



*Mastery Schools of Camden*

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA**

**June 18, 2025**

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**

*Meeting Held at Mastery Cramer Hill Elementary and Virtually Using Zoom*

*Adequate notice of the meeting has been provided on June 21, 2024, to the Courier Post, the South Jersey Inquirer, and the Camden City Clerk and posted on the Mastery website and on the front door of Mastery Schools of Camden.*

### **I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Judy Tschirgi, Hosea Harvey, Reuel Robinson and Johana Velez-Millan

**Quorum:** 4/5

**Absent:** Jim Sheward

**Meeting Started at 6:00 p.m.**

### **II. Action Resolutions**

#### ***R-250618-1***

**Resolved**, to accept the minutes of the Board meeting of Mastery Schools of Camden from May 21, 2025, as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-1**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

### **III. Hiring, Job Changes & Other Earnings**

#### ***R-250618-2***

**Resolved**, to ratify Mastery Schools of Camden staff hired between May 13, 2025, and June 9, 2025.

Motion to approve **250618-2**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

There were no Mastery Schools of Camden job changes between May 13, 2025, and June 9, 2025.

#### ***R-250618-3***

**Resolved**, to ratify the \$277,119.92 of "other earnings" compensation paid between May 13, 2025, and June 9, 2025, for Mastery Schools of Camden staff, as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-3**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

#### **IV. Finance (Dan Bell and Jessica Varevice)**

##### ***R-250618-4***

**Resolved**, that the Mastery Schools of Camden Board of Trustees ratifies the payroll in the amount of \$1,286,662 for May 9, 2025, including \$23,317 of retention incentives, and \$1,590,043 for May 23, 2025, including \$23,317 of retention incentives.

Motion to approve **250618-4**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

##### ***R-250618-5***

**Resolved**, to approve payment of \$4,472,908 for operating expenses as detailed in the invoices listing dated June 18th, 2025.

Motion to approve **250618-5**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

##### ***R-250618-6***

**Resolved**, to ratify execution of contracts for services to Mastery Schools of Camden as presented below:

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Term of Contract</b>	<b>Contract Amount</b>
Yale University	MG Professional Development	5/14/2025-5/15/2025	\$8,000
UMG Cleaning, Inc	Custodial Services	7/1/2025-6/15/2028	\$1,737,030 annually for years 1-2. Terms renegotiated in year 3; max 5% increase.
Johnston Law Firm	Legal Services	7/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$295.00/hr for Principals \$265.00/hr for Associates \$118.00/hr for Paralegal

Motion to approve **250618-6**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

##### ***R-250618-7***

**Resolved**, to approve the proposed FY25 Reserve Balance methodology and commitments for Mastery Schools of Camden as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-7**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

##### ***R-250618-8***

**Resolved**, to approve the proposed FY25 Budget- June Revision for Mastery Schools of Camden as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-8**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

##### ***R-250618-9***

**Resolved**, to approve the proposed FY26 Budget for Mastery Schools of Camden as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-9**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

approval.

**Discussion:**

- Ms. Tschirgi asked about how Mastery Schools of Camden’s fund balance (i.e., reserves) compares to other NJ schools.
- Mr. Bell mentioned that the reserve balances have been strategically building up to support the significant facility improvement projects while setting aside some general emergency reserves.
- Dr. Boyd mentioned that Mastery Schools of Camden reserves are generally higher than other schools/districts to safeguard against the future federal funding volatility, and allow for investments required to support Plan 2029.
- Ms. Varevice highlighted three investment areas: instructional rigor, curriculum adoption, and digital proficiency, along with the need for a Camden-specific support team.
- Dr. Baldwin provided updates on the Camden tutoring pilot and curriculum rollouts, stressing targeted coaching and equitable digital access.
- Ms. Tschirgi questioned the purpose of a new NJ data center.
- Mr. Bell clarified its role in ensuring network redundancy for stability across campuses.
- Ms. Velez-Millan asked about the services covered under the Technology Subscription Services.
- Mr. Bell confirmed it covers IT services like Wi-Fi and smart classroom equipment.

**R-250618-10**

**Resolved**, to ratify the renewal of technology subscription services with Mastery Charter High School for FY26 with total fees of \$1,239,000.

Motion to approve **250618-10**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-11**

**Resolved**, to approve the execution of the following insurance policies for Mastery Schools of Camden effective July 1, 2025:

Motion to approve **250618-11**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

- **General Liability** / \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$3,000,000 aggregate (+Excess)
- **Excess Liability** / \$15,000,000
- **Automobile Liability** / \$1,000,000 (+Excess)
- **Workers Compensation** / \$1,000,000 / \$1,000,000 / \$1,000,000 (+Excess)
- **Cyber Liability** / \$1,000,000
- **Educators Legal Liability** (Directors & Officers and Employment Practices) / \$5,000,000
- **Student Accident & Health** / \$100,000 Medical/ \$50,000 from death, dismemberment, paralysis
- **Property** / \$103,210,531 / (includes all Buildings)
- **Crime/Fidelity Bond** (Employee Dishonesty) / \$500,000

- **Fiduciary Liability** / \$2,000,000
- **International Package** / \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 aggregate (+Excess)
- **Active Assailant** / \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 aggregate

**R-250618-12**

**Resolved**, to authorize the submission of Mastery Schools of Camden’s IDEA, Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV applications for FY26.

Motion to approve **250618-12**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-13**

**Resolved**, to authorize the Camden City School District to act as the School Food Authority for Mastery Schools of Camden for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion to approve **250618-13**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-14**

**Resolved**, to approve the Finance Policy and Procedures manual, reflecting updated financials processes.

Motion to approve **250618-14**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**V. Compliance (Michael Patron)**

**Board Appointments**

**R-250618-15**

**Resolved**, to reappoint Reuel Robinson to Mastery Schools of Camden Board of Trustees to a two-year term ending June 30, 2027.

Motion to approve **250618-15**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-16**

**Resolved**, to reappoint Judith Tschirgi to Mastery Schools of Camden Board of Trustees to a two-year term ending June 30, 2027.

Motion to approve **250618-16**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-17**

**Resolved**, to reappoint Johana Velez-Millan to Mastery Schools of Camden Board of Trustees to a two-year term ending June 30, 2027.

Motion to approve **250618-17**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-18**

**Resolved**, to appoint Hosea Harvey to Mastery Schools of Camden Board of Trustees as Chair for a two-year term ending June 30, 2027.

- Further Resolved, to authorize the Hosea Harvey to approve disbursements on behalf of Mastery Schools of Camden.

Motion to approve **250618-18**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-19**

**Resolved**, to make the following annual appointments for the 2025-26 school year.

Motion to approve **250618-19**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

- School Business Officer – Chris Barts
- School Physician – Deborah A. Niles, MD, FAAFP
- Affirmative Action Officer – Michael Patron
- OPRA Custodian of Records – Michael Patron
- Gender Equity (Title IX) Officer – Michael Patron
- Integrated Pest Management – Omar Robinson
- Pension Certifying Officer –Nicholas Sieg
- Supervisor of the Certifying Officer –Chris Barts
- School Safety Specialist – Michael Patron
- Anti-Bullying Coordinator – Rana Shariatdoust
- Board Secretary – Michael Patron

**Board Meetings Calendar 2025-26**

July 30, 2025	Action Agenda - 30 min
August 27, 2025	Action Agenda - 30 min
September 24, 2025	Full Agenda
October 29, 2025	Action Agenda - 30 min
November 19, 2025	Full Agenda
December 17, 2025	Action Agenda - 30 min
January 28, 2026	Action Agenda - 30 min
February 25, 2026	Action Agenda - 30 min
March 18, 2026	Joint Full Day - in person
April 29, 2026	Action Agenda - 30 min
May 20, 2026	Action Agenda - 30 min
June 17, 2026	Full Agenda
*All meetings are Wednesdays@6 except March	

**R-250618-20**

**Resolved**, to adopt the Board meeting calendar for 2025-26 as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-20**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-21**

**Resolved**, to approve the adoption of the Courier Post and South Jersey Inquirer as the official newspapers for posting the board calendar and other related matters.

Motion to approve **250618-21**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-22**

**Resolved**, to adopt the revised NJ Employee Handbook for SY 2025-26 as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-22**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-23**

**Resolved**, to approve the Student Parent Handbook for SY 2025-26 as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-23**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**Discussion:**

- Ms. Tschirgi emphasized the need for a clear communication strategy for families regarding updated graduation requirements.
- Ms. Nunez confirmed it is planned for summer outreach.

**R-250618-24**

**Resolved**, to adopt the Emergency Remote Instruction Plan as required by NJDOE as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-24**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-25**

**Resolved**, to authorize the submission of the proposed Comprehensive Equity Plan as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-25**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-26**

**Resolved**, to accept the HIB Board Report for June as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-26**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

**R-250618-27**

**Resolved**, to ratify the long-term suspensions recommended by the Board of Trustees Long-Term Suspension Committee as presented.

Motion to approve **250618-27**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

## **VI. CEO Report (Joel Boyd)**

### ***R-250618-28***

**WHEREAS**, Jeffrey Pestrak has provided 20 years of dedicated service to our students and staff; and **WHEREAS**, Jeff has consistently gone above and beyond in his role as Founding Principal of Mastery Charter School Thomas Campus and as Executive Schools Officer; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mastery Schools Board extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Jeff for his outstanding contributions to our schools, staff, families, and students.

Motion to approve **250618-28**; Reuel Robinson; Second: Judy Tschirgi; passes with unanimous approval.

### ***Discussion:***

- Dr. Harvey praised Mr. Pestrak for his consistent humility, noting that he never used "I" when discussing accomplishments and always defaulted to "we." He emphasized Mr. Pestrak's commitment to team-based leadership.
- Ms. Tschirgi reflected on Mr. Pestrak's early advocacy for expanding Mastery into Camden. She recalled the hesitation many felt about taking such a bold step and credited Mr. Pestrak's unwavering belief that it could be done.
- Ms. Velez-Millan expressed her admiration for Mr. Pestrak's energy and presence.
- Dr. Boyd shared anecdotes that highlighted Mr. Pestrak's personality.
- Mr. Pestrak stated that he was deeply grateful. He referred to the experience of serving Mastery particularly in Camden, as "the honor of my lifetime."

## **VII. Public Comment – No Public Comments**

## **VIII. Closing Remarks**

## **IX. Ended at 7:10 p.m.**