TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission Meeting

July 24, 2026

UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St, Knoxville, TN 37902

Video Recording: July 24, 2026 Commission Business Meeting

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 **00:00:00-00:03:25**

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	Present
Alan Levine	Present
Tom Marino	Present
Terence Patterson	Present
Eddie Smith	Present
Lauren Smith	Present
Chris Richards	Present

Outcome: 8 of 9 present; quorum established

Approval of Agenda

Action of the Commission

Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; agenda approved

Approval of Prior Minutes

Action of the Commission

Approval of Prior Minutes from June 2, 2026

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

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes

Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; minutes approved

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Business Operations Committee Report **00:03:25-00:06:37**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Lawrence Walker to present enterprise risk management and operational updates, proposed Commission meeting dates, the FY26 budget, the amended FY27 budget, FY28 projected budget, and grants management system pre-approval.

Action of the Commission

Approval of the 2027 Commission meeting dates.

Motion made by: Eddie Smith| Seconded by: Lauren Smith

Committee Member Name	**Vote**
Michael Carter	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes

Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Action of the Commission

Approval of the amended FY27 budget

Motion made by: Eddie Smith| Seconded by: Lauren Smith

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Action of the Commission

Approval of the preliminary FY28 budget

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Action of the Commission

Approval of the procurement of a grants management system

Motion made by: Thomas Lehrman| Seconded by: Eddie Smith

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

Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

School Performance and Accountability Report **00:06:37-00:08:40**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Maggie Lund to present Commission school interventions, pre-opening updates, 25-26 school year updates, and preview of the 26-27 school year.

Rules, Policy, and Governance Report **00:08:40-00:13:25**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashlely Thomas to present the LEA policy consent agenda on first and final reading.

Action of the Commission

Approval of LEA policy consent agenda on first and final reading

Motion made by: Lauren Smith | Seconded by: Eddie Smith

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present Commission policies 3.010 and 3.600 on first reading.

Action of the Commission

Approval of Commission policies 3.010 and 3.600 on first reading

Motion made by: Eddie Smith | Seconded by: Thomas Lehrman

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present Commission Rule 1185-01-01-.04 on first reading.

Action of the Commission

Approval of Commission Rule 1185-01-01-.04 on first reading

Motion made by: Eddie Smith | Seconded by: Lauren Smith

Committee Member Name	**Vote**
Michael Carter	Absent

Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present Commission Rule 1185-01-04 on final reading.

Action of the Commission

Approval of Commission Rule 1185-01-04 on final reading

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

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

Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Charter Agreements and MOUS **00:13:25-00:17:04**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present the charter agreement for Libertas School of Memphis.

Action of the Commission

Approval of charter agreement for Libertas School of Memphis

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present Geographic LEA MOUs.

Action of the Commission

Approval of staff to negotiate MOU terms and designate Executive Director as signatory

Motion made by: Eddie Smith| Seconded by: Lauren Smith

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Charter School Landscape **00:17:04-01:19:04**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Rebecca Ledebuhr to present the statewide charter school landscape.

Strategic Plan Update **01:19:04-01:33:51**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Pam Lehman to present strategic plan updates.

Action of the Commission

Approval of the Strategic Plan updates including Commissioner Griscom's edits

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

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Absent

Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

New Start Appeals Overview **01:33:51-02:24:07**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Beth Elpers and Ashley Thomas to present the new start appeals process and a preview of future work.

Executive Director Updates **02:24:07-02:36:40**

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present updates, and Hayden Pendergrass to present legislative items.

Adjournment **02:36:40-02:37:49**

Action of the Commission

Approval to adjourn meeting

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

Committee Member Name	**Vote**
Michael Carter	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes

Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, adjourned the meeting.