



Meeting MINUTES - 2026

6:00 PM Mar 10, 2026 | Location: NSCA Main Conference Room

Agenda

A. Call Meeting to Order (Chair, 6:02 pm)

1. Attendance Roll Call

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Director
Ben Partridge	Jarvis Caldwell	Jessica Garcia	Tina Leone	Michelle Ruehl
Present ▾	Virtual ▾	Present ▾	Virtual ▾	Absent ▾

- Approved ▾

B. Pledge of Allegiance (Chair, 6:03 pm)

C. Approval of the Agenda (Chair, 6:03 pm)

I move that we approve the agenda for the Mar 10, 2026 NSCA Board Meeting.

1st Motion: Ben Partridge ▾ 2nd Motion: Jessica Garcia ▾

Discussion: None ▾

Discussion Comment:

- Roll Call:

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Director
Ben Partridge	Jarvis Caldwell	Jessica Garcia	Tina Leone	Michelle Ruehl
Yes ▾	Yes ▾	Yes ▾	Yes ▾	Absent ▾

- Approved ▾

D. Comments:

1. Public Comments

- Each presenter is limited to 3 minutes

Members of the public shall be allowed to address the Board by sending written comments to the Board Secretary at Tara.Jennings@newsommitcharter.org, identifying the subject "PUBLIC COMMENT" in the subject line of the email. All comments must include the name of the person submitting the comment, as well as contact information. Comments sent in anonymously, or by someone who cannot be identified from his or her email address, will not be read at the Board meeting. Comments must be received by 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting. Written comments must be no more than 400 words (approximately 3 minutes), and must not contain profanity, must not reference student names, and must not defame any individual/s by name. Public comments that do not abide by these requirements will not be shared publicly.

2. Board Comments

Mr. Partridge commented on the success of the talent show.

3. Executive Director Comments

- Staff Highlight
 - Mrs. Jennifer Hefty, Mrs. Claire Bullard, & Mrs. Jennifer Welcom
 - Mrs. Amelia Marsh
 - Coach Taryn Wingett & Coach Brookly Rose
 - Coach Denise Piciulo, Coach Alysha Cooper, & Coach Kim McClelland
- Student Highlight
 - Jaxon Allen, Ryan Snyder, Sofia Tamayo, Romaisa Touqeer

SCHOOL:

- The Kindness Challenge concluded, and we got all 50 states and even some other countries, like Japan and Australia. You can see the letters and the big display out in the atrium.
- The First Annual Talent Show occurred last Thursday. We had 11 participants in total, including dancers, magicians, singers, and even musicians. All sorts of talent, including our very own Sydney Abelli, who played the piano.
- Some of us went to the CLCS conference and enjoyed each other's time together, including the helpful breakouts. I personally was also able to present in two different board development sessions on that Friday. (Allow Tina and Jessica to speak about their experience.)
- Glenn and I presented a quick 10-minute presentation to the D20 Board of Education on February 12th that went very well, and we got wonderful compliments from various board members.
- The Board Search Committee held its first board member interest meeting, with two people in attendance. We currently have 2 applications, and the date closes this Friday.
- Enrollment is going well, and we have had a total of 29 school tours with parents since the beginning of February until tonight. The total number of returns is 484, with 10 still undecided and 2 nos so far. This could change once the choice enrollment closes the week before spring break. We have 11 that we are following up with which we left messages. We have 181 new families in the enrollment process, from seat offers to records requests, to awaiting registration with the district. 20 families that have been sent seat offers and missed their deadline, we have called or are calling to ensure they saw our email.

6:14 pm Mrs. Ruehl joined the meeting remotely.

- We found out that some were going to people's spam folders, so we are now calling 3 days after the deadline to ensure that they know it was missed. We also found that our office calls were taking at least 4 minutes to go to voicemail if our Receptionist accidentally missed a call, helping other visitors. Lastly, we have created an enrollment process checklist and standard operating procedures to ensure proper follow-up after the family submits an intent to join our school. This is a total of 665 returning and in the enrollment process. But we are still conservative with our numbers for budgeting purposes.
- We are excited about the State Capitol trip on Thursday with 10 students who were chosen, including Jamie, James, and me.
- Come see us in our parade this Saturday.

FINANCE:

- The investor call on Feb 19th went well, and, as expected, we had questions about enrollment.

EAC UPDATES:

- The biggest issue right now is the state budget and the expected cuts to K12 funding. The proposed school finance act will be finalized by April 10th. Too much to speculate for now, so we are planning our budget with a flat ppr. There was discussion today about something related to the "positive factor," but that has to do with labor and would have to be voted on by the voters, so it wouldn't have an immediate impact. So, the new SFA could be scrapped or implemented as planned, which would cost additional money and delay savings. There is talk about bringing back the budget stabilization factor (have Glenn explain), they could cut various grants, the homeschool and online funding cuts, increase property taxes to ease the burden, adjust for declining enrollment averaging in districts, and the SOT funds, which currently haven't affected us because we were never getting it, but it will for districts. (Kim read through the list)

Reminders:

- Board Retreat Doodle - Please fill out. Tara will resend it so it is at the top of your email.

E. Consent Agenda/Written Reports (Chair, 6:36 pm)

1. Minutes from the Feb 10, 2026 Meeting (Mrs. Jennings)
2. Enrollment & Waitlist Update (Mrs. Dean)
3. Marketing Update (Ms. Reichart)
4. Personnel Update (Mrs. Hilborn)
5. School Events (Mrs. Jennings)
6. SAC Update (Mrs. Reissig)

I move that we approve the Consent Agenda for the Mar 10, 2026 NSCA Board Meeting.

1st Motion: Ben Partridge ▾ 2nd Motion: Jessica Garcia ▾

Discussion: None ▾

Discussion Comment:

- *Roll Call:*

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Director</i>
<i>Ben Partridge</i>	<i>Jarvis Caldwell</i>	<i>Jessica Garcia</i>	<i>Tina Leone</i>	<i>Michelle Ruehl</i>
Yes ▾	Yes ▾	Yes ▾	Yes ▾	Yes ▾
Approved ▾				

F. Information (6:36 pm)

1. D20 Contract Review/Revisions (Mrs. McClelland)

Mrs. McClelland gave a review of the SPED contract and updated the board on the SPED program plan.

- Consulted with Rick Frampton
- Reviewed contracts with MA, TCA, D20, and some D49 schools
 - TCA was the best-written example
- Will be:
 - Taking on the FAPE process on our own
 - Preparing for staffing
 - Taking on all of SPED, the district would get 1/12th for admin overhead.
- The Board will review the Draft at each stage and vote on contract language.

2. 26/27 PBDA (Mr. Gustafson & Mrs. Hilborn)

- This Friday, the quarterly economic forecast is supposed to come out
- Education is the 2nd biggest line item of the state budget
- We are in the early stages of the new school finance act, which costs more than the original
- CDE for 27/28 are modeling a 5-10% adjustments, so... extreme
- If we are not getting the PPR, we have to get the kids
- PBDA review:
 - 3 projection options
 - a. Estimating PPR staying flat
 - b. 1=585 2=increase of 16 3=increase of 26 students
 - Maintenance of effort for the SPED program could change this
- We HAVE to have a balanced budget to start the new school year
- Lots of variables
 - State PPR, enrollment #s, 0 raises, some cuts
 - SPED program unknown \$490k vs \$40k
 - a. Saved toward service providers + any siblings to add to enrollment

G. Discussion (7:43 pm)

1. School Leader Evaluation Process/Progress (Mrs. McClelland)

- Reformatted, easier to fill out
- Will disperse it after CMAS, which is what her goals are based on

H. Action

1. Kindergarten Readiness Waiver

I move that we approve the Kindergarten Readiness Waiver as presented.

1st Motion: **Ben Partridge** 2nd Motion: **Jessica Garcia**

Discussion: **Kim McClelland**

Discussion Comment:

- *Simplified, sent to Janyse at CDE, asked to pare it down a bit.*
- *District is aware and is good with it.*
- *Roll Call:*

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Director
Ben Partridge	Jarvis Caldwell	Jessica Garcia	Tina Leone	Michelle Ruehl
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Approved

2. 26/27 Student Fees

I move that we approve the 26/27 Student Fees as presented.

1st Motion: **Ben Partridge** 2nd Motion: **Jessica Garcia**

Discussion: **None**

Discussion Comment:

- *Roll Call:*

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Director
Ben Partridge	Jarvis Caldwell	Jessica Garcia	Tina Leone	Michelle Ruehl
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Approved

I. Adjourn (Chair, 7:51 pm)

I move that we adjourn the **Mar 10, 2026** NSCA Board Meeting.

1st Motion: **Ben Partridge** 2nd Motion: **Jessica Garcia**

Discussion: **None**

Discussion Comment:

- *Roll Call:*

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Director
Ben Partridge	Jarvis Caldwell	Jessica Garcia	Tina Leone	Michelle Ruehl
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Approved

Tara Jennings