

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

**HELD January 26, 2026
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 (video)
James Palos
Robert Horne (video)

Directors Absent: Patrick G. Ryan, Jr.
Nosa Ehimwenman

Staff Present: Patrick Love
Judy McGarvey
Vonyell Foster
Erin Gilmore

Chairperson Burns called the meeting to order at 4:39 pm.

Vonyell Foster presented the Mission Moment and shared information about the annual pre-Kwanzaa event for PreK to 4th grade students, where each grade level participated in a special showcase representing each Kwanzaa principle. Additionally, the Alain Locke band, choir and dance team participated in an annual performance through a partnership with the company, BDO Digital. The Angel Tree organization provided over 100 gifts to families during the holiday season. Founding Alain Locke board member and original basketball coach, Brad Sullivan, returned to support an exhibition game between former and current students.

Additionally, Ms. Foster shared that two Alain Locke students made it to the local Chicago Public Schools' Science Fair:

- Seventh-grader Kay'lee G., earned a bronze medal for her project, "Galaxy's Colorful Secret Keepers."
- Eighth-grader Ramal C., took home a gold medal for his project, "Sucrose and Smoothness: A Frozen Investigation." He will advance to the Citywide Science Fair at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry on Friday, February 6

No members of the public were present for comment.

The Board expressed gratitude to Chairperson Burns, members Carla Black and Pat Ryan for their support with the Alain Locke Holiday Party. The Board also shared gratitude to Perlman Foundation, Tiny and Peg McLaughlin, and BDO Digital.

The Board honored Alain Locke students, Kay'lee G and Ramal C for being recognized at the Chicago Public Schools Regional Science Fair. The board also recognized Alain Locke for ranking No. 1 among all Chicago charter schools in both English Language Arts and Math on the 2025 Illinois Assessment of Readiness exam. Alain Locke was also named a "Best Middle School" in U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Schools rankings and ranked No. 2 among Illinois charter middle schools and No. 7 among Illinois charter elementary schools.

The following items were presented for approval: October 2025 Minutes and Financial Statements as of December 31, 2025. However, these items were deferred to the next meeting. The Board agreed to move the October minutes, December financials, January financials and January minutes to the March meeting for approval.

Christine Torres, Audit Partner from Crowe LLP, presented the financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The audit was completed in preparation for submission to Chicago Public Schools. The audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance. No material weaknesses, deficiencies, or scope limitations were reported. Additionally, no significant new accounting standards impacting FY2026 were noted. The auditor commended Judy McGarvey for maintaining accurate and well-organized financial records. The motion to accept the 2024–2025 audit findings as presented was deferred to the March meeting.

Chairperson Burns presented a proposed amendment to Section 5.2 (Number and Qualifications) of the bylaws to revise the board size requirement. The proposed language includes: "The number of directors of the Corporation shall be not less than eight nor more than thirteen." However, the motion to amend the bylaws was deferred to the next meeting.

Nora Ligurotis and Steve Pearlman provided an update on marketing efforts to promote Alain Locke Charter School. They are exploring multiple outreach strategies including social media marketing, Google Ads, updated promotional materials, event footage from the Alain Locke Dinner, and banners and yard signage. The campaign will focus on PK–4th grade enrollment and promoting the school's status as the top charter school in Chicago.

Patrick Love provided the principal's report, sharing that 3rd to 8th grade students will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness assessment beginning March 10. He also shared that the third quarter instructional priorities include: deepening UDL practices, elevating math proficiency, and strengthening reading and writing connections.

Principal Love also shared that 109 students are currently classified as chronically absent, meaning they have missed 10 or more days this school year. The Board discussed attendance strategies including dress-down incentives, parent outreach, attendance letters, and additional incentives.

The next board meeting will be held on March 2, 2026, from 4:30pm-6:00pm at Alain Locke.

Chairperson Burns adjourned the meeting at 5:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Gilmore
Board Secretary