



**Essence Preparatory Public School  
Board of Directors Meeting – March 2026**  
Location: Essence Preparatory Public School  
Date: March 25, 2026

**Call to Order:** 5:39 PM by Vice Chair

**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)

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair. No public comments were received.

The Superintendent opened the meeting with a mission moment, acknowledging the passing of school counselor Ms. Mia Morris. He reflected on her service to the campus and broader community, highlighting her role as a founding member of the school and her lasting impact on scholars, staff, and families. A moment of silence was observed in her honor.

The Superintendent provided a brief update to the Board, noting the current operational demands on campus, including closure-related responsibilities, increased staff absences due to transitions, and the need to provide additional social-emotional support to scholars and families following the loss of Ms. Morris's loss. He shared that administrative capacity has been significantly stretched during this period.

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

An update was provided regarding the campus turnaround plan. The Superintendent informed the Board that TEA requested revisions to the plan, including the development of a five-year framework and additional detailed milestones. The revised plan was submitted by the required deadline. Administration also noted challenges associated with TEA's request to identify future campus placements for scholars, as that information is not currently available. TEA acknowledged this limitation and advised submission of available information.

The Superintendent provided an update regarding closure and financial stabilization efforts. In alignment with conservator guidance, staffing adjustments were implemented in January, resulting in approximately \$176,000 in projected cost savings. These adjustments included reductions in effort across leadership, administrative, and support staff to preserve operational continuity while reducing expenses.



The Superintendent also shared that security services were reduced by 50 percent in response to the conservator's direction. He expressed concern about campus safety due to environmental conditions in the surrounding area, but noted that the adjustment was made in accordance with the guidance received.

The Superintendent informed the Board that, following a review of the organization's financial position, the Conservator acknowledged that additional cost reductions would not result in closing the organization with a zero balance. The Conservator indicated a shift toward advocating on behalf of the campus with TEA regarding financial realities and decisions made to date.

An update was provided regarding outstanding vendor obligations. Administration reported that the current outstanding vendor debt balance is approximately \$976,000, excluding facility-related debt. The campus has initiated outreach to vendors requesting consideration of debt forgiveness through donation-in-kind agreements for tax purposes. Responses have been received from some vendors, and follow-up efforts are ongoing.

The Superintendent also provided an update on closure logistics, including coordination with state agencies for the transfer of student records and the preparation of campus inventory. Administration is currently working to align inventory records with TEA requirements and to distinguish between items purchased with state funds and those purchased with local funds. It was noted that state-funded items will be redistributed in accordance with TEA guidance, while locally funded items will remain under Board ownership.

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 6:04 PM in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act to deliberate on items related to legal counsel and real property. The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 6:39 PM. No action was taken.

The Superintendent shared that Career Day is scheduled for April 17, 2026, and invited Board members to participate as speakers.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:48 PM

Minutes prepared by: Staff

Approved by the Essence Preparatory Board of Directors on: \_\_\_\_\_