



MINUTES

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission Meeting

August 27, 2025

Davy Crockett Tower | Microsoft Teams Meeting

Video Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYi_S-Ofpss

Note: These minutes correspond to the video recording. Each item has a minute counter assigned to the subject location in the audio file.

Welcome and Call-to-Order

00:00:00-00:05:30

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Action of the Commission

Roll Call/Quorum

Committee Member Name	Attendance
Michael Carter	Present
Tom Griscom	Present
Thomas Lehrman	Present
Alan Levine	Present
Terence Patterson	Present
Eddie Smith	Absent at roll call
Lauren Smith	Present
Chris Richards	Present

Outcome: 7 of 8 present; quorum established

Approval of Agenda

Action of the Commission



Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion made by: Tom Griscom | Seconded by: Michael Carter

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 7 ayes, 0 noes; agenda approved

Approval of Prior Minutes

Action of the Commission

Approval of Prior Minutes from July 25, 2025

Motion made by: Tom Griscom | Seconded by: Lauren Smith

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes

Committee Member Name	Vote
Eddie Smith	Absent
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 7 ayes, 0 noes; minutes approved

Public Comment

00:05:30-00:47:38

Public comments were made by The Forge School representatives.

New Start Appeal – The Forge School

00:47:38-2:00:32

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Hayden Pendergrass to present statements received and to introduce representatives.

- Presenter – Shereka Roby-Grant, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Presenter – Sara Tuttle, The Forge School

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present The Forge School appeal.

Action of the Commission:

Approval to uphold the denial of The Forge School appeal

Motion made by: Tom Griscom | Seconded by: Michael Carter

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	No
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	No



Committee Member Name	Vote
Lauren Smith	No
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 5 ayes, 3 noes; motion is approved

New Start Appeal – The Rock Academy

2:00:32-2:30:55

Public comments were made by The Rock Academy representatives.

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Hayden Pendergrass to present statements received and to introduce representatives.

- Presenter – Shereka Roby-Grant, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Presenter – Dr. Ahmed White, The Rock Academy

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present The Rock Academy appeal.

Action of the Commission:

Approval to overturn the denial of The Rock Academy

Motion made by: Michael Carter | Seconded by: Eddie Smith

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes



Outcome: 8 ayes, 0 noes; motion is approved

Adjournment

02:30:55-02:32:14

Action of the Commission

Chris Richards, Chairman, adjourned the meeting.

Motion made by: Eddie Smith | Seconded by: Alan Levine

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes, 0 noes; motion is approved

Chairman Richards adjourned the meeting.