

The Chatfield School
Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 17, 2025 - 5:00 PM

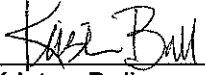
Present at this meeting in an official capacity: Matt Schaller, Jennifer Vanacek, Alex Wolfe, Stephen Elzerman, Kristen Ball, Bob Kurtz (school co-director), Kristi Huestis (school co-director), Angela Irwin (SVSU appointed mentor for the Board), Michelle Kyles (Teachers First), Frank Patterson (Teachers First)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:00 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Elzerman (present), Schaller (present), Vanacek (present), Wolfe (present), Ball (present)
3. **Approval of agenda:** After two minor changes (addition of MHSAA approval, no need for a closed session), it was moved by Schaller, supported by Vanacek, the agenda be approved.. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Vanacek - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
4. **Presentations:** None at this meeting
5. **Approval of Proposed Regular Meeting minutes from August 27, 2025:** Moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, the minutes be approved as presented. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Vanacek - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
6. **Monthly Financials - August 2025:** Frank Patterson of TF/MM presented the financial reports for August, focusing on the concerns about lack of approved State budget and its expected impact on school finances and grant awards; recommendations were made about preemptive planning in case the State budget is not confirmed in time for October's required costs, and Board members discussed approaching local financial institutions to arrange for a short term "bridge" loan; the details of such a loan, and further observations from TF/MM, supported moving forward on arrangements for a loan. Moved by Vanacek, supported by Schaller, the August financial report was approved. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Vanacek - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.
7. **Correspondence:** Staff members sent multiple letters and email to the Board, with topics including surprise at the renewal "contracts" from TF/MM with no increase in pay from 24-25, the impression that a lack of pay increase signaled a lack of respect for the staff and lack of understanding of the role the staff have in the success of the school, and a concern about whether they should consider offers from local districts who would pay more and who would honor their longevity (although all indicated that this was an undesirable option), among other concerns. In the interest of time and staff confidentiality, excerpts from the letters were shared publicly but all the correspondence was shared with Board members in entirety.
8. **Public Comment (agenda items only):** None at this time
9. **Directors' report:** Kristi Huestis and Bob Kurtz provided a comprehensive written report and made copies available to all attendees; the report will be available as an attachment to the minutes for this month.

15. Confirmation of next meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

16. Adjournment: Moved by Schaller, supported by Elzerman, that the meeting be adjourned. Ball - aye, Elzerman - aye, Schaller - aye, Vanacek - aye, Wolfe - aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm. Meeting minutes and supporting documents respectfully submitted by Kristen Ball.



Kristen Ball

10.15.2025

Date