through with the attorney. We need a motion to approve from the board.

Steve M motioned to approve adding the continuation of leave to the handbook. Trina seconded, motion passed.

Google drive project needs to be on hold.

Bid for the ramp is expensive. Need more bids.

TSIA (Teacher Salary increase allocation) Plan, State Plan Page, numbers need to be moved to the new form. The annual raise goes with the plan so we are going to keep raise that's in place.

John Z Motioned to Approve TSIA plan Trina H seconded, motion passed.

Parent Liaison Updates:

- **Hanna Campus (Brigette Oates):** I haven't received any inquires.
- **Lutz Lake Fern Campus-** position needs to be filled.

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Strategic Planning

Old Business


New Business- School lunches? We will discuss at the board meeting next week.

Adjournment


- **Trina H motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM, seconded by Chrissie P, motion passed.**

**Minutes Recorded By:
Ezra Johnson, Secretary**

LGCS Board Executive Signatures

Signed by:

BAFDB6D61F5649D... 10/21/2025

Stanley Kroh, Chair Date

Signed by:

653306CA462D410... 10/21/2025

Chrissie Price, Vice Chair Date

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95F04F0E0B044D9...
Ezra Johnson, Secretary

10/21/2025

Date

Signed by:

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Denelle Miller, Treasurer

10/21/2025

Date

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Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Friday – September 26, 2025

MISSION

To cultivate students through academic excellence, critical thinking and environmental responsibility, focusing on student success, outdoor education and serving the community.

VISION

To be a leader in education and environmental stewardship in Tampa Bay, contributing to a sustainable world.

There was no formal Agenda for this special meeting.

This meeting was to approve plan for preschool funding. Since a meeting was called the board used the opportunity to also approve the Millage Referendum Budget which had a short turn around time to submit.

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Sept 26, 2025
Special Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Stan Kroh, Chrissie Price, Ezra Johnson, Trina Halfhide, Mauricio Arias, John Zdanowicz,

Board Members Absent:

Denelle Miller, Steve McCarty,

Staff in Attendance:

Michelle Mason, Kris Smith, Kelly Fox, Kathy Goltermann, Dr Carlos Jordan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **8:02 AM** by **Stan Kroh**.

Public Input-

- Contract for Educational Consultant [B&B Capital Proposal](#)

Proposal of hiring Edward Briggs to work on this project. Briggs has done a lot of work for Charter School Leadership group in the past. He graduated from FSU in 2010. Has been in politics, ran campaigns. Many years of experience. In March he launched B&B Commercial Strategies. Has experience representing charter schools. Goal would be to tell our story to the agency heads and expediting the project.

Ezra J motioned to hire Mr. Briggs for Educational Consultant, John Z seconded. Motion passed.

- Millage Referendum Budget

Kris Smith- The budget was sent for us to review. In January they will look at the enrollment and could possibly require amendment then. I put in the amounts for those who qualify. On the next line school programing amount. Last line is a reserve. I recommend not spending the 2nd and 3rd lines until we know what the actual figure is (in January). This only applies to full time staff.

Trina H motioned to approve the budget, Ezra J seconded. Motion passed.

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- **Preschool Planning**

The Heron's Nest Preschool- The next stage for Learning Gate. Mission and vision statement incorporates LG's focus on nature and the outdoor learning.

The creation of LG preschool would provide a pathway for kids to enter LG.

There is a need in this area.

Consolidation of LG onto the Hanna campus. Bring 7th and 8th grade back to Hanna.

Priorities:

Create a sports court

Turf PE field at Hanna

Kitchen upgrade

Re-fencing both properties

Playground update for LLF

Total projected income at 85% capacity- \$1,558,330.00 per year

Total expenses 1.1 million creating a surplus of 468,330 to support LG into the future.

The Bond process- Kris Smith

Process is not easy but is the only way to get off the ground.

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Proposed Bond Expenses

MODULAR BUILDINGS INSTALLED	\$ 1,500,000.00	HANDICAPPED PARKING	\$ 25,000.00
HOOK INTO COUNTY WATER HANNA	\$ 50,000.00	CONCRETE WALKWAYS	\$ 120,000.00
HOOK INTO MUNICIPAL WASTE HANNA	\$ 160,000.00	DRAINAGE REMEDIATION HANNA CAMPUS	\$ 300,000.00
SPORTS COURT (55X85)	\$ 70,000.00	MINOR INTERIOR RENOVATIONS LLF CAMPUS	\$ 60,000.00
GRASS & IRRIGATION FOR PE HANNA	\$ 75,000.00	FAN INSTALLATION HANNA	\$ 20,000.00
FENCING HANNA CAMPUS	\$ 25,000.00	GUTTER INSTALLATION HANNA	\$ 50,000.00
POSSIBLE KITCHEN UPGRADE HANNA	\$ 100,000.00	EDUCATIONAL EXPANSION CONSULTANT	\$ 12,000.00
FENCING LLF CAMPUS	\$ 25,000.00	RE DECK TREX DECK	\$ 200,000.00
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	\$ 70,000.00	FLAT ROOF LLF	\$ 40,000.00
PREK FURNITURE	\$ 150,000.00	POSSIBLE FIRE SUPPRESSION UPGRADE	\$ 200,000.00
PLUMBING FIXTURES	\$ 10,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 3,262,000.00

Sample Financing Timeline For Fixed-Rate Bonds

	Week										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tax-Exempt Financing											
Select financing team											
Organizational conference call											
Develop credit profile											
Prepare bond and disclosure documents											
Rating process (if applicable)											
Issuing authority approval											
Distribute preliminary official statement to investors											
Active marketing to investors											
Bond pricing / set bond interest rates											
Bond issuance and closing											

- **Schedule requires coordination of all parties involved**
 - With focused and responsive team, the schedule can be accelerated to a degree
 - 75 days is generally reasonable with a committed working group
- **Key drivers include:**
 - Developing a credit profile for inclusion in the offering document
 - Receiving issuing authority approval; some authorities have more flexible schedules than others
 - Timing required for rating review (if applicable)
 - Finalizing construction plans and obtaining permits
 - Title and real estate work
 - Consideration of market timing

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Looking for the ability to move forward with financing people at Zigglar. Need board permission.

Plan is to open the preschool in Aug of 2026. Can happen fast because the modular buildings can be driven and put on campus. This is an opportunity to secure the future for our great school!

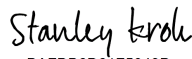
Trina H motioned to approve moving forward with the bond. John Z seconded. Motion passed.


Adjournment

- **John Z motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 AM, seconded by Mauricio A, motion passed.**

**Minutes Recorded By:
Ezra Johnson, Secretary**

LGCS Board Executive Signatures

Signed by:

BAFDB0D01F5049D...
 Stanley Kroh, Chair 10/21/2025
Date

Signed by:

053306CA452D410...
 Chrissie Price, Vice Chair 10/21/2025
Date

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Ezra Johnson, Secretary

10/21/2025

Date

Signed by:

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Denelle Miller, Treasurer

10/21/2025

Date

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