

**ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
August 26, 2025
3141 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Directors Present: Catherine Burns, Chair

Claire T. Hartfield
Nora Ligurotis
Steve Perlman
Shabree Todd
Robert Horne (video)
James Palos (video)

Directors Absent: Carla Black

John McLaughlin
Patrick G. Ryan, Jr.
Nosa Ehimwenman

Staff Present: Patrick Love
Judy McGarvey
Vonyell Foster
Erin Gilmore

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

The meeting began with a Mission Moment presented by Vonyell Foster. Ms. Foster reported that the school hosted its Open House on July 30, 2025, with over 400 families in attendance. Custodial and security staff supported the event by grilling food for families, which contributed to the warm and celebratory atmosphere. She also recognized Claire Hartfield for her 25 years of service to Alain Locke Charter School. Ms. Hartfield was presented with an award and flowers, and several former board members returned to surprise her and participate in the celebration.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The Board extended its deepest gratitude to Claire Hartfield for her years of leadership and commitment as both a board member and chair. Her guidance and dedication were noted as instrumental to the school's success and impact on families. The Board also formally thanked Susie Cummings for her generous donation in support of Alain Locke.

The consent calendar, which included the approval of the April 2025 and June 2025 meeting minutes and the June 30, 2025 financial statements, was presented for consideration. Action on these items was tabled and will be moved to the October 2025 meeting.

Patrick Love delivered the Principal's Report and shared that school enrollment is just three students short of meeting the SY26 budget target. He reported that the Beginning-of-Year MAP assessment results look strong, aligning with Spring performance. Returning students are meeting expectations, while interventions are being implemented for newly enrolled students and students with attendance challenges. Vonyell Foster also provided an update on the Link Unlimited after-school program and she noted the importance of the upcoming CPS Selective Enrollment assessment for 8th grade students, which takes place on October 8th.

Charter Renewal was discussed by Claire Hartfield, who announced that Catherine will begin working with the school's attorney to guide future renewals. The current CPS charter renewal agreement term is for two years.

The Chair reminded members that required Board training must be completed by October 1, 2025, which includes two hours for returning members and four hours for new members. The next opportunity for completion will be a session on September 29, 2025, and will cover budgeting and forecasting. Additionally, the Board was invited to attend the Accelerate Institute Dinner on September 24, 2025, at Chicago Cut Steakhouse. The event, hosted by the Ryan Family, will celebrate 25 years of excellence at Alain Locke, with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and dinner and programming beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

The next meeting of the Alain Locke Charter School Board of Directors will be held on Monday, October 20th at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Gilmore
Board Secretary