

**ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

HELD October 20, 2025

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Alain Locke Charter School

3141 W. Jackson

Chicago, IL 60612

Directors Present: Catherine Burns, Chair
Carla Black
Nora Ligurotis
John McLaughlin
Steve Perlman
Shabree Todd
James Palos

Directors Absent: Robert Horne
Patrick G. Ryan, Jr.
Nosa Ehimwenman (video)

Staff Present: Patrick Love
Judy McGarvey
Vonyell Foster
Erin Gilmore

Chairperson Burns called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

Vonyell Foster presented the Mission Moment and shared that all 29 seventh-grade students recently visited Springfield, Illinois, where they learned about Abraham Lincoln and life during frontier times. Additionally, the school hosted a Family Math Night, co-chaired by Ms. Duncan and Ms. Winston where families participated in hands-on math activities designed to support learning at home.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The Board expressed gratitude to members Tiny McLaughlin, Steve Pearlman, Nora Ligurotis, Carla Black, and Jim Palos for attending the 2025 Accelerate Institute Dinner on September 24th in celebration of Alain Locke. The board also announced grant renewals from the Dr. Scholl Foundation and the Webb Foundation to support higher education programming.

The following items were approved unanimously by motion (John McLaughlin and seconded by Nora Ligurotis):

- Minutes: April 2025, June 2025, and August 2025
- September 2025 Financials

It was moved by John McLaughlin and seconded by Nora Ligurotis to elect the following officers, advisors, and directors to a 1-year term:

- Officers: Catherine Burns, Chair, Nora Ligurotis, Vice-Chair, Patrick Love, Principal, Erin Gilmore, Secretary, Judy McGarvey, Treasurer, and Dawn Moore Assistant Treasurer
- Advisors: Robert Ryan, Susie Cummings
- Directors John McLaughlin, Steve Pearlman, Patrick Ryan, Robert Horne, Nosa Ehimwenman, James Palos, Carla Black, Shabree Todd, Catherine Burns, and Nora Ligurotis

The motion carried unanimously.

Judy McGarvey provided an overview of the annual audit, noting an adjustment related to pension fund expenses. The board acknowledged the update and confirmed that required payments and contributions have been addressed.

Nora Ligurotis shared that enrollment increased from 323 students in the prior year to 370 currently. Marketing efforts began in March, costing \$4,261.49, and resulted in 33 online applications. The next step is to analyze how many applicants from the marketing campaign enrolled as students.

Patrick Love presented the principal report, sharing 2025 IAR results, noting that Alain Locke outperformed both the district and the state in ELA and Math. All grade levels exceeded district proficiency in ELA, and most grade levels surpassed or approached state-level proficiency in math. Growth results also exceeded district and state averages.

Catherine Burns shared an update on charter renewal and reported that Alain Locke maintains ongoing communication with the CPS Innovation and Incubation (I&I) Department and confirmed that the school is fully cooperating with CPS in preparation for the charter renewal agreement.

Vonyell Foster is launching the Higher Education Committee and requested board members join to support ongoing program development and partnerships.

Additionally, the board discussed sponsoring a staff holiday celebration and all board members were invited to attend.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Alain Locke Charter School.

There being no further business, Chairperson Burns adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Gilmore
Board Secretary