Paradigm High School Governing Board

Board Meeting Minutes

Aug. 29, 2026 9:00am
3592 S Helen Dr, Magna UT 84044

APPROVED

Zoom link: https://paradigmhigh-org.zoom.us/j/82465085452?pwd=cDdWNXhydDIxUmpoaVkrMDFxZ0hiQT09

In Attendance: Board: Brenda Petru, Gus Velasco, Jamie Smith, Scott Clawson, Amy Clawson Hollie Cole, Chris Bambrough
Administration: Fernando Seminario, Mallory Woodbury,
Public:

This is a Board Retreat. We will be meeting for breakfast followed by 5 hours of training and working.

Welcome and Board Business

Agenda Item	Presenter	Minutes	Time
Welcome/ Come to Order	Brenda Petru	**Welcome / Call to Order** Board Chair Brenda Petru called the August 29, 2026 Governing Board retreat meeting to order at approximately 9:00 AM. The Board convened to continue its annual retreat, including a presentation on the school's 2026–2027 Wildly Important Goal, Board governance training, new member onboarding, and committee responsibilities.	2 min.

Director's Report

Agenda Item	Presenter	Minutes
WIG (Wildly Important Goal) 2026	Fernando Seminario	**2026–2027 Wildly Important Goal (WIG)** Fernando Seminario presented the school's 2026–2027 Wildly Important Goal (WIG), focused on improving student academic performance and state accountability ratings while maintaining Paradigm's classical liberal arts educational mission. **2026–2027 WIG:** Increase overall state assessment performance from spring 2026 to spring 2027 to achieve a higher state accountability rating, with every accountability indicator rated at least *Typical* and as many as possible rated *Commendable* or

		Exemplary. **Key Areas of Focus:** ● **Academic Proficiency:** Improve overall student proficiency, with particular emphasis on mathematics, which has historically been an area of lower performance. ● **Assessment Participation:** Increase student participation in state assessments while respecting applicable requirements regarding parental opt-outs. ● **State Accountability:** Improve performance across the state's accountability indicators to achieve ratings of *Typical* or higher. ● **Mission Alignment:** Maintain Paradigm's classical liberal arts and leadership education philosophy while strengthening measurable academic outcomes. ● **Progress Monitoring:** Use the Four Disciplines of Execution (4DX) framework, including lead and lag measures, to monitor progress through regular administrative and instructional leadership meetings. **Board Discussion:** The Board discussed the relationship between standardized assessments and Paradigm's educational philosophy, including the importance of developing students' test-taking skills without shifting toward a test-focused curriculum. Administration highlighted improvements in ACT performance following the introduction of an ACT preparation course and discussed applying similar strategies to other state assessments. The Board also discussed how improved accountability ratings could positively affect the school's public reputation, enrollment, and future funding opportunities. No formal motion or vote was documented.

Board Committees and Board Items

Agenda Item	Presenter	Minutes	Time
Board Training -OPMA Required Training -Other Board Training Topics -New Board Member Onboarding Workshop -Update and Discuss Committees	Shannon Greer, UAPCS	**<u>Board Training: Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA)</u>** Shannon Greer of the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS) provided required training on Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA), emphasizing transparency, public accountability, and the Governing Board's	5 hours

		responsibilities for conducting public business. **Key Topics Covered:** ● **Public Meeting Requirements:** Requirements for properly noticing and conducting public meetings, including agenda preparation, public notice, and posting requirements. ● **Public Participation:** Procedures for receiving public comments, managing public participation, and maintaining appropriate meeting conduct. ● **Meeting Procedures:** Board quorum requirements, voting procedures, and restrictions on taking formal action on items not included on the published agenda. ● **Closed Sessions:** Permissible purposes, procedures for entering and exiting closed sessions, voting requirements, and appropriate documentation. ● **Meeting Records:** Requirements for maintaining meeting minutes, recordings, and related public records. ● **Committee Meetings:** Considerations regarding committee composition, quorum, and when committee activities may be subject to public meeting requirements. **Board Discussion:** Board members asked questions regarding meeting notices, public comment procedures, committee structures, closed sessions, and maintaining accurate records. The training emphasized the importance of consistent procedures, transparency, and compliance with applicable public meeting requirements. **Result:** Required Board training completed. No formal motion or vote was taken. **<u>Other Board Training Topics: Governance Roles and Responsibilities</u>** Shannon Greer of the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS) provided additional training regarding Governing Board responsibilities, effective governance practices, and the distinction between Board oversight	

		and school administration. **Key Topics Covered:** ● **Board Governance:** The Board's primary responsibilities include legal and financial oversight, protecting the school's mission and vision, and establishing strategic direction. ● **Governance vs. Management:** The Board provides strategic oversight and establishes policies, while school administration manages daily operations, staffing, and implementation. ● **Policy Oversight:** Board members are responsible for understanding applicable laws, reviewing policies, and ensuring the school maintains appropriate governance procedures. ● **Curriculum Approval:** The Board discussed its responsibilities for reviewing and approving new curriculum, including opportunities for parental review and input. ● **Committee Structure:** Shannon recommended establishing a Policy Committee to review legislative changes, evaluate existing policies, and bring recommendations to the full Board. ● **Personnel Responsibilities:** The Board discussed its responsibility for hiring and evaluating the school director, while routine hiring and employee management remain administrative functions. ● **Grievance Procedures:** The Board reviewed the importance of established grievance procedures and appropriate escalation before matters reach the Governing Board. ● **Financial Oversight:** The Board discussed its responsibility for reviewing financial information, monitoring expenditures, and ensuring responsible use of public funds. **Board Discussion:** Board members participated in scenario-based discussions to distinguish matters requiring Board action from those appropriately managed by administration.	

		The discussion emphasized effective use of committees, consistent policy oversight, and maintaining appropriate boundaries between governance and school operations. No formal motion or vote was documented. **<u>New Board Member Onboarding Workshop</u>** The Board participated in governance training and discussions intended to support new and existing Board members in understanding their responsibilities. **Key Topics Covered:** ● **Board Member Responsibilities:** Reviewed the distinction between Governing Board oversight and school administration, including the Board's responsibilities for policy, accountability, and strategic direction. ● **Committee Participation:** Discussed committee assignments, responsibilities, and the importance of experienced Board members helping orient new members. ● **Board Resources:** Reviewed the use of Board binders, governance documents, legislative updates, and training materials as resources for Board members. ● **Governance Procedures:** Discussed Board meeting procedures, agenda requests, and responsibilities related to public meeting requirements. ● **Ongoing Training:** Discussed the importance of continuing Board education and providing resources to support members in fulfilling their governance responsibilities. Shannon Greer indicated that additional electronic training materials would be made available for the Board to share with new members. The Board also discussed reviewing and updating its reference materials to support consistent governance practices. No formal motion or vote was done.	

		<u>Update and Discuss Committees</u> The Board discussed committee structure, responsibilities, and opportunities to strengthen governance oversight. **Key Topics Discussed:** ● **Committee Structure:** Shannon Greer reviewed the role of Board committees in researching issues, evaluating recommendations, and supporting efficient Board operations. ● **Committee Membership:** The Board discussed committee size, quorum considerations, and the importance of maintaining appropriate membership to comply with public meeting requirements. ● **Committee Authority:** Shannon clarified that committees generally make recommendations to the full Governing Board and do not independently exercise decision-making authority unless specifically authorized. ● **Policy Committee:** Shannon recommended establishing a Policy Committee to monitor legislative changes, review policy requirements, and bring proposed policies or amendments to the Governing Board for consideration. ● **Committee Assignments:** The Board discussed establishing clear committee membership, responsibilities, and processes for reviewing committee assignments. ● **Financial Oversight:** The Board discussed the role of the Finance/Audit Committee in reviewing financial matters and making recommendations to the full Board when appropriate. **Board Discussion:** The Board considered how committees could improve accountability, distribute responsibilities, and support consistent governance practices. Shannon emphasized that committees can conduct detailed reviews and develop recommendations, while final decisions requiring Board approval remain the	

		responsibility of the full Governing Board. **Result:** Committee structure and responsibilities were discussed. No formal motions, committee appointments, or votes were documented. **<u>Simulation: Building a New Society with Resources.</u>** The board engaged in a simulation to give them the experience that their scholars have had or will have. The board was split into 2 committees and assigned to consider the development of a new society off world, where they would not be going themselves, but the next generation would be going. They were instructed to consider what resources they would want to send with them. One group was given a set of 1980's Trivial Pursuit Cards with the instructions to Memorize them so they could teach them. The other group was given a selection of several books suitable for all ages as their resources with the instructions to organize their thoughts about what type of training to give. Thoughtful and lively discussion ensued, the groups came together to present to one another. The experience was humorous, yet also sobering as the board realized the challenge of governance, the Founding Fathers' challenge to share values and views and set something up that would last for hundreds of years without being able to see every foreseeable challenge. Many thoughts were shared on many topics and the board was enriched by the experience.	

Closed Session			
Agenda Item	**Presenter**	**Minutes**	**Time**
		<u>Closed Session</u> No closed session was held during the August 29, 2026 Board retreat.	

Adjournment			
Agenda Item	**Presenter**	**Minutes**	**Time**

Next Meeting: September 16, 2026 6:00pm	Brenda Petru	**Adjournment** The Board concluded its scheduled retreat activities, including governance training, Board development, and committee discussions. **Meeting Adjourned:** Approximately 2:00 PM **Next Meeting:** September 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM.	