



MINUTES

Commission Meeting

January 23, 2026

Davy Crockett Building, Room 1A, Nashville, TN 37243

Video Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMlpNO546O4>

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

00:00:00-00:03:17

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
Tom Marino	Present
Terence Patterson	Absent
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: Alan Levine | Seconded by: Tom Griscom

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Absent
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 October 16 & 17, 2025

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

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; minutes approved

Public Comment

00:03:17-00:21:35

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Hayden Pendergrass to present public comments.

Public comments were made by the following:

Ricki Gibbs | LEAD Public Schools

Josh Fulmer | Leasing Agent for Knowledge Academy

Samirbek Abduvalie | Student Council President at Knowledge Academy

Kerolos Fahmy | Student at Knowledge Academy

LaDonna Richardson | Parent at Knowledge Academy

Tom Lee | Counsel for Knowledge Academy

Tamara Abbott | Director of Operations for Knowledge Academy

LaTonya White | Principal at Knowledge Academy

Business Operations Committee Report

00:21:35-00:23:31

Michael Carter, Committee Chairman, recognized Lawrence Walker to present the FY25 Authorizer Fee report, the FY26 Commission Budget, and the FY27 budget request.

School Performance and Accountability Report

00:23:31-00:30:12



Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Beth Figueroa to present the SY25-26 School Year update, the Annual Report, the Commission School Intervention and Next Steps, an amendment petition from LEAD Neely's Bend, probationary status for Wooddale Middle School, probationary status for Lester Prep, and the Opportunity Public Charter School performance framework.

Action of the Commission

Approval to place Wooddale Middle School and Lester Prep on probationary status

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Action of the Commission

Approval of the amendment petition and amended charter agreement for LEAD Neely's Bend

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Rules, Policy, and Governance Committee Report

00:30:12-00:33:05

Lauren Smith, Committee Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present the LEA Policy, Commission Policy, and Commission Rule Updates.

Action of the Commission

Approval of LEA Policy 3.400 on first reading

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

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Action of the Commission

Approval of Commission Policies 1.200, 2.000, 2.100, 2.200, 2.300, 3.300, 3.500, 3.600, and 3.900 on first and final reading

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
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Absent
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Action of the Commission

Approval of Commission Policy 3.710 on final reading

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

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Renewal Appeal – Knowledge Academy at the Crossings

00:33:05-02:09:30

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

- Presenter - Shereka Roby-Grant, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Presenter - Sherry Hage, Noble Education Initiative

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present the renewal appeal for Knowledge Academy at the Crossings.

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, opened the meeting by inviting Commissioners to ask questions to Shereka Roby-Grant, Sherry Hage, and Dr. Eve Carney – Noble Education Initiative.

Action of the Commission

Approval to adopt the executive director’s recommendation of a 5-year charter agreement with a maximum enrollment of 700 students for Knowledge Academy at the Crossings

Motion made by: Alan Levine | Seconded by: Michael Carter

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes
Tom Griscom	Yes
Thomas Lehrman	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Tom Marino	Yes
Terence Patterson	Absent
Eddie Smith	Yes
Lauren Smith	No
Chris Richards	No

Outcome: 6 ayes; 2 noes; motion is approved

Break

02:09:30-02:11:22

Charter Agreements

02:11:22-02:14:00

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Ashley Thomas to present charter agreements from The Rock Academy, Jackson Museum School, and Rocketship TN #4.

Action of the Commission

Approval of charter agreements for The Rock Academy, Jackson Museum School, and Rocketship TN #4

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

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

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

Outcome: 7 ayes; 1 no; motion approved

New Start Application Process and Public Chapter 275

02:14:00-02:41:17

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Beth Figueroa to present the New Start Application Process and Public Chapter 275.

Commission Strategic Plan Update

02:41:17-02:44:34

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Pam Lehman to present the Strategic Plan Update.

Executive Director Update

02:44:34-02:45:49

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Tess Stovall to present the Executive Director Update.

Legislative Updates

02:45:49-02:47:50

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, recognized Hayden Pendergrass to present the Legislative Update.

Adjournment

02:47:50-02:53:24

Action of the Commission

Approval to adjourn meeting

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

Committee Member Name	Vote
Michael Carter	Yes

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

Outcome: 8 ayes; 0 noes; motion approved

Chris Richards, Commission Chairman, adjourned the meeting.