

**The Chatfield School**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Meeting**  
**April 15, 2026 - 5:00 PM**

Present at this meeting in an official capacity: Stephen Elzerman, Matt Schaller, Alex Wolfe, Kristen Ball, Bob Kurtz (school co-director), Kristi Huestis (school co-director)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:02 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Elzerman (present), Schaller (present), Vanacek (unable to attend on this date), Wolfe (present), Ball (present)
3. **Approval of agenda:** Moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, the agenda be approved as presented. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
4. **Presentations:** None at this meeting.
5. **Approval of Proposed Regular Meeting minutes from March 18, 2026:** Moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, the minutes were approved as presented. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
6. **Monthly Financials - March 2026:** Frank Patterson of TF/MM had provided a synopsis of the financial information for March, complementing the financial reporting shared by Deb Pert. As the Board Treasurer was unable to be present at this meeting, to give advice and context to our financial reports, it was moved by Elzerman, supported by Schaller, that the approval of the March financial report be tabled until the May Board meeting. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
7. **Correspondence:** A letter from a staff member was read aloud reflecting staff perspectives regarding the current Educational Service Provider (ESP) arrangement. Discussion among Board members expanded to include the upcoming budget process, long-term operational planning, and opportunities to transition certain functions back toward approaches more consistent with Chatfield's traditional practices, culture, priorities, educational values and reliance on local talent and leadership. Following discussion, it was moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, that after consulting legal counsel regarding contract language and receiving legal clearance, the Board end, under the terms of the ESP contract, the use of Teachers First / Midwest Management's financial management and pupil accounting support add-on services, while retaining their human resources services as required by the authorizer. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
8. **Public Comment (agenda items only):** Staff members who were present rose to concur with the correspondent's expressed concerns.
9. **Directors' report:** Kristi Huestis and Bob Kurtz provided a comprehensive written report and made copies available to all attendees; they confirmed the approval of funds for water filtration and alerted the Board that less was received than originally requested, prompting modification of plans to install bottle filling stations, but the funding to be provided should be adequate to complete the (State required) project; mulch has been donated for the playground, additional roof leaks have been addressed, the kitchen upgrades are being planned and seem financially within reach, Charter Day (in Lansing) was a huge success for Chatfield, 26-27 enrollment is set, and Teacher Appreciation Week is upcoming. The Co-Directors reported that approval of the appeal to the

Department of Education for forgiveness of school cancellations (snow days) is anticipated but has not been announced, and it was moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, that May 22 would be assigned as a "school day" (currently a non-student day on the 25-26 calendar) if necessary. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.

10. **ESP Report:** Michelle Kyles, of Teachers First, had provided a detailed report that graphed data on compliance (with authorizer and State requirements) and gave updates on administrative evaluations and grant processes.
11. **Old Business**
  - a. **Filter First update:** As discussed by the Co-Directors, we have been approved for funding and will move forward with water filtration requirements.
12. **New Business**
  - a. **Board Policy Updates - 1st Read:** Board members received a quick overview of the NCSI recommendations and legal requirements of the latest policy updates, and Board members have the full documentation for consideration; adoption (or not) will be included in the May meeting agenda.
13. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Finance Committee:** Board Trustee (S. Elzerman) reported on the April meeting, and the need to focus on finishing out the financials for 25-26 year and the preparation of the budget for 26-27
  - b. **Wellness Committee:** Board V.P. (M. Schaller) reported that the policy updates that will be considered this spring will include an update to the Wellness policy, prepared by NCSI at our request.
14. **Public Comments:** None at this time.
15. **Confirmation of next meeting:** Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 5:00 pm
16. **Adjournment:** Moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, that the meeting be adjourned. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm. Meeting minutes and supporting documents respectfully submitted by Kristen Ball.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Ball

5.20.26  
Date