



Essence Preparatory Public School
Board of Directors Meeting – February 2026
Location: Virtual Meeting
Date: February 18, 2026

Call to Order: 5:31 PM by Board Chair Brian Dillard

Members Present: Brian Dillard (Chair), Mike Frisbie (Member), Kanwal Lopez (Member), Jackie Gorman (Member), Dr. Cynthia Warrick (Member), Lucinda Vigil (Member)

Staff Present: Akeem Brown (Superintendent), Dr. Kevin Demirci (TEA Conservator), DeAnna Clavell

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Brian Dillard. No public comments were received.

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Kevin Demirci, the Texas Education Agency-appointed conservator. Dr. Demirci shared that his role is to oversee governance and leadership actions, ensure compliance with state law, monitor board decisions, review financial and operational actions, and provide guidance to support corrective actions required by TEA. Dr. Demirci indicated he would participate in meetings moving forward in an oversight role.

The Board then considered approval of the January 2026 Board Meeting minutes. Dr. Cynthia Warrick moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Frisbie and approved unanimously.

The Superintendent presented a resolution to authorize Dr. Kevin Demirci to be added as a signatory to the school's Jefferson Bank account used for state and federal funds. Administration clarified that no existing signatories would be removed and that only the primary operating account would be included. Jackie Gorman moved to approve the resolution adding Dr. Demirci as a signatory. The motion was seconded by Mike Frisbie and approved unanimously.

The Superintendent also provided an update regarding staffing adjustments necessary to ensure the school remains financially stable through the end of the academic year. These actions included a reduction in force resulting from financial considerations and enrollment changes. Leadership discussed the need to balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining sufficient staffing to supervise scholars and continue operations through the end of the year.

An update was also provided regarding the campus turnaround plan. The Superintendent informed the Board that TEA requested revisions to the plan to reflect a five-year structure. The Board will be asked to review and approve revisions prior to the March 24 deadline.

The Superintendent directed the Board to review the finance report included in the board packet and encouraged members to reach out with questions prior to the next meeting. Updates



Regarding facilities matters, the executive session discussion was postponed until the March meeting to allow additional information to be finalized.

The Board discussed scheduling the March meeting to ensure required approvals are completed before the TEA deadline. The Superintendent also invited Board members to attend the campus Black History Program scheduled for February 19 at 4:30 PM.

Mike Frisbie moved to table the remaining agenda items until the March board meeting. The motion was seconded by Jackie Gorman and approved unanimously.

The Board confirmed that executive session items would be addressed at the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Staff

Approved by the Essence Preparatory Board of Directors on: _____