

Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy was held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at the Paul R. Brown Building, located at 1360 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mrs. Minnie Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all board members and attendees.

WELCOME

President Minnie Price welcomed board members and visitors.

BOARD VALUES

The Board of Directors recited the PRBLA Board Values.

MISSION STATEMENT

The PRBLA Mission Statement was read collectively by the board members.

ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Roll call was conducted by Vice Chairman Dr. Aaron Cox.

Board Members Present

- Mrs. Minnie Price
- Dr. Aaron Cox
- Mr. Quenten Stewart
- Rev. Scott Johnson
- Mr. Walter Drummond
- Dr. Michael Wells

Board Member Absent (Excused)

- Mrs. Beverly Randolph

A quorum was established.

Others in Attendance

- Dr. Jason Wray
- Dr. Jacqueline Wray
- Col. Carl T. Lloyd
- Mrs. Theresa Lloyd
- Mrs. Jeanal McDowell
- Mrs. Lovella Cromartie
- Mr. Adams
- Mia McDowell
- Nia McDowell

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Walter Drummond made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Rev. Scott Johnson. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Quenten Stewart made a motion to approve the March 12, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Rev. Scott Johnson. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Jason Wray presented the Superintendent's Report.

- Current student enrollment stands at 276 students.
 - PRBLA continues to accept applications for enrollment.
 - PRBLA successfully completed all five chapters of Collective Efficacy.
 - Chapter 5, "Leaders Utilize a Collaborative Inquiry Framework," was completed on March 25, 2026.
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BUILDING IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Dr. Jason Wray shared the following building improvement updates:

- Construction of the maintenance building has been completed externally, and work is now focused on the interior, electrical, and water systems.
- Mr. McKoy has provided significant assistance in managing the project, resulting in substantial cost savings to PRBLA.
- A funding request totaling \$290,000 was submitted to the Bladen County Board of Commissioners. As of the meeting date, no official response had been received.

PRC 145 – Stronger Connections Grant Review

- The review was completed on March 17, 2026.
- The final report was submitted to administrators.
- PRBLA received no deficiencies or violations.
- Recommendations were provided and will be addressed.

STAFF UPDATE

- Christie Thomas was introduced as the new 1:1 Facilitator.
- Administration noted that one cadet is currently assigned a 1:1 facilitator pursuant to a court order.

EPIC CENTER TASK UPDATE

- PRBLA currently has zero pending EPIC Center tasks.

VEHICLE UPDATE

Dr. Jason Wray reviewed the vehicle report with board members.

- PRBLA has expanded fleet tracking to 25 vehicles.
 - The school has transitioned primarily to smaller, lighter fleet vehicles.
 - The large wrap bus remains in service.
 - All buses were serviced during Spring Break by the maintenance team.
 - All buses are required to be on campus by 8:00 a.m. daily.
 - Advertisements displayed on PRBLA buses continue to generate positive community feedback and support recruitment efforts.
 - The Blue SCG van is experiencing transmission issues and is awaiting repair.
 - Additional buses are expected to be purchased in the coming weeks.
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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Jason Wray shared curriculum and instructional updates.

- English II and NC Math I were completed during the first semester.
 - Remaining End-of-Course testing includes:
 - NC Math III
 - Biology
 - The upcoming Professional Learning Session with Dr. Caldwell will focus on implementing a student-centered shutdown process.
 - Teachers will establish expectations regarding accountability procedures for students and staff during shutdowns.
 - Coalition updates and highlights from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction were also discussed.
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FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Jacqueline Wray presented the March 2026 Financial Report.

The report included:

- PRC expenditures and balances
- Vendor payments
- Estimated revenue from other school districts

Additional discussion included:

- PRBLA currently carries no debt related to contracts or purchases.

Mr. Walter Drummond made a motion to approve the April 2026 Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Rev. Scott Johnson. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (EC) UPDATE

Mrs. Jeanal McDowell presented the Exceptional Children's Report.

Current EC Enrollment

- 62 students currently participate in the EC Program:
 - 18 middle school students
 - 44 high school students

PRBLA continues to review and monitor student records for the 2025–2026 school year to determine eligibility for special education services through the Child Find process.

ServiceSource Camp

PRBLA will host ServiceSource Camp from June 15–25, 2026, operating Monday through Thursday.

The program will be available to Bladen County high school students and will focus on:

- Workplace communication
- Professionalism
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Self-advocacy
- Career exploration
- Resume development
- Interview preparation

CHILD NUTRITION REPORT

Mrs. Lovella Cromartie presented the Child Nutrition Report.

- Meals were served for 21 days during April 2026 due to one optional teacher workday.
- PRBLA served a total of 5,017 student meals, including breakfast and lunch.

- The school averaged 238 meals per day.
 - The target average remains 300 meals daily.
 - Estimated reimbursement for April 2026 totals \$19,493.58.
 - Current Child Nutrition account balance is \$64,378.47.
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PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Old business items were addressed during the Superintendent's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business items were discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

Rev. Scott Johnson made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Drummond. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Walter Drummond made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Quenten Stewart. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PERSONNEL ACTION

Dr. Aaron Cox made a motion to renew the Superintendent's contract for three years at the current financial terms, with a salary increase to be considered upon approval of the state budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Drummond. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walter Drummond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Aaron Cox. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Aaron Cox
Vice Chairman
Board of Directors