

MINUTES

Commission Meeting (Part 2)

October 17, 2025

Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN

Video Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI8_PEvGXn0

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

00:00:00-00:12:31

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

Roll Call

Action of the Commission

Roll Call/Quorum

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

Outcome: 6 of 9 present; quorum established.

New Start Appeal – Dream Catchers Charter School
00:12:31-00:30:04

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

- Written Statement – Memphis-Shelby County Schools
- Written Statement – Dream Catchers Charter School

Chris Richards recognized Tess Stovall to present the Dream Catchers Charter School appeal.

Action of the Commission

Approval to uphold the denial of Dream Catchers Charter School appeal.

Motion made by: Eddie Smith | Seconded by: Terence Patterson

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

Outcome: 6 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved.

New Start Appeal – Still I Rise Academy
00:30:04-00:53:58

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

- Written Statement – Memphis-Shelby County Schools
- Written Statement – Still I Rise Academy

Chris Richards recognized Tess Stovall to present the Still I Rise Academy appeal.

Action of the Commission

Approval to uphold the denial of Still I Rise Academy appeal.

Motion made by: Eddie Smith | Seconded by: Terence Patterson

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

Outcome: 6 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

New Start Appeal – Kirby Middle School

00:53:58-01:27:50

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

- Written Statement – Memphis-Shelby County Schools

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present Kirby Middle School appeal.

Action of the Commission

Approval to uphold the denial of the Kirby Middle School appeal.

Motion made by: Terence Patterson | Seconded by: Lauren Smith

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

Outcome: 6 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

New Start Appeal – Hillcrest High School

01:27:50-01:54:22

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

- Written Statement – Memphis-Shelby County Schools

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present the Hillcrest High School appeal.

Action of the Commission

Approval to uphold the denial of the Hillcrest High School appeal.

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

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes

Thomas Lehrman	Absent
Alan Levine	Absent
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	No

Outcome: 5 ayes; 1 no; motion approved

Adjournment

01:54:22-01:55:54

Action of the Commission

Motion to adjourn meeting

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

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



Outcome: 6 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, adjourned the meeting.