

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:25:11

Unknown

Able to email the last few people. I do have your names on the list. I will be calling your name, when it is your turn to speak. Now, the bylaws, state that the board holds 30 minutes at the beginning of our meetings for public comments, and last time we allowed that to go much past the 30 minutes, because I felt like it was important for everyone to have the ability to have their, their cell heard and have their say.

00:00:25:14 - 00:00:42:08

Unknown

We do, however, have a pretty lengthy, agenda tonight. So I am going to try to keep it to 30 minutes. I don't think that will be a problem because we only have, I think, six people who have signed up to speak. But, I will be, kind of keeping an eye on making sure that our speakers stay close to the three minute mark, which is what we give.

00:00:42:15 - 00:01:03:24

Unknown

And at the beginning of all public comments, I read this because this is, the board's position about public comments. So as a reminder, the board does allow public comments in our meeting and we welcome your feedback. However, we do have rules in place to ensure that the meeting proceeds respectfully and in a timely manner. Public speakers are given three minutes to speak and may not see their time to any other speaker.

00:01:03:27 - 00:01:35:11

Unknown

The board does not respond to public speakers, nor should the speaker ask questions of the board collectively or individually. The board does not permit speakers to reveal information regarding confidential members, such as legal matters, student discipline, or personal matters that should be taken up with administration directly, as the board does not handle personnel or student discipline. Members. The board will not tolerate any hate speech or defamatory speech towards any green student, teacher, staff member, administrator or board member and doing so for the remainder of speaker's time.

00:01:35:13 - 00:02:01:29

Unknown

The Board Chair reserves the right to end the speaker's time at any time, if the speaker violates any of the above rules. And I would thank you all to please hold to those rules so let me get my list here. I believe that the first speaker that we have is, Eric Rochelle. So if you were here, please unmute yourself.

00:02:02:02 - 00:02:26:26

Unknown

Yep. So my name is Eric Paschal, parent to Green Charter Elementary. I'm Pelham Road. I want

to start off by commanding, the teachers and staff under the leadership of Fitz. Those people are the only reason I choose to send my kids to green. Next, I'd like to publicly address the board. Even though you've made it clear that you're not offering any responses to any questions, members of the board.

00:02:26:29 - 00:02:51:29

Unknown

Your own bylaws state that you are responsible for maintaining public trust, and I'm here to tell you that trust has been broken. Parents have been repeatedly told the organization is financially stable. Then, without warning, teachers were laid off, staff was laid off, employee benefits were cut, and cleaning crews went unpaid. These are not minor accounting issues. They are red flags of serious governance failure.

00:02:52:01 - 00:03:24:10

Unknown

There's an ongoing lack of transparency in governance itself. Parents are expected to participate in board elections without knowing which board members support transparency, accountability parents interests. Additionally, the absence of visible dissent or debate from the board creates the impression that the decisions are predetermined rather than thoughtfully deliberated regarding safety and ethics. Mandated reporter laws have been violated. A principal was arrested.

00:03:24:12 - 00:03:56:21

Unknown

Rather than focusing on the safety of the children, the executive director publicly defended the individual. Your bylaws are clear. The board shall ensure compliance of all constitutional, statutory and ethical requirements. That's your responsibility. Defending adults must never come before protecting children. Your bylaws further state that the board is responsible for hiring and evaluation of the executive director, who in turn is responsible for exercising direction and control over all financial affairs.

00:03:56:23 - 00:04:26:21

Unknown

Given the current situation, it appears to parents that either a the executive director wasn't properly supervising finances or b the board wasn't exercising meaningful oversight because of the lack of transparency. I felt forced to file FOI our requests for basic financial records instead of being sent to finance. They were routed to attorneys who had attempted to delay or avoid disclosure for your requests for compliance is not optional.

00:04:26:23 - 00:04:53:09

Unknown

It's a legal obligation and the appearance of obstruction only deepens my concern. Finally, at the last board meeting, more than 200 parents showed up seeking answers and after nearly

three hours of closed session, 120 parents still waiting were told nothing. No explanations. No timeline, no accountability. That is not transparency. The day after the meeting, parents were labeled as unpaid unprofessional for demanding answers.

00:04:53:16 - 00:05:22:00

Unknown

So we'll close with two questions asked in good faith. One does withholding information, avoiding accountability, and dismissing legitimate concerns ensure public trust? And two, do you believe the board is upholding personal responsibility as outlined in your own bylaws? And if so, how are parents expected to react? Given what we're allowed to see. Thank you.

00:05:22:03 - 00:05:38:20

Unknown

Thank you. Your time is up. Thank you for your comments. Okay. The next person is Miss Sarah.

00:05:38:22 - 00:05:57:08

Unknown

Thank you. My name is Sarah, and I'm a parent at green, and I feel like I should say blah blah blah blah blah, blah blah, because that's what I feel like we sound like as parents to the board in Central office, because we've repeatedly raised the same alarm bells and concerns and are often too often met with silence, defense, or redirection.

00:05:57:10 - 00:06:22:06

Unknown

Nothing has changed or created reassurance in this last year, despite our efforts to email call, follow proper protocols to meet with various members of the board. Central office, our own school principals in the proper order. Nothing has changed or create a reassurance. And no matter the questions and concerns we've raised. So I fear we sound like white noise to the board and to central office, rather than concerned parents who are to be taken seriously.

00:06:22:06 - 00:06:51:14

Unknown

And after this meeting. I hope that you hear us this time. As I said before, I've been a proud supporter of misfits and the entire faculty of Green Pelham, and I want to use this time to raise concerns that I fear directly and negatively impact our students, teachers, and ultimately, green and its reputation. Green has a history of not being transparent, and I would like the board to know that we depend on you to hold Central Office and leadership accountable, particularly to all financial and personnel decisions through public documents.

00:06:51:15 - 00:07:11:16

Unknown

We see the way that headquarters is well paid and receives raises, and has continued to

expand and create new positions while teachers, staff and basic school supplies. And now, as we see it, the middle school safety needs are not met. We've seen layoffs happening in positions at our school that they very much depend on for basic function in the name of these cutbacks.

00:07:11:19 - 00:07:33:00

Unknown

I want to know who at Central Office has received a pay cut as well. Who has central office has had their benefits cut as well. We're being asked as parents to pay unusually high fees for field trips, extra school supplies, or to participate in athletics. And on top of that, annual school fees that are new. Yet there's no transparency or even paper trail to show where these funds are actually going.

00:07:33:07 - 00:07:55:22

Unknown

I'm concerned that for 12 months, myself and numerous families have been asking for a detailed budget of our campuses, and yet we are provided with this. A few Excel rows, a few Excel rows for a multimillion dollar, business that includes things like other materials for one of our budget line items that does not offer much confidence to the public.

00:07:55:26 - 00:08:17:18

Unknown

Central office likes to call us stakeholders. And so as such, I want to know where my dollars as a stakeholder, as are going and why the goalpost for our needs keeps moving. Who's being held accountable for facing the consequences of our financial hardships? The consequences of these decisions should not fall on us as families, teachers or staff, but those who ultimately make the decisions and who approve our budgets board.

00:08:17:21 - 00:08:37:09

Unknown

The public has been clear it's losing its faith and trust in the stability and the longevity of this school, and solely because of the leadership at the top, meaning the board and central office. Repeatedly, we've heard that recent cuts and new student fees are because of this urgent need to make ends meet, but I don't see an urgent need to rebuild the public trust.

00:08:37:12 - 00:09:02:05

Unknown

If public trust is lost, enrollment and employment will be lost soon after. The leadership at green must change and it must be changed now before the reputation of green is too damaged. Finally, as leaders of green, the buck stops with you board members. Your bylaws require you to hold Central Office accountable, particularly as a public 501 C3. And that means providing clear and detailed financial statements and audits for the public to review.

00:09:02:07 - 00:09:25:15

Unknown

If the board cannot produce adequate transparency and hold Central Office accountable, then the board is failing to hold its own bylaws. I want to know that justice and integrity and transparency will prevail at green. And I want to see that action taken now. Thank you. Thank you. Mr.. The time is up.

00:09:25:17 - 00:09:40:11

Unknown

All right.

00:09:40:14 - 00:10:01:02

Unknown

Our next speaker is, Patricia Woolard. Hello. Thank you for having me. I'm a parent at the Simpsonville location, and I'll be short and quick. At the end of the last board meeting, the board said that they would schedule an open Q&A session so that parents could ask questions directly and get very. I am hopeful that this will come up later in the evening.

00:10:01:03 - 00:10:20:03

Unknown

Maybe that's part of the new business. I know we just had winter break, but I wanted to reiterate again the benefits of this meeting and having a soon for a lot of the reasons we just heard about. This Q&A session will hopefully bring clarity to the situation and help green stakeholders feel more comfortable with what's going on, or help us address what we need to address.

00:10:20:05 - 00:10:31:22

Unknown

Thank you. Thank you, Miss Willard.

00:10:31:24 - 00:10:48:18

Unknown

All right. And. The next one, And unfortunately, I was not able, like I said, to email you back because of my computer updating, but it's, Kaitlyn Remington.

00:10:48:20 - 00:11:20:15

Unknown

I, had emailed you asking, if you have received any of the resources I sent the board, repeatedly about the committee composition and basically about the fact that, we basically have a board that isn't set up the way it's supposed to be set up. We are missing key, committees on the board, specifically a school performance or academic committee, as well as a development development committee.

00:11:20:17 - 00:12:04:02

Unknown

I've done quite a bit of research on this. And sent you guys resources from the National Charter Resource Center, which is funded by the US Department of Education. They are a, they provide technical assistance to sector stakeholders, and they have a comprehensive collection of online resources addressing challenges that charter schools face. Yet no one from the board has responded to me, letting me know that they have actually read any of these documents and, and noted that, we are missing some key oversight on our board, specifically academic or school school performance.

00:12:04:05 - 00:12:38:27

Unknown

I've gone back and through the minutes. I don't understand how. And since Tom Cronin has been there March. March 10th, 2022, he, introduced Bobby Rollins as the teaching and learning director. But then January 9th, 2025, Doctor Antoinette Ryan was introduced as the part time director of Teaching and Learning and then a short time later, June 12th, 2025, we have now have an interim Director of teaching, Teaching and Learning, Doctor Kelsey Pennington.

00:12:39:02 - 00:13:06:29

Unknown

I don't understand how why almost every single board meeting focuses on enrollment numbers and what we are doing. So desperately for enrollment numbers, when nothing can be done to align our curricular curriculum along, all of the campuses or to work on instruction and to work on what actually made green good in the first place.

00:13:07:01 - 00:13:37:27

Unknown

Our teachers do an amazing job. I'd like to also say that I agree with the first speaker. That's exactly why we are at green and why we are fighting for this. Because we have an amazing group of school leaders and teachers, but we are seriously lacking when it comes to a board that is actually provides oversight. And when it comes to a an executive team that can actually manage what's going on.

00:13:38:00 - 00:14:09:16

Unknown

I don't understand the budget and the financial management right now. Supposedly enrollment is down and that's all of our reasons, but we are only down 143 students. But we're taking cuts. We're taking cuts at every single campus. Back in June 12th, 2025, the budget or again, we were down 254 students. I'm just going and I'm 100 of them were supposed to be at the Midlands campus and didn't show up.

00:14:09:19 - 00:14:24:12

Unknown

It's just ravaging the middle. And that was it. Thank you, Miss Remington. I'd like the response

from the board from my emails at some point. Thank you, Miss Remington. Thank you.

00:14:24:15 - 00:14:52:15

Unknown

Our next speaker is, April Smith. Hi. My name is April Smith. My daughter goes to Green Charter Middle School in Greenville. And a little bit of what I'm going to say is going to sound like the others, because I'm going to mention how amazing the teachers are and, and my neighborhood and my community, my friends, my family, people.

00:14:52:15 - 00:15:24:16

Unknown

My daughter went to elementary school with their parents. They ask, where should I send my kid? Are you happy with green? What are your thoughts? Or maybe I'm thinking of sending my kid to the elementary school, whatever it may be. And I have said before, 100% send your kid to green. I love the teachers. They are amazing. I've never seen any teachers in my life go as above and beyond as the teachers at green do for their students.

00:15:24:18 - 00:15:55:27

Unknown

And now here it is in the future and I get asked the same questions, and I honestly don't know what to say in the mom groups and everything else. When people are mentioning green or, I'm not. They're advocating because I don't know what the situation is. All before it was like, sure, a little disorganized, maybe some financial issues, the busses aren't running right or whatever.

00:15:55:27 - 00:16:21:08

Unknown

The main thing is, but it didn't matter because the teachers are amazing and I'm willing to deal with that. And then now teachers are worried are they going to keep their jobs after you've let them go? I'm sure some of them are probably looking for other jobs because they're insecure. And honestly, the teachers are the one good thing that green has going for them.

00:16:21:10 - 00:16:49:09

Unknown

That is what brings us here and makes us want to stay, and makes us all want to fight for this because the teachers are amazing. Everything else is a mess, but the teachers are amazing and I really want to hear in the future what green plans to do to give them security, to keep them there, to make sure that the teachers that are there, that are great are going to stay.

00:16:49:12 - 00:17:13:15

Unknown

And what makes Green fantastic still is there, because without them, why are we here? Why are the parents that show up and are involved in the care and the I mean, my daughter and others I know, like they show up to school, they go to class every day. They work really hard. They get

good grades, they make high test scores.

00:17:13:15 - 00:17:43:11

Unknown

They are not disciplinary problems like we as a community, all of us here trying so hard. We are what make you guys a successful school. And I don't see anything making us want to stay.

What are what is green going to do in the future to make it to where the teachers want to stay and buy in? Cause and effect, make us want to stay and keep us.

00:17:43:15 - 00:18:07:29

Unknown

So what is green going to do to have that retention? Thank you. Thank you. Mandy. Good evening. My name is Kristen. I'm a parent at the middle school campus that is currently closed due to vandalism that could have been prevented if the school had addressed a known safety issue with an exterior door that failed to close properly.

00:18:08:02 - 00:18:41:11

Unknown

I am grateful that the outcome of this negligence was merely damage to a building, and not something that could have harmed our children and teachers. I hope we're working diligently now to address potential safety issues at all of the campuses to prevent recurrence. On the topic of safety, as most are aware, multiple elementary students were sexually abused on a green campus by a green staff member and Tom cram, I'm sorry, we can't talk about anything.

00:18:41:11 - 00:19:00:01

Unknown

That's a legal matter. I'm sorry. That's the extent of it. I just wanted to address the the subject matter switch. I'm not going to go into the details of the loss. Okay? Thank you. It's just not a legal matter. It's an ongoing legal matter that we're not allowed to discuss. It's public record. I understand that, but it is a legal matter that we are not allowed to discuss.

00:19:00:01 - 00:19:19:20

Unknown

In the beginning of our statement, we say that because there are legal factors at play here that we can't be discussing in a public meeting like this. I'm sorry, I would like to, you know, elementary school. I'm sorry, but you're not allowed. This is okay. The board meeting, there's a public session, but there are rules for the board meetings.

00:19:19:23 - 00:19:41:15

Unknown

This is not a free for all. We are not allowed to just stand up and shout out things. There's a reason that we have a rule of. We have people who sign up for speakers. We can't allow it to devolve. I'm sorry, Kristen, that I interrupted you. I do appreciate you understanding and I please

would ask everyone else to maintain the rules of decorum.

00:19:41:17 - 00:20:06:08

Unknown

I you can you feel free to keep going. I just yeah. I will pivot. I just wanted to set the stage for what I'm about to address here. Which is Mr. Cronin's response, his support of a principal who failed to uphold her duty as a mandatory reporter sends a message that Greene cares more about protecting individual adults reputations more than protecting our students.

00:20:06:10 - 00:20:43:03

Unknown

But we could send a message of our own that we disagree by removing Mr. Cronin from his leadership position. Mr. Cronin's continued role as a figurehead is creating deep uncertainty. If the schools can operate safely and if they can operate with transparency. Under his leadership, with awareness of how poorly the investigation was handled, how the abuse was able to occur in the first place, and new awareness of other campus security issues, parents question if our children are truly safe at any of the schools.

00:20:43:06 - 00:21:07:13

Unknown

In light of the layoffs that occurred before Thanksgiving, initially attributed to low enrollment numbers, parents are afraid that staff will now resign and masks to jump off of a sinking ship. And I don't blame them. And out of fear of closure due to financial mismanagement, parents are making contingency plans for the next school year if the current students do not return.

00:21:07:13 - 00:21:44:16

Unknown

I imagine enrollment numbers will tank overall, leading some more layoffs, and that could be a pretty vicious spiral. A change in leadership and radical transparency with how the organization is run is the only solution to renew the community's faith in green. We need to demonstrate that we are willing to clean house when it comes to holding people accountable and protecting our kids, regardless of whether it's safety issues, legal fees, enrollment problems, a \$4 million Hvac project, anything else that might be swept under the rug.

00:21:44:19 - 00:22:06:21

Unknown

It boils down to one key fact, which is that students and educators pay the price for the poor choices made by the people in positions of power, and this should weigh heavily on the consciences of Mr. Cronin, the board members, and anybody in the central office who's failed to act in the best interest of the stakeholders. Thank you.

00:22:06:25 - 00:22:32:15

Unknown

And again, I apologize or no, thank you. Thank you for speaking. Okay. That is all of the people who have signed up to speak for tonight. So that will conclude the, public comments section of the agenda. I would like to address for a moment that there are several of the concerns that were brought up tonight that will be our that are part of our agenda for tonight.

00:22:32:18 - 00:23:05:15

Unknown

So I hope that you will, we'll stick around. And here that we are, introducing some topics and new business to discuss some of the communication issues and things like that that we, spoke about at the last meeting. So I hope you all, will stick around for that. So moving along. We will move on to the next order of agenda, which is the approval of tonight's agenda.

00:23:05:18 - 00:23:33:04

Unknown

So we still have Stephanie. Stephanie, are you still here? Yeah, I'm still here. I just want to make sure we have enough people to vote. So, all in favor of approving tonight's agenda? We have a motion. I'm sorry to, approve tonight's agenda. I think, and second, thank you. All in favor, please say hi and raise your hand.

00:23:33:06 - 00:23:59:29

Unknown

Okay. Thank you. Josh, I see you. All right. The agenda for tonight is approved. The next item on our agenda is the approval of the minutes. From the December 15th meeting. Can I have a motion to approve those minutes? So. All right. Thank you. Can I have a second, please? Second. Thank you. Thank you, Miss Hornbeck.

00:24:00:01 - 00:24:24:07

Unknown

Any changes? Board members? No. All right. All in favor of approving the minutes, please say hi and raise your hand, and I or. All right. Motion passes. Thank you. So we will move on to the next section of the meeting, which is always my favorite part of the meeting. And that is the the celebration portion of our agenda.

00:24:24:09 - 00:24:47:14

Unknown

For those of you who don't typically attend our meetings, something that the board implemented a few years ago, was that because we are a camp, we are a school of many camps spread all across the state. We were trying to make a way that the board members and the general public could find out about the things that are happening, great things that are happening in all of our campuses.

00:24:47:14 - 00:25:09:10

Unknown

Somebody doesn't necessarily know what's happening in Charleston, and Columbia may not know what's happening at the Public Road Elementary School. So that's what this section is. And it's a section that's been, a great, sense of joy for the last few years that we've been doing it. And I will turn it over to Bob Rollins, because this is his section.

00:25:09:12 - 00:25:34:16

Unknown

With us. So I'll actually be taking over for Mr. Rollins today. And, providing our, celebrations tonight. I'm Doctor Kelsey Pennington, interim director of teaching and learning. For those of you who don't know my face, yeah. And we're I'm here to talk a little bit about our early college program at Green Upstate High School.

00:25:34:18 - 00:25:58:22

Unknown

Our early college program has been a joint effort between Green Charter Schools and Greenville Technical College for the past few years. This program allows our juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn college credit before they graduate high school, and our 11th and 12th grade students are able to enroll in classes with Greenville Tech based on success in their previous coursework and approval by school counselors.

00:25:58:24 - 00:26:26:24

Unknown

These college level courses offer advanced students the opportunity to expand their curriculum options and earn college credit early, also reducing cost once they graduate and move on to post-secondary institutions. Tonight, I have two Greenville Upstate High School students Marie Redondo and Alyssa Cabell, who would like to share a little bit more about their experience with the dual enrollment courses with Greenville Technical College and grade.

00:26:26:27 - 00:26:31:19

Unknown

So, ladies, Maria, would you like to speak first?

00:26:31:22 - 00:26:53:20

Unknown

Yes, ma'am. Hi, everybody. My name is Maria Dando, and as she said, I am currently a senior at Greene and I've been at Greene since fourth grade. So I am pretty well versed in all of its programs and its opportunities. And I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be able to take dual enrollment courses, because it's honestly been one of the most impactful for me.

00:26:53:22 - 00:27:22:12

Unknown

So I didn't really have any type of direction when I began high school. I have no idea what I wanted to do, but because I started taking, dual enrollment courses, I did find passion for a

career in medicine. And so I was able to, attend two classes at Greene. And then depending on my schedule, I would drive over to the Barton campus and attend in-person lectures or lab and really just get a glimpse of what my life will be like in the fall.

00:27:22:12 - 00:27:47:04

Unknown

Once I did attend college. So, it has definitely improved my time management and my independence. And although there were definitely many late nights in many challenging classes, I will be graduating with about 11 classes being taken, so it'll definitely give me a head start in the fall. Thank you all and have a great rest of your evening.

00:27:47:06 - 00:28:10:01

Unknown

Thanks very. Melissa, would you like to share a little bit about your experience? Yeah. So my name is Alyssa Bowen and I started taking dual enrollment this fall semester. I'm an 11th grader, and I started taking dorm room at classes because I liked the idea that I could take college classes while in high school and just get those knocked out of the way.

00:28:10:04 - 00:28:35:04

Unknown

And I really appreciate how green covers the classes, so I end up getting, those classes finished. And, I really have loved all the courses I've done so far, even though I've only done two. I really enjoy, like, the whole, I enjoyed the college classes. It's definitely way more challenging than how high school has been, but I don't regret it one bit.

00:28:35:12 - 00:29:04:09

Unknown

And I appreciate the opportunity and it and I feel like once I actually go into college, once I'm actually in community college, it'll be nice because I'll already be prepared and I can just kind of jump in and I think I'll be good. So yeah, thank you. Thanks, Alyssa. So board, you'll see in your packet that we included our early college handbook that's been freshly updated by our counselors.

00:29:04:12 - 00:29:08:07

Unknown

For the next two years.

00:29:08:10 - 00:29:41:13

Unknown

Kelsey, let me just jump in. Amanda, do you mind if I just jump in for a quick second on this? This is something that, when I arrived at green, was, loosely in place, and we formalized that process, and, and, my, my second, graduation, we were able to, see. And every graduation since we've been able to see students have an associate's degree given to them at their high

school graduation, obviously, saving parents significant funding and also giving kids an opportunity to explore learning in a different, different way.

00:29:41:13 - 00:29:58:00

Unknown

So, I really think, Kelsey, for bringing kind of that insight and, and support from the guidance team. And I thank the kids for taking the risk and, stretching themselves a bit, but it's really, advantageous for our students and our, our families.

00:29:58:03 - 00:30:17:24

Unknown

Thank you, Tom, for that information. I would like to first address, Marie and Alyssa. Like, thank you guys for speaking out. My oldest, who graduated from green in 2022, did the early college program as well. And it really is. It's a fabulous way to prepare you to go to, off to a four year university.

00:30:17:24 - 00:30:40:12

Unknown

And, you know, my son was able to go in with an associate's degree that he had earned from his time. Congratulations to both of you. Because it is a big step to go from high school classes to college classes. And also, Kelsey, I looked through the, the handbook, and it's great because, like I said, our I actually Tom said it as well when, when my son was doing the early college here at green years and years ago, it was pretty chaotic.

00:30:40:15 - 00:31:06:27

Unknown

And he could have taken welding if he wanted to. There was not a whole lot of structure around it. So this, this handbook, it looks like it's a really great resource. So thank you for your work on that. Thank you. And I have to mention that I couldn't have done it without the work of our two wonderful high school counselors, who certainly put forth a ton of effort and getting this finger up and ready for our students as we enter iGCSE season coming up soon.

00:31:06:29 - 00:31:33:19

Unknown

Thank you miss, hit or miss and I, I believe it's coming. Thank you. All right. And board members, does anyone else have anything they'd like to say to the high school students or to, Doctor Pennington? To the students, I'd like to say that, hats off to handling high school load and college credits. You have my, my deepest respect, that is that is a lot.

00:31:33:21 - 00:32:07:01

Unknown

And I'm impressed that so many of our students are able to handle that. As well. All right. Thank you guys. We will move on to committee reports. So for everyone who's new here tonight, or

even if you're not, I say this every meeting, we have a few standing committees. That may change tonight. And, typically what we do is the committees give reports if they have, anything to report, if they have met since the last meeting, they'll give a brief report about what was discussed during the committees.

00:32:07:04 - 00:32:31:20

Unknown

Those standing committees are the governance committee, the finance committee, the infrastructure and Growth committee, the personnel Committee, and, the election committee, which does not it doesn't meet regularly. It usually only is, active when we have had either we're preparing for an election or we have had an election as it's just happened here. So, I will go ahead and start, and state that the governance committee has not met since the last meeting.

00:32:31:20 - 00:32:50:20

Unknown

And so we don't have anything to report at this time. I mean, obviously it was the holidays and, so we do not have a report at this time. And then for the finance committee, in November, I had asked, Stephanie, one of our board members is Stephanie Gotland to take over the responsibility of chairing the finance committee.

00:32:50:20 - 00:33:11:29

Unknown

As, again, as I mentioned earlier, I've been dealing with some pretty serious health issues and was trying to scale back some. So I will turn it over to Stephanie and let you tell her or let her tell you, a little bit about, the direction of the Finance Committee right now. So, Stephanie. Hey. Thank you. Mandy. We have not met since the last meeting.

00:33:12:06 - 00:33:35:17

Unknown

But we do plan on meeting soon. I'm excited to work with chance a lot more. He is a very reputable, experienced CPA and he works a lot of mature goals. He is truly a third party, recommended by the district and he is now him and his team are into into it. They are our finance department right now.

00:33:35:17 - 00:33:57:04

Unknown

So, I look up to him. I think he's one of the best people that we could have in this position to help guide us and steer us, you know, more proactively, down the road. And he is he's a straight shooter. He tells it like it is. So I respect his opinion. And I'm looking forward to working with him a lot more on that, too.

00:33:57:07 - 00:34:19:12

Unknown

Thank you, Stephanie. And just, so, he has mentioned I'm pretty sure he mentioned this in the last call as well. But he is, wanting to start another, the board meetings to the board as well. So I'm hopeful that at the next board meeting, he will be able to give us a, more in-depth financial update, in addition to that.

00:34:19:13 - 00:34:32:19

Unknown

So, yeah. Thank you. Thank you. I meant to mention that, too. I didn't write my stuff down. Thank you. I want to get out there was. I know that's been a question a lot of people have asked. And, you know, it was, it was a really great thing for him to come and speak at the last meeting.

00:34:32:19 - 00:34:42:18

Unknown

And I do have a lot of respect and a lot of, admiration for, for him and his whole team. They are utmost professionals. So.

00:34:42:20 - 00:35:16:13

Unknown

All right. How about infrastructure in various committee? We have not met, since our December meeting, but we do plan to have a meeting soon, so, hopefully in February, in the February board meeting, I should be able to, give you a report on it and the personnel committee, so we don't have that tonight, so we'll leave out, and again, being the holidays, we have not met.

00:35:16:15 - 00:35:37:18

Unknown

Okay. And then, we will move to the election committee, which, that should be Dash. Yes. And I believe Tom is going to, we'll probably be talking, more in depth about these people, but just, so I'll just let everyone know. So we did, finish the elections with the Midlands and Low Country again, green Middle School.

00:35:37:21 - 00:36:01:02

Unknown

The person did pull out due to health reasons. So we did not have that voting, period happen for them. But we do want to welcome from the Midlands campus. Nketiah Smith, who won there and for the low country Katherine Harris. So I look forward to hearing a little bit more about them and, maybe having them talk a little bit later.

00:36:01:05 - 00:36:25:09

Unknown

On this call. Yeah, I will definitely do that. Thank you, to the election committee. I just just to give everyone who, like, say it's not normally here and a bit of understanding, the cycles for the different campuses, elected positions. Like, we restructured it when we rewrote the bylaws

years ago, so that we would not have a wholesale turnover of the board ever, one time, ever again.

00:36:25:12 - 00:36:48:04

Unknown

Because that did happen many years ago. So this year, the middle school, the Midlands and the low country campus, their seats became vacant and they, had an open period for people to nominate themselves or nominate someone else. And then elections were held by the stakeholders of those particular campuses. Next year it will be some of the other campuses.

00:36:48:04 - 00:37:10:24

Unknown

And it may be something that this year, because we have grown, our board is bigger because we have more campuses now than we used to. We may structure those, elections so that it's not every two years, that every three years or something like that. That's a question for a future meeting. But, there's been a lot of questions about, well, why was these two seats but not this seat, and that's why, board members are elected to two year terms.

00:37:10:24 - 00:37:31:24

Unknown

So, those of us that are you're seeing on the board right now, are not newly elected board members. We are in the middle of our terms. So I just want to explain that because I know that there's a lot of people that, are new to trying to understand what happens with our governing board. And while this is part of the bylaws, it's sometimes just needs to, have a little bit of explanation.

00:37:31:24 - 00:37:55:25

Unknown

So that's why we have two new board members, coming from the Lowcountry and from the Midlands campus. And we will be swearing them in just a few minutes. So, we'll move on to the next item on our agenda, which is, our agenda number seven. And that is old business. And I am not aware of any old business that the board has from any previous meetings.

00:37:55:27 - 00:38:21:20

Unknown

So we will move on into new business, which, we have multiple things in here. And I do think that these will take some time. But we will go ahead and, swear in our two new elected board members, one from the Lowcountry and one from the Midlands campus. So do we want to, Tom, do you want to introduce them first and then I swear them in?

00:38:21:22 - 00:38:43:20

Unknown

Well, I actually would like them to introduce themselves. I have had a few, meetings with them

and, reviewed the, the obligations of board members. And, we're very excited for both of these new board members. They're extremely committed to the school and the community that, they're representing. And, it was my privilege to meet with them.

00:38:43:20 - 00:39:00:03

Unknown

And talk with them. So I look forward to their involvement and contributions to the board. So I would, let them introduce Amanda. I, they're they're both. Yeah. Why don't we start with you? Yeah. There we go.

00:39:00:05 - 00:39:30:16

Unknown

Hi, everyone. I am Nikki. Just me. I'm at the Midlands campus. I've been a parent at the school for the last six years. I've enjoyed the teachers. They are amazing. And I just wanted to be a part of the board to bring some awareness in the school. I also be an advocate for the parents and also, the, the be a good part of Green Charter because my kids love it and I love it, despite some of the things that may have taken place.

00:39:30:16 - 00:39:54:00

Unknown

Overall is an amazing school and we love it. So thank you all for voting me and Green Charter. We are so glad to have you. Thank you for volunteering. It's, I joke sometimes that it's the hardest unpaid job I've ever had, but it's, certainly worth it. So thank you so much. And then, Catherine, do you want to say anything?

00:39:54:02 - 00:40:17:20

Unknown

Hello, everyone. My name is Catherine Harris. I am, from Green Low Country. I am absolutely in love with Green Charter. I am in love with our principal, the teachers, the students. As a former educator, I know the importance of that support. So I definitely want to be an advocate for the parents, the teachers and the students.

00:40:17:20 - 00:40:43:19

Unknown

I hear everyone on the call today. My heart bleeds for every single position here tonight. And I'm just all about collaboration with the community, with the educators. Just taking a listening ear. And I look forward to what we will do in the future together. Thank you all. Thank you. We're so excited to have you. So with that said, I am going to read The Oath.

00:40:43:22 - 00:41:07:14

Unknown

It's a little bit of a longer, so if you'll just let me get through the end of it and, if you raise your hand and at the end, if you will say I do, then you will both be newly sworn in board members.

So do you affirm that you will faithfully discharge the duties of your office as a board member of Green Charter schools in good faith, in accordance with the laws of the United States and the State of South Carolina.

00:41:07:16 - 00:41:32:18

Unknown

Respect and support the charter, bylaws, policies, and board decisions of green. Conduct yourself in a spirit of legality and subordinate your personal issues to the best interests of green. Keep confidential all information that is specifically determined by law or by the board to be a model of confidence and exercise your responsibilities as a board member with due diligence, care, and skill in a reasonable and prudent manner.

00:41:32:21 - 00:41:57:03

Unknown

Yes, please say I do, I do, I do, I do. Welcome. So much. Thank you so much to Catherine and Keisha. We are so excited to have you guys be a part of our board. And, we will definitely be, getting to know you. We'll talk about committees and where you would like to best see yourself, as we move forward.

00:41:57:06 - 00:42:19:08

Unknown

So welcome. With that, we will move in to the next item of new business that I have brought, which is recognizing our outgoing board members and one of them is on the call today. So we have, two board members who are, their terms have expired and they have chosen to, not run for reelection.

00:42:19:10 - 00:42:37:04

Unknown

One is Mr. Garrett Evans, who is on the call right now from the Midlands campus. The other is, Mr. Brown from the low country campus, who I do not believe is on the call tonight. And I would like to thank both of you for, your service to the board. And, Gary, I know you're here, so,

00:42:37:06 - 00:42:59:28

Unknown

Or you were here earlier. I'd just like to thank you for. For serving. This is a, sometimes a thankless job, but it is really important. And your, your wisdom and your insight has been valuable, and we will definitely miss it. So thank you for for volunteering. And then we have another board member who is actually, leaving tonight as well.

00:42:59:28 - 00:43:24:06

Unknown

His term was up. And he's a bit of a special situation. His name is Doctor Hot, and he, I promised myself I wasn't going to get choked up here, but I'm going to try really hard. Yeah. I've

been at the school since it happened in 2013. I've been a parent here since then, and, I think Doctor Hawk is the only person who's been here.

00:43:24:09 - 00:43:49:06

Unknown

Affiliated with the board that long as well. I wasn't on the board then, obviously, but Doctor Clark, has held multiple different terms on this board, and this is his final one. For those of you who don't know who that is, he he will speak up. During our meetings a lot of times and with some of the most wonderful, insightful, inquisitive, sometimes very hard hitting and deep questions.

00:43:49:08 - 00:44:11:20

Unknown

He is a renowned, mechanical engineer, and he was one of the main founders of iCar. He was an appointed board member, and he has only wanted the best for green for all of the years that he has been here. And we are going to miss him so much. He is very happily retired and taking care of grand children, beloved grandchildren and Clemson.

00:44:11:22 - 00:44:39:00

Unknown

And, so he he wanted to make sure that at the end of his term that he, he said something. So he asked me to, to say this aloud for him. He said, Mandy at the meeting tonight, will you please thank all of the board members and administrator and teaching staff on my behalf, who I had the pleasure of serving with for their commitment to green and for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful work.

00:44:39:02 - 00:45:03:11

Unknown

And he is an amazing advocate, and we are going to miss him so much. We're so, very, very blessed to have him and his community connections as well, because he had some, really some really deep connections, in the community, particularly in the Stem world and in Clemson, some of the things that green has been able to do for the last few years, we would not have been able to do without Doctor Hawkes.

00:45:03:13 - 00:45:23:02

Unknown

Without his connections and his knowledge. So, thank you to our outgoing board members. Thank you so much. And welcome to our new board members. Thank you. So let me just make one a little comment. I'm going to miss you guys. I've tried to add value in these two years. It's been quite an experience.

00:45:23:04 - 00:45:51:06

Unknown

Not really what I expected, but I've learned a lot. And I have such deep respect. And I will

continue to be part of green because I'm a grandfather. So I'll be coming on board to the board meetings as a civilian. So thank you all. Thank you. Thank you so much, Gary, and I'm glad to see that you're going to still be here, because I'm sure you will have some interesting insight as well.

00:45:51:09 - 00:46:14:17

Unknown

So new board members, from this point forward, you are allowed to vote. You have an equal share in voting just like the rest of us. And Gary, you no longer get to vote. So sorry about that. But, so right now we'll move in to our, next item of new business, which is, leading straight in from talking to and talking about Doctor Hollick.

00:46:14:17 - 00:46:37:08

Unknown

And that is officer elections. So as I stated in the opening, I am relinquishing my chair seat. And, Doctor Hawk was the vice chair. He held that position for a number of years. And he was a great part of the governance committee. So, we we will have to fill these two elected seats from within our board.

00:46:37:10 - 00:46:58:29

Unknown

And, I, you know, new board members. I'm not certainly, suggesting that you need to throw yourself in here if you don't want to, but I will say this, being the chair of this board is not an easy task. You can take a lot of flak. There's a lot of paperwork. That has to be done, you know, signing things up for the district and whatnot.

00:46:59:02 - 00:47:26:08

Unknown

It is not a full time job by any stretch of the imagination, but it's more than being an I, just a regular board member. But it is really, really important. And I think that I've been doing this for three years now, and it's time for someone else to take the reins. So I would like to open it up at this time to anyone who would like to nominate themselves or someone else to be the board chair.

00:47:26:11 - 00:48:01:15

Unknown

Don't everybody speak at once. I nominate myself, okay, I'm sorry, but this is okay. So this is only for board members because we are elected by the stakeholders to hold these seats. So this is just for the members of the board, the like I'm the representative for the high school, and Laurel is the representative branch. And, Stephanie, I'm sorry for the misunderstanding, but.

00:48:01:15 - 00:48:18:16

Unknown

Laurel. Tricia. Stephanie. Katherine. Nikki. Sure. John. If we can get the board members to, Come on. So we can all see them.

00:48:18:19 - 00:48:44:02

Unknown

I see Stephanie. You can pin people. We may have. You can be. If you talk, you get typically it shuffles you back up. Yeah. It's just because there's so many people on the call. Josh, can you speak? Yes. Okay, okay. And, Yeah. Can you you can pin him and then Stephanie, I see you, Katherine in the key.

00:48:44:02 - 00:49:16:11

Unknown

Sure. Can you, make sure you're okay? Thank you. Can your, There we go. And then, and a pin. All right, so now I can see all of our board members. 123456. I also have names. So does anyone want to volunteer themselves as tribute to be to the board chair? Well, I would like to nominate Stephanie as the board chair.

00:49:16:14 - 00:49:53:16

Unknown

I think that she will bring a good leadership. I think, she's very, financially, she knows a lot. She's an expert at knowing financial stuff, which will definitely help us. I, I've given this a lot of thought, because I knew that this was coming. I think it would be good to have someone that's on the governance committee remain on the governance committee.

00:49:53:19 - 00:50:24:27

Unknown

Just so we have someone with experience and knows what has been going on for quite some time. And I also would like to see either Miss Smith or Miss Harris. Come on. Because there they are. They are new to the board. I'm not, you know, I'll send you into the fire or anything, but I would like, you know, we've not really we've not had anybody from the Lowcountry or Midlands on the governance committee.

00:50:24:29 - 00:50:59:23

Unknown

And it would be really nice to have your perspective because you are a little bit farther away and it tends to get, very upstate heavy. And, and we need to pull you guys in, into the fray and, and into the governance committee so that that's my suggestion. Okay. I'm, I'm going to speak up and say that I agree with you, Laurel, that I love to see in the splits was Harris step up.

00:50:59:25 - 00:51:22:24

Unknown

I'm not as as someone who is supposed to be leaving now, but there was the issue with my board seat. So, the elections, there will be a new election coming up. So I am very temporary.

But I will say that if one of you want to throw your name in, I am happy to help with. You know, my four years of knowledge will help you for the next couple of months.

00:51:22:24 - 00:51:43:28

Unknown

I just I'm not going to throw my name in on anything long term, but I think it'd be great to have. I'm going to circle back to that. You have been church churchgoer. Skipped over that. I'm sorry, but we are going to circle back to that. Yeah. That's fine. I know we'll cover that, but I just I'd love to see the some fresh blood and new eyes and the local low country and Midlands more supported.

00:51:43:28 - 00:52:14:17

Unknown

So I do a lot to step into immediately. But consider it place this. Thank you. Laurel, I think it's a lot. I think there's going to be big shoes to fill. And I, I mean, I've got a lot on my plate right now, but I, I, I know Mandy is going to do what she's going to do, and I fully support her decision.

00:52:14:20 - 00:52:33:24

Unknown

So, I mean, I mean, I will, but I would also love to see the, I mean, if I, if everybody wants me to, but I would also love to see the new board members. And we do need because there are a lot of a lot of us. I mean, my term's going to be, I think at the end of next year to, to to turn it over a little bit.

00:52:33:24 - 00:52:56:03

Unknown

So, I just, I don't know if I can commit to a full time, maybe interim, and then maybe one of the new board members, we can get them up to snuff and seasons and stuff. I would feel better about that because I am planning on adding more to my plate next fall. But, I mean, I've been a parent at Grinnell for for ten years.

00:52:56:05 - 00:53:23:13

Unknown

It is near and dear to my heart, and I just I also wanted the stakeholders to know that it is it's not our job. I know there's a lot of financial questions that come up and I've I've been in accounting for 16 years. It is not our job as board members to get into the details. But now that we have chance doing this, I feel much more confident about being proactive with things.

00:53:23:15 - 00:53:45:13

Unknown

So I just want to say we are oversight. We are higher level. With the financials. Yes, we do have a responsibility, but it is the finance department, the day to day stuff that we rely on for that information. So I just wanted to clarify that to you a little bit. I certainly I think that's one of the

things that makes you a really good candidate, like, you have been here for a very long time.

00:53:45:17 - 00:54:06:22

Unknown

I mean, you know, I you've had multiple kids here. So have I. And you understand, like, there's a lot of people who are new to the school who have only been here for a year or two, and I am not throwing any shade on them. Please don't take it that way. We have been there. Those of us who are the OG parents, we have been through a lot, a lot of stuff that people don't know anything about.

00:54:06:25 - 00:54:31:12

Unknown

And that's when when I say that, I'm so proud of some of the things that we've accomplished. I am so proud of some of the things that we accomplished, because we've done some things with this school that has never been done anywhere else in the country. And we did it. So I'm very, very proud of that. And I think you have that old institutional knowledge of how far we have come, but you also have the ability to look into the future and understand how much further we can go.

00:54:31:15 - 00:54:50:11

Unknown

And right now, I am it's very hard because I'm so mired in what's happening right now or in the recent past, that it's hard for me to look to the future. But I think that you do have that ability, and I think that you were somebody that stakeholders can trust. And I think that you were somebody that the staff and the admin can trust.

00:54:50:11 - 00:55:25:04

Unknown

And I believe in you. So much that you can, as you know, recommended you for this board, if you remember. And the reason why I recommended you for this board is because I think that you have what it takes to be a leader for everyone. So that is my enthusiastic second. And to miss me while, and and for the new board members, you know, the I think what what, Laurel is saying is that, you know, I mean, Laurel, I don't know if you want to continue being secretary or if you would like to step back from that role, but we will have the vice, chair role, which is nowhere near as

00:55:25:04 - 00:55:44:02

Unknown

involved as the chair role is. But it's a good place for people to step in and understand how the governance board works, because a lot of people I think Jerry said this, I know Josh has said this. I've said this like when you get on the board, you think you're going to do all these things, and then you realize as you become, part of the board that the board wants to do most of those things.

00:55:44:02 - 00:56:06:12

Unknown

The admin does these things, the PTO does these things. And I'm not saying that the board does nothing. We have a very important role to do, but we're not picking out playground equipment or deciding what the curriculum is. There's a whole bunch of people that that's what they do. And so it's when you come onto the board, you need a little bit of a time adjustment just to learn about what our bylaws are, how we operate.

00:56:06:15 - 00:56:34:08

Unknown

What we do do, what our scope is and what our scope is not. This is 5004 for because if I wanted to do something and it's not my job, that is the job of someone on executive leadership or that is the job of a school leader. And so, if one of you is interested in taking a leadership role or if you feel that and please speak up and let us know, because I mean, we we are looking to to have some new leadership here, to move forward.

00:56:34:10 - 00:57:01:15

Unknown

Either of you interested? I think that if I were to assist Stephanie with her tenure, I think that would be a great resource. I would learn a lot from it. And it would be a great partnership. I don't feel as comfortable just coming on as a chair like that, unless I was coming to be an assistant to the chair, like I would be, or I'd be second in command.

00:57:01:17 - 00:57:21:25

Unknown

But I guess what I think is, is being proposed to me is one of you guys. We are nominated. Miss Wahls has nominated Stephanie for the chair position, and we will vote on that in a minute. And now we're talking about the vice chair. So if you would like to nominate yourself or Nekeisha, if you would like to nominate yourself either of you, I mean with that is not easy.

00:57:21:27 - 00:57:50:25

Unknown

You got to be interesting. See also being that, we, I, I'll have interest in the vice chair, I don't, I don't mind putting my name out there for vice chair. Yeah. Okay. So what we can do is we can take a vote because everything we do is not taking a bullet. So, and, Stephanie, if you're okay with this, we'll take a vote, and then we'll take a vote for vice chair.

00:57:50:28 - 00:58:07:25

Unknown

And then do you want to conduct the remainder of the meeting, or would you like for me to conduct the remainder of the meeting? And then you and I can get together later to talk about it? You can. I'd appreciate it. That's probably going to be one of the biggest struggles for me is

it's the only procedure for the kinds of things.

00:58:07:25 - 00:58:25:08

Unknown

I mean, we're we're not very strict, don't follow the procedure, and we have the right to do that. As the board, we get to decide how strictly we want to follow, Robert's Rules and whatnot. But so let's do this. Let's go ahead and take a vote. Board members only. And that includes the general board members.

00:58:25:10 - 00:58:50:18

Unknown

All in favor of Stephanie Gawler, being appointed to the chair position for the Green Charter School board of directors, please say I and raise your hand. I, I. I right the I have it Stephanie cutler. You were the new chair of the Green Charter school board of directors. Congratulations. So, for the vice chair. Josh, you're throwing your your hat or your ring into the hat?

00:58:50:21 - 00:59:10:23

Unknown

Catherine, are you throwing your ring into the hat as well? Sure. I'm sorry. Can you tell we will do this? I will say all in favor of one person, and then you'll raise your hand and say hi, and then I'll say, all in favor of the other person, and you'll raise your hand and say, I and whoever gets the most votes wins.

00:59:10:23 - 00:59:39:18

Unknown

Okay. This is a really simple, easy way to do this. So all in favor of Katherine Harris as the new vice chair of the Green Charter School Board of directors, please say, and raise your hand. I, all right, I count one, two, three, four. I get one, two, three, four. All right. So, all in favor of Josh as the vice chair of the Green Charter School board of directors, please say I raise your hand.

00:59:39:20 - 01:00:01:24

Unknown

I visit feature board two. All right, so that, I'm sorry. Josh, but, that makes, Catherine the vice chair. And then, Laurel, you're going to continue on in role of secretary. I would like to add that that's what you would like to do. You think that's a good idea? I, I do agree with you.

01:00:01:24 - 01:00:29:14

Unknown

I think that's a good idea. So all right, so, let's circle back because again, I skipped I mean, we're still in new business, so it's not a big deal, but we do need to talk about Trisha's seat. Board members. So Trisha is the representative for the Greenville Middle School campus, the one over of Century Drive. And, when these three seats were put up for election.

01:00:29:16 - 01:00:50:26

Unknown

Just so people understand this, because there's a lot of people that, may have asked questions about this, the stakeholders of a particular campus, they are the ones who get an email stating these are the people that are running, or this is the seat that is up for election. If you're interested, throw your name into the hat and then you have to have meetings and understand and understand what the role of a board member is.

01:00:50:29 - 01:01:15:25

Unknown

We did have one person who was interested in doing that at the middle school. She withdrew her name for the elections, for some health reasons, which is perfectly understandable. I very much understand that. So we didn't have a candidate for the middle school, election. And, that has happened before. We we really want to work on time, getting people to run for these positions.

01:01:15:25 - 01:01:36:08

Unknown

I mean, for years, I think I ran unopposed. Stephanie ran unopposed. I think Laurel ran unopposed last time. I mean, a lot of people. Don't you know, they they want to make change. They want to see change, and they want to do things. But then when it comes time to run, they don't run. You understand that business is not the easiest thing ever.

01:01:36:10 - 01:01:55:03

Unknown

I know one of our new board members ran unopposed, too, so I'm hopeful that in the future, there's so many people that are invested in green right now that there will be more people interested in running, and we'll be able to have, a little bit bigger board because we'll we can make our board the, within limits to the variables we have limits in our battle was how big the board can be.

01:01:55:03 - 01:02:14:27

Unknown

But the people really like the board voices that are heard. And also, the more, you can spread things like committees around because it's hard to have a lot of committees when you have six people on the board, because that means that people are going to have to serve on like four committees. We're not allowed to have every person in the board on a committee because that's a quorum.

01:02:14:27 - 01:02:43:28

Unknown

So everyone has to spread around which committees take on. So I'm hopeful that in the future we will be able to have more board members. In the past, we've had quite a few appointed

board members, people who were not elected by stakeholders, people who are members of the community like Doctor Hawk, that they come to us because they're not tied to a particular campus or a particular student, but that they have the ability to have connections.

01:02:43:28 - 01:03:04:21

Unknown

You know, being someone that has connections to corporate, interests or someone who has connections to other educational interests or people who have connections, you know, in, in or local governments or whatever. These are right now we don't have any of those people. So I, I mean, we'll have people that we will be able to in the future.

01:03:04:21 - 01:03:24:16

Unknown

We are not doing this tonight because we're not in a position to appoint anybody tonight, because there's a vetting process that has to be done before people can be appointed to this board. We can't just appoint anybody. There's sled background checks that have to be passed, and they have to be willing to attend a training that states that they understand what the board member does.

01:03:24:19 - 01:03:52:05

Unknown

So for that purpose, are going to table that discussion for another meeting for another time. But we do have to go through is an outgoing Seac member or seat is is empty as of right now. Who has agreed? If we are all in agreement and we vote on it, she has agreed to be appointed temporarily to continue in this seat until a special election can be held for that middle school seat.

01:03:52:07 - 01:04:17:02

Unknown

And it may be that the person that wanted to run for that middle school seat is able to run again. We may be able to appoint that person because they've gone through the vetting and whatnot. I don't know, I don't have a magic eight ball, but I do know that Trish Kane is willing to serve for a few more months to help us until we can find, either run a special election for the middle school state or until we can, find, some community members.

01:04:17:02 - 01:04:47:19

Unknown

Because I will say this green as a whole and the board of Green is a much stronger board when we have community members involved. And not just people who are parents and grandparents are stakeholders. And I am I am a parent, been a parent at this school since the day it opened. I am not downplaying the involvement of parents, but what I am saying is that sometimes we can have people who they are able to look at globally as a system, and not specifically to one campus or another.

01:04:47:19 - 01:05:14:16

Unknown

So, and our Bible is actually called for us to have appointed members, not just elected members, that that is a concern for future, but for right now. Tricia, if you are willing to continue your state, I know you have a lot going on. I know you said you don't want to do this for a long time, but a few months, maybe until the end of the school year, or something like that, or until the seat is filled by a special election.

01:05:14:19 - 01:05:34:23

Unknown

Are you willing to do that? Yes. I will stay on you know, we'll just actually get something done so we can know get it opened up again. I know we had interest, we had issues, they had issues. So we'll go through that process. I'm not going to leave the school to board everybody short a seat. But yes, I am definitely no, thank you.

01:05:34:24 - 01:05:57:11

Unknown

Thank you for really being willing to do that. And and again, you've been here for a very long time too, and you understand a lot of the challenges that we have faced in the past. And I really appreciate you're willing to, to serve. So on that note, board members, can I have a motion to appoint trustee, to a temporary appointed position to fill the vacant middle school seat?

01:05:57:13 - 01:06:04:03

Unknown

Hey. All right, can I have a second? Second?

01:06:04:06 - 01:06:13:00

Unknown

We'll let Josh take it. He got there first. All right, board members, all in favor, please say hi and raise your hand.

01:06:13:03 - 01:06:35:21

Unknown

All right. I see you, Catherine. Very. I haven't, so I first get. Congratulations. You have been appointed for a temporary term until either the end of the school year or until the seat is filled by special election. Thank you. All right. Mandy, I've been announced. You go out in a newsletter or something to to notify, people of that vacancy.

01:06:35:22 - 01:06:58:26

Unknown

Like, I know when we do the elections, it seems to be like per campus, but could we let, like, all of the Greenville campuses? Because it doesn't have to be someone who has a kid at the

middle school, you know what I mean? Just to get the word out there, people are interested for sure. Like they don't have to like the candidates for these seats can come from anywhere, literally anywhere in the community.

01:06:58:28 - 01:07:30:21

Unknown

The only people allowed to vote on those seats are stakeholders from that particular campus. And that would be parents or staff members. So, I mean, and that's something, you know, we this leads straight into our next, item on new business that I have and that is a big one, communication and committees. So I mean right now Josh, you're the, the, you know, you're the chair and also kind of the only committee person, from the board anyways, on the election committee.

01:07:30:23 - 01:07:51:02

Unknown

So, is there a particular way that you would like to do this? Because I think we've been had a lot of interest for that particular seat. And, you know, but we will have to follow what we have in our bylaws as the way that elections run. I mean, obviously, the timetable is going to be different, and I don't.

01:07:51:04 - 01:08:25:08

Unknown

I mean, this is a discussion, obviously, for a more in-depth, detailed discussion for inside of the election committee. But I mean, do we have a timetable or an idea on when we would like to do the special election? Because it does. One thing that people don't understand is these elections take months because there's a such a long, not such a long, but there's a number of weeks of an open period where someone can be nominated, and then there's a number of weeks where they have to go through vetting because they have to have the background checks and whatnot, and they have to do the meetings, and they have to do the training to

01:08:25:08 - 01:08:45:04

Unknown

understand that, that they know what the role of a board member is. It's not something that we can spin up in a week or two. Because we do have bylaws that dictate how elections run. So is this anything that you guys have discussed? In committee, Josh or, Mandy, can I jump in here? Tom. Yeah, yeah, go.

01:08:45:06 - 01:09:11:16

Unknown

I should have been, I would like to follow up with Josh because the board member that pulled out, I did have a chance to meet with, earlier this week, and I would she. I asked her to email you what she did, last night. So I would be glad to share that with Josh and talk about next steps as to how to reopen her seat or see if she wanted to stay involved or stay connected.

01:09:11:16 - 01:09:37:27

Unknown

So, you know, considering Trish, his willingness to stay on is great. But I can meet with Josh about that and go over what her expression of interest was and then what next steps could be taken. I mean, Josh, are you okay with that? Yes. Okay. Everyone else on the board, are you okay with it? Was that happening to since the person who was going to be running unopposed?

01:09:38:00 - 01:10:04:05

Unknown

I have been through the vetting already. Absolutely. Right. I don't think we have to vote on that because it's not really an action item. It's just a they're going to they're going to meet and talk to her and discuss that. So, okay. Well, so now the the next part, you know, communication is a very nebulous topic, and I kind of left it that way on purpose.

01:10:04:08 - 01:10:25:06

Unknown

You know, this is, again, this is a board meeting. Some board members, this is talk between us. I understand there's a lot of other people on here that probably want to have input here, and that is what the public comment section and the emails like, this is what we do is we take all of what you tell us, and we are going to talk about ways that we can improve communication.

01:10:25:06 - 01:10:58:07

Unknown

And some of the things that you guys have brought up to us. I mean, one of the big things that that I would like to talk about is, you know, there's a lot of things that happen at the school at the, like, leadership level that don't get communicated out. And so something that I have thought and I've talked to, like, you know, one other person about this, I think, is I think it would be really helpful if the members of the executive leadership team were, we had them report to the board what they're doing.

01:10:58:09 - 01:11:19:03

Unknown

I think that that is something that you know, people don't understand what the director, the director of teacher teaching and learning or doing or they don't understand and, what the operations director is doing and the board doesn't always know what they're doing because they're handling a million fires every day. And like Stephanie said, we're oversight. So that's something that I would like to propose.

01:11:19:06 - 01:11:42:05

Unknown

If anyone on the board has any discussion about that, if you think that that's a worthy topic to consider. If you'd like to amend that. Whatever. What do you guys think? I agree with you. I think

you and I talked about it. I think we were the two. It is it is important for them to, come on and let us know what they're doing.

01:11:42:08 - 01:12:07:00

Unknown

You know, even, what kind of fires have they put out? Or, you know, if they can tell us, just like our committees, you know, make comments as to when we need and what was said in the meetings, I think it would be great for the directors to come on the board meetings and, and just let us know what's been happening for the past month.

01:12:07:02 - 01:12:26:05

Unknown

And then it gives the board the opportunity to ask them questions, too, because, you know, a lot of us, you know, the the thing about the, the directors and, and in the town to some extent is they're going all over the state all the time. I mean, there might be two directors in the Lowcountry and in Charleston, for this week and back and forth.

01:12:26:05 - 01:12:45:09

Unknown

I mean, we don't all but contrary to popular belief, like, we're not all sitting in the same room together or, you know, we're not all walking into each other's offices and talking. So this would be an opportunity on record for board members to ask questions of the directors, for the directors to give us information. And we could get feedback because, I mean, that's really how this is supposed to work.

01:12:45:11 - 01:13:09:12

Unknown

So, any other board members have any thoughts on that? I think that's a great idea. And, another thing that I, was wanting to talk to you guys about is, also, you know, we have really we have some people that run on social media and. Well, and then they do a great job. They really do.

01:13:09:12 - 01:13:29:05

Unknown

Like, I know that each school has a social media champion, and I know that, there's, you know, some people in leadership that do social media, but that can't be the only way that we disseminate information. And I know that, you know, I was going but I think a lot of people don't read the emails like, we've had people who have said to us, oh, well, I don't know about blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, and it's in the emails.

01:13:29:05 - 01:13:47:24

Unknown

So one of two things is happening. You know, they're not getting the emails, they're not reading

the emails. And I understand because sometimes it's like I got seven emails from school today and I'm not looking at all of them. But I do feel like we need to find a way to, like, utilize the website. Our website is woefully lacking in information.

01:13:47:24 - 01:14:08:19

Unknown

I feel like compared to some other schools, and I know that that's something that has been talked about in the past, but we can't assume that everyone has Facebook or Instagram like I don't have Facebook or Instagram anymore. And we can't assume that everyone's going on social media to get information like, I feel like we need to make sure that there's a varied way that we can be doing our communication.

01:14:08:19 - 01:14:30:25

Unknown

I mean, I and, you know, Tom, you can weigh in here on this because I don't want to be the person that's being like, hey, we need to completely redo our website, and then it's going to cost an ungodly amount of money because obviously that's a budgetary item that needs to be discussed. But, I mean, there there has to be some way that we can better get information out to people because like someone shared the budget overview, today.

01:14:30:25 - 01:14:47:29

Unknown

But it was like full budget. There goes line by line, by line by line. And I mean, it's it's publicly available if there is a full budget and I know it may not be easy to get to, and that's something that needs to be addressed because people anyone who wants to be able to get a copy of that budget should be able to go to the website and pull that budget down.

01:14:47:29 - 01:15:08:09

Unknown

And if I want to drill down to 5000 line items or whatever it is to see exactly what pins and paper we bought, then they should have the ability to do that. So, I mean, this is just some of the feedback that I've been hearing and some of the things that I think are, I mean, I'm gonna say easy fixes because I'm not a web developer, but I feel like we should be able to put information on our website.

01:15:08:12 - 01:15:30:21

Unknown

Yeah, I absolutely agree is a website. And Tom, you know, I've talked about this. It's yeah. And I know it's a coming thing. It definitely needs to be the central place for all information. Yeah I agree we we a few months ago we asked Braco to do an audit of the website. Katherine's taking it over, and I think we're meeting with next week with, bright Co to, to look at improvement.

01:15:30:21 - 01:15:59:01

Unknown

So I agree with that. And we're there's an effort going on to do that. And we can probably within six weeks maybe be able to push out the improvement. I know I our meeting with them, I think next Tuesday, and I think we'll be able to take just like, seven. I'm sorry. Go ahead. No, no, no, it's just there's been a lot of parent feedback, a lot of parent feedback about what they're looking for, the kinds of communication that they're looking for.

01:15:59:01 - 01:16:17:11

Unknown

So is it possible that we can get that information to you so that you can make sure that that's going to be, covered on the website and accessible and whatnot, because that that, you know, I don't want to just I mean, I'm not saying that it's just going to be pretty because I know it'll be pretty. But I want it to make sure that it's easy to find things.

01:16:17:11 - 01:16:35:00

Unknown

And, and that's one of the big things that people have said over and over and over again is that they can't find information, that the communication isn't there. It's not that the stuff doesn't exist, it's just that it's not easy to find. And it should be easy to find. Yeah. And I think that's what we can do. I would welcome any feedback on that.

01:16:35:03 - 01:16:59:10

Unknown

You know, if the board members or parents or stakeholders or staff suggestions were, we have a great website company. As you know, it took a little bit three years ago to get, ownership of our website. And I guess after we did that, it's kind of fell a little fallow. So we're, we'll be, improving it, updating it.

01:16:59:12 - 01:17:24:07

Unknown

If you know, the social media stuff, if, you know our policy, our handbooks, all that is all headed up by Catherine White, who's a juror stock and who's amazing. So she's going to take over that, and get things posted and and get it updated. I think we need, you know, just more buttons, more ability to just access the information that is, is, is static information that needs to be more easily accessible.

01:17:24:07 - 01:17:46:20

Unknown

So I welcome any input on that as we're going through that process right now. So that's something that board members or even stakeholders, they can email to you. And if they have suggestions or things that they want to say, absolutely. Okay. Thank you. All right. Well everyone else I mean, those were the two big ones for me. As far as just the communication part.

01:17:46:20 - 01:17:58:11

Unknown

I mean, we talk about the committees in a minute, but what about you guys? I mean, because you all have all heard the same things that I've heard and read the same things that I've heard. So what are your suggestions, your thoughts? And then we'll talk about the Q and I part two, because that's going to be part of it as well.

01:17:58:11 - 01:18:21:11

Unknown

But I thought we'd do that later. I think these are two good starts. Okay. Anybody have anything else? Yeah I do I was going to all you said the Q&A so I was going to obviously I was going to bring that up. Just so we can kind of discuss that looking forward. And I know I've mentioned it before, I've talked with people about it.

01:18:21:13 - 01:18:46:04

Unknown

Just, you know, if we if we want to be more transparent, obviously I'm looking forward to next month then and hearing chance and, you know, financial report. But then just like with the agenda, like being, I know, a little more vague today because we had quite, quite a few different items. But if we can get those things even on the agenda, just to show the parents when they see the agenda, hey, let's let's see what's going to be on there.

01:18:46:04 - 01:19:13:22

Unknown

What are listening, hearing, just to be a little more detailed on the agenda, about things, you know, we we we can we do the green things about what's going on. I guess the second item, you know, we hear about the good things that are going on, but, just for a board, just to understand what's going on at all the schools, like, if they did, like an academic report, behavior report, discipline report, this.

01:19:13:25 - 01:19:33:18

Unknown

I obviously don't need names. Like, how many, how many suspensions have has there been in the last month at this school? How many referrals? You know, how what what's the performance as far as the kids levels like where are they at as far as you know, how many you know or how many are failing. They just because, you know, we start to see those things that we start to see patterns.

01:19:33:18 - 01:19:51:18

Unknown

And, you know, what can we do to try to help green? Well, you know, just just to try to help them grow. I mean, there's just a lot of small things that are not real hard to do, that I think would help

get us going in the right direction. But, does anybody else have anything they want to say?

01:19:51:23 - 01:20:14:23

Unknown

Yeah, I, I actually would love to see some. I mean it, Tom saying you and of course we, you know, we just email Tom ideas, the things we want to see on the website, but I would love to see something go out to the teachers and the parents going, you know, we obviously we can't do everything that every person can ask for, but what is it that everybody's looking for?

01:20:14:23 - 01:20:38:12

Unknown

I mean, obviously they want more information, but the information I think is relevant may not be the information that, you know, the person next to me thinks is from what do people actually want to see, whether that's from the questionnaire or something, make it anonymous or whatever. But you know, the staff, I'm sure they have questions internally of things they want to see that may be different than what the parents want to see.

01:20:38:12 - 01:21:02:09

Unknown

So I'd love to see if it could have some centralized way for everybody and for the people who are on here now going, oh, but I know what I want to see. Everybody should have a the ability to put some say in if we're going to be improving the transparency working on this, what are those things. So that's I'd like to see something go out publicly to everybody.

01:21:02:12 - 01:21:27:22

Unknown

Well, I think as Stephanie has said in the past, sorry, Stephanie, I guess you're right. I think that we should have and I completely agree with this, that we should have, like some anonymous I mean, I don't want to call it like a tip line hotline or whatever, but where people could anonymously submit, you know, questions, feedback, whatever, without, you know, any because, I mean, I, I keep hearing that people don't want to speak because of fear of reprisal.

01:21:27:22 - 01:21:48:12

Unknown

And I don't want that. Like, I want people to feel like they can speak up at any point. I mean, you know, again, to the people that can make decisions and changes about things, the, you know, if it's I don't like the way teacher a is disciplining, then that needs to go to that teacher's direct superior that school year or whatever.

01:21:48:12 - 01:22:07:26

Unknown

Right. That's not a board thing. We don't tell teachers and how to discipline people. But I mean, I, I do agree with you that I think, I mean, we send out the climate survey every year and that's a

statewide thing. But, I mean, and I've said this before, I think I've told, all multiple times, I've said nobody understands what the kind of survey means.

01:22:07:26 - 01:22:25:21

Unknown

They I have several years where I didn't fill it out because I literally thought it was talking about like how I felt about climate change or whatever. Because we're a renewable energy education school. It's not that far of a stretch to think that we might be talking about actual like we're talking about this climate of the school. And a lot of people, they don't they don't pay any attention to that and they don't realize that.

01:22:25:24 - 01:22:47:06

Unknown

And I didn't know this until Doctor Pennington did the presentation for us several months ago, where she went through our report cards and how things were scored. But the way people fill those climate surveys out is important. It is important. And so we we need to be able to, to survey our people. And I know that they do send surveys out pretty regularly, but it may be some sort of feedback form.

01:22:47:06 - 01:23:07:07

Unknown

I mean, I think that, like I said, I mean, feedback form on the website would be great to even have an option of making it anonymous, but I'd love to see a an actual acknowledgment of we know we need to do these things. What are these things? What do you what do you want? I think like, yeah, across across the board teacher staff.

01:23:07:09 - 01:23:31:28

Unknown

And then what we implement I'd like to see implemented at every campus and you know, website wide everything just making sure we have consistency because every school has its own little. And I know that's been a big push. We're all trying for it. But I definitely oh yeah for having some anyways. Like yeah. Not to speak about what you know, I think both Catherine and Keesha both were like, I love green.

01:23:31:28 - 01:23:47:14

Unknown

I love that energy. I want to see that energy, but I want to know what it is that you love about the middle of campus. I want to know what it is that you love about the Lowcountry campus. I want you to tell her your books and then all the other campuses, you know, and then each other. I mean, each campus.

01:23:47:16 - 01:24:06:15

Unknown

It's hard because it's like it's not one size fits all. We're all tied very well together. We have to be tied together. But they are all so different. And having the ability not only to say, hey, I want to, I'm demanding this and this and this and this, but I also want to recognize that. And for students, amazingly, and that can be pushed to all of the other campuses or something like that.

01:24:06:15 - 01:24:41:09

Unknown

I mean, I think that is a, a great, great use of a tool like that. Yeah. I mean, we've talked about this before, having a almost a shout out section, on the website or someplace where we because we can only acknowledge. But so many things like the Midlands. I have to say that campus is the Cheerios, the the artwork and the posters, and it is just I mean, I love that kid because I love how cheery and just the enthusiasm you can, you know, I've not been there when students were there, but you can feel their their enthusiasm.

01:24:41:09 - 01:25:05:16

Unknown

I love it, I would say for me, because I'm in the Middle East campus, I am currently on the PTO as well, so I'm the president. We started this year, and we did the bylaws. And I can say within the, within the PTO, we asked the parents questions. So we created a Google meet. We talked for the parents, we allowed them to tell us things.

01:25:05:16 - 01:25:26:29

Unknown

And then our reporting back to the principal, let her know what what we're looking for as far as communication, a lot of parents wasn't seeing the emails, so we decided to exert. Is there any way that you can channel it through? The portal they all the teachers send information out to. And that made it better because the parents are always checking that portal.

01:25:27:01 - 01:25:48:27

Unknown

So that made, the communication more better. Due to the fact that parents check their portal regardless, because that's where the grades had the missing assignments, all of those things. So we just channeled it through that as well on top of the emails. So that was one of the changes, they made this year that the parents were in agreement with.

01:25:48:29 - 01:26:22:27

Unknown

And I love that. I think that's great. And, you know, so I, I think, Josh, you've had brought this point up and I was getting ready to speak to it, and this is something that, you know, the one of the speakers, she spoke at multiple times and she has provided information, about, different committees and whatnot, and, I really like the idea of, you know, changing our committees, composition and potentially having a committee that does look at, like, academic performance.

01:26:22:27 - 01:26:42:12

Unknown

I mean, I, I read all of that information that was sent, and I, I do think that that is a needed place. And then we don't do anything with tests or we can take in or whatever. And we do look at what test scores are whenever the report cards come out. But I mean, being a high level board, that's not we don't get the go into that kind of stuff.

01:26:42:12 - 01:27:09:06

Unknown

But I do think that there is a place in a committee like if some sort of academic committee, some sort of, yeah, like academic direction. I'm not great at names and she actually had a great name for it, but I can't remember right off the top of my head, but I really appreciated the information. But that could be a place where, like, what you're talking about just with the discipline records, because we don't like federal laws, we can't talk about what student discipline specific student discipline matters.

01:27:09:06 - 01:27:27:09

Unknown

We can't go, oh, well, student, I was expelled because they were spray painting, blah blah blah blah blah. I'm like, that's just not yeah, we're not locked. But we can say we've noticed a trend of student discipline matters happening at X campus in this particular grade and whatnot. And that might be something that a committee like that can handle, like a committee that looks at academics.

01:27:27:09 - 01:27:51:17

Unknown

But also looks at discipline. Because again, we do not get involved in student discipline. Like that is not our job at all. For reasons. Right. We don't want a teacher to discipline a kid. And then the program be like, well, we'll talk my board member, like, you know, suspension turned like, that is not how we get involved, but we can look at global trends and see is there is there?

01:27:51:20 - 01:28:11:12

Unknown

I keep hearing that the discipline matters at certain campuses. I don't see any data about those discipline matters. So that could be something that we could have a new committee formed to address, like academics and discipline or something for that matter. Something that's I mean, is that is we only trending level? That is something that I think the board can, can look at.

01:28:11:12 - 01:28:26:15

Unknown

I mean, do you guys agree? Do you have any feedback there? I mean, Josh, I think that's kind of what you were getting at. But I don't want to speak for, you know. Yeah, definitely just just the data I mean, obviously obviously that I know we're not going to get names and I don't need to

know what you did.

01:28:26:15 - 01:28:53:25

Unknown

Like, I'm just referring to number of referrals and number of suspensions. Like that's an easy, easy report actually to create and run. Right. Well and I mean, I think, you know, it's there is an executive leadership group that does this stuff that is their job. Like they are the ones that handle this stuff, but they can tell the board what's going on, how things are going there.

01:28:53:25 - 01:29:18:23

Unknown

So that the board I mean, I know discipline is fine because I don't know the discipline concerns at X campus or whatever. I'm not at that campus, you know. And so that that's something that we can discuss, like the creation of a new committee and having some different reporting so that that committee can report. And having the meeting, we've noticed a trend that the, you know, the Hill campus.

01:29:18:23 - 01:29:34:10

Unknown

I'm just making that up. But, you know, like that campus is having higher numbers of suspensions, and we need to look at, you know, and not we we're not looking into it, but the leadership team, the admin, whatever they need to look at what's going on because there could be some something systemic going on there. I don't know.

01:29:34:13 - 01:29:56:22

Unknown

But is that what you're getting at? Like, is that the kind of information that you're wanting that you think would be helpful? Yeah. Yeah. Well, other board members, do you agree? I mean, is there something that you guys think would be good information, helpful information, just to know, hey, look, we've got you know, I know there was a reading program that was implemented down at the low country that was like the bee's knees.

01:29:56:22 - 01:30:14:18

Unknown

It was the biggest success ever. So knowing that that kind of program happened and then that could be reported on so that well, you know what we're looking at taking that reading program and and I know it's something that they did is that they looked at that amazing reading program that help those kids that were behind, and they started pushing that to the other campuses.

01:30:14:18 - 01:30:49:29

Unknown

Like just knowing was the board knowing that that stuff is happening. Is that the kind of stuff that you guys are talking about? The probably definitely academic performance? Because, you

know, we want to see improved student outcomes. I mean, that's kind of like why we're all here. Absolutely. Yeah, 100%. So. Okay. So does someone want to take point on working with, I mean, because this is going to definitely be a working with admin to come up with, you know, how we get the committees formed.

01:30:49:29 - 01:31:16:16

Unknown

And I mean, we'll have to change bylaws like we can't just magic a committee into thin air. You know how it works. Just about yeah, I'll work with admin. Okay. That would be great. So anybody else have any communication or committee related stuff for new business? I mean, I put it on there, but I knew we were going to talk about all this stuff.

01:31:16:16 - 01:31:44:07

Unknown

So. I think it would also just be beneficial to, we did some things in the low country for like parent resources, but I think we need to just kind of advocate for those parents that may have a harder time with certain behaviors that we're seeing. We're seeing a lot in our middle school. Right now. And a lot of parents are just they don't know what to do or how to kind of channel that.

01:31:44:10 - 01:32:03:20

Unknown

So I think we should have some sort of resources, mental health, family counseling, that we can maybe provide or assist the families with. We could talk about this later because obviously that's going to be a well drawn out plan. But I just wanted to put that out there.

01:32:03:22 - 01:32:21:14

Unknown

I think that's a great idea. Yeah, I like that one. And honestly, that this is going to be definitely an ongoing thing because we're not going to cover everything tonight. Honey, I would, I could catch I'm sure we've gotten half a dozen things already that we've already talked about. So or in previous meetings that we didn't remember to bring up in this one.

01:32:21:14 - 01:32:52:22

Unknown

So, it's been going then I'm excited that we're starting the process meeting. We are meeting for sure. Also, youth forgot we will catch the next one or it's possibly already in the works. We just can't cover everything. Yeah, I, I and I agree and I mean, again, we we don't have enough people to, like, create a whole bunch of committees right now because, I mean, we can't like, one person can't be on five committees.

01:32:52:22 - 01:33:24:22

Unknown

It's just it's too much. So, anyways, does anyone else have anything else that they want to talk about as far as communication, a line item for no business or committees? I mean, I do, I think, does anybody want to take on the I don't want to table this, but the, working with the board members and with admin, to get this, parent survey feedback.

01:33:24:22 - 01:33:40:19

Unknown

For what? I don't know what to call it, but I like asking them to be able to tell us exactly what it is that they're looking for. Like, this does want to do you want to you want to take that on? You take point on that and then we can talk about it at the next board meeting and hopefully have some action item, because, I mean, it's one thing for us to sit here and talk, talk, talk, talk.

01:33:40:19 - 01:33:56:27

Unknown

But, I mean, we can't take an action until we have an action item and we can't do an action item without actually having some details fleshed out, and we only need it once a month. So, I mean, that's just like there's like, like a Google, a nice Google form that doesn't take emails, would be a great way to start with it.

01:33:56:27 - 01:34:26:28

Unknown

I mean, if someone wants two minutes, it's pretty easy to do right? So is that saying you want to volunteer to, if it unless someone else wants to? I mean, it wouldn't be tough, but if someone else wants to, since, you know, I was I'm going to work with admin and. Yeah, well, I'm like, I was going to say, Josh, if you're going to work with admin on on the, those report things or.

01:34:26:29 - 01:34:48:19

Unknown

Yeah. Yeah. I wouldn't mind seeing what I can come up with for the next, for the next meeting so that I can report something about parent feedback and not really not be like, well, I don't I'm not saying that. I think I think personally, and this is just me, like the other six of you have complete opinions.

01:34:48:19 - 01:35:02:19

Unknown

You're like, I don't think that I'm going to take an action item. I mean, this might be there. We can have this created and it sent out, and that way we don't have to wait a month to get feedback like this, but we also don't get a month of feedback back. I mean, we we already had a couple of weeks.

01:35:02:21 - 01:35:16:00

Unknown

I mean, it's been the holidays, but still we're we're trying to get this information to figure out what

we can do to help people get the information that they need so that they can get their confidence back. And at the end of the day, that's a really important thing from my point of view anyway. Then I know it is for most of the rest of it.

01:35:16:02 - 01:35:53:27

Unknown

So I'm just trying to figure out. But, Laurel, if you'll take point on that, that would be. I could do that. I can do that. And I don't know how y'all feel about this, but I kind of wonder, you know, I think that we're off to a really good start. I don't think that we need to take on too much at the beginning, because what we have right now, I would like to make sure that it's a firm basis so that everything is good to go so that we can kind of relinquish it and move to more things to to be able to do that.

01:35:54:00 - 01:36:23:18

Unknown

But I really I want, I want the committees and the things that were trying to develop communication, I want it to be very support. I want it to be supportive or supportive. Now, I agree and strong before we move on to other things, because I think if I mean, we can, we can brainstorm and come up with a lot of things right now.

01:36:23:21 - 01:36:57:17

Unknown

And then it be too many things and they'd all be weeks. I really want some some strong, items before I go through other things. I agree to. I mean, communication, like that's what I keep hearing over and over and over again. It's communication. It's communication, it's communication. And I mean, like there's there are some hard, you know, we can't talk about, personnel matters, for example, but we can talk about like, like what Josh is talking about with reports and whatnot.

01:36:57:17 - 01:37:14:25

Unknown

We can talk about, you know, financial stuff. I mean, that's having chance come and and speak at every meeting is going to be great because that will. Yeah. I mean, that's a big thing that way. The whole board, everybody on the board understands what's going on financial wise and and whatnot, and everybody will be able to see what he has to say.

01:37:14:25 - 01:37:37:02

Unknown

So I mean, these are some really solid things I think. I think so too. All right. Well does anybody else have any new business that I want to bring from the board. All right. So seeing none. So I think you're good for me to just finish this agenda out. I will. Oh I guess the only, the only thing is, is the town hall Q&A.

01:37:37:06 - 01:37:57:02

Unknown

Like, I don't know, I just set a date for that or I guess that's where I was going. Well, so here's the thing about, yeah, the get a lot of people who have been like, Will you guys meet virtually because you're trying to discourage people coming. I mean, obviously there's nothing people can get on this. Google me as it will hold.

01:37:57:02 - 01:38:17:26

Unknown

I mean, the reason why we've been meeting virtually, quite frankly, is because of my health. And hopefully it's going to be better and we're not going. And also, I don't know if you guys have the flu was bad as. But like everybody I know either has Covid or is fully right now. So there's a lot of yeah, if we had 207 people in the room right now, we would all be sick with the flu and that there's so many things.

01:38:17:26 - 01:38:42:00

Unknown

It's just really bad. But that's kind of the thing about doing a Q&A because the I don't want to do a Q&A in the upstate and have all of the people in the Midlands and the low country Disenfranchized now, I don't know that there's a ton of people in the Midlands, in the low country clamoring for a Q and A, you should have the same, I says everyone in the upstate, because they just as much of a part of the system as the upstate is.

01:38:42:02 - 01:39:04:26

Unknown

So, I mean, I think it has to be virtual. What do you guys think? I mean, we could do it in person at a campus and then have someone and I mean, this is I don't even know how it would logically do this. And this is from discussing this now, rather than showing it with, like, this is what we're doing because everybody, particularly our two new board members, need to have a say in this.

01:39:04:28 - 01:39:23:13

Unknown

But like, we might be able to do or we could have it in person and have it obviously filmed because I guess it would legally be a meeting. If we were all there, like, that's going to legally be like a special board meeting, and that's fine. We can totally do a special board meeting. But I said we would have to offer a link.

01:39:23:13 - 01:39:40:01

Unknown

We would just have to have a way so that people that are not at whatever that campuses, you know, if it's the elementary school and the high school or Simpsonville or whatever, that they would have a way to ask questions. I mean, we also would have to figure out how we could

have it go for like six hours, because I don't know about y'all, but I can't do another six hour meeting.

01:39:40:01 - 01:40:01:06

Unknown

It's just not possible. And yeah, I don't think anybody else on the board wants to do another six hour meeting either. So, you know, ideas, thoughts, I mean, what I want to make it sound like I really want to make this happen. I wonder if we could do it, like, by campus and maybe a couple of board members be there just so it's not too, too much.

01:40:01:06 - 01:40:23:17

Unknown

Because like you said, if everybody shows up with their questions, I mean, it would be a very long time. Maybe just try to break it up a little bit, or maybe a hybrid, like you're saying, you know, we have have it. There's an in person, even if two people you know it time allowing. Yes, you can make comments and you can write things in chat and we'll try to bring them up.

01:40:23:17 - 01:40:50:20

Unknown

But, you know, do a hybrid each week. Each campus has. But it's also videoed so that everybody can be watching it and hear the answers and see what's going on. And, you know, and a combination of both and maybe some than just virtual, but it may take a bunch of them in different locations combinations. I think the hybrid is going to be our, our only manageable way to do it.

01:40:50:22 - 01:41:15:01

Unknown

Yeah. Multiple. Multiple. Yeah. I think that's a yeah, I think that's a good idea because each each board member at their school can be there too. Not and the concerns are going to be different. They're going to be they are totally there. That's right. I mean I, I so what if we did it where you know you go ahead go ahead.

01:41:15:03 - 01:41:34:12

Unknown

So what if we did it where each board member was at the school. And then when they came, we, we, we gave them maybe a 30, a 15 minute time frame earlier, and they write their questions down, and the board member actually says it, even though everybody is virtual. But the board member actually asks the question in the end for, for everybody.

01:41:34:12 - 01:42:00:07

Unknown

So it won't be a bunch of people in and out, in and out the whole time, especially for the ones these in person. I can definitely keep things provided smoother, right? Yeah yeah yeah. I love

back and forth dialog. I'm all about, you know. Okay. Now follow up question follow up question. But realistically, yeah, like I said, we would end up with, you know, six hour meetings if we, you know, and maybe eventually we get to that point.

01:42:00:07 - 01:42:24:19

Unknown

But that may be a really great way to keep it manageable at first. Right? And I mean, I, I want it to also be like respectful to I mean, I do not want to have another instance where people are being slandered. I mean, it's just it's just not okay. And I mean, I don't I think that's why it'd be good for the questions to go to the board member or the person who's got a language question.

01:42:24:19 - 01:42:43:10

Unknown

So therefore, if it's something that the board cannot answer, cannot talk about, we can let them know ahead of time. Hey, look, this question we cannot X because it cannot be answered that way. Now we'll have to go to interrupt and telling them, no, no, we can't, we can't talk about it because it already be answered prior to the question.

01:42:43:10 - 01:43:09:20

Unknown

Even going out there. Well, and if, if the, if it's the same question quite a few times, they can all be grouped together and you, you know, you don't have to continually bring up the same thing, right? Yeah. That's a, that's a we have like two board members maybe like like the like. So let's say if we do, at each campus.

01:43:09:20 - 01:43:42:10

Unknown

So I want to say that it could be like the campuses representative and then maybe like a member from the governance committee and then, that way because, I mean, there's so many people who are being so distrustful right now. And that way, you know, I don't want that to be where someone's like, I emailed them and they never looked at my question like, and again, I, I understand why people feel that way, but I'm just said this gives another layer of accountability so that there's two people so they would know this is, you know, and I, you know, I don't I don't know if people are going to want it to be like

01:43:42:10 - 01:43:59:06

Unknown

anonymous or if they're going to want to be like, my name is Amanda Towns, and I want this answered and you put my name on it, you know, because there are people who like very much and they're not going to understand that. I mean, they've been asking questions for a while now, and they want answers to it. And but, I mean, I think that, I don't I don't know about you guys.

01:43:59:08 - 01:44:22:17

Unknown

I know that there is a new committee being formed at every campus. Because I've seen the emails. It's like a parent involvement committee, advisory student improvement council. Yeah. That's it. We're not doing that. That has nothing to do with the board. This is actually my admins doing this and everything like that. But I mean, it might be, good for us to leave them in.

01:44:22:19 - 01:44:38:13

Unknown

I mean, I don't know if that's something that they would be interested in doing, but I mean, if they're if they're the people who are, because, again, like most campuses have like a PTO, PTO, but not all of them do, and not all of them have an active one. And some of them, they're really small and they're trying to get off the ground and everything like that.

01:44:38:13 - 01:44:53:25

Unknown

So I don't want to put a big onus on. I mean, it's not fair when you have like the elementary campus that has a big PTO that's been active for years, and then you have like another campus that's brand new and they just are it's a really small campus or something like that. Like I don't want to put the onus on them, but maybe they want to be involved.

01:44:53:25 - 01:45:10:06

Unknown

And I mean, I, I don't know how active that is going to be. I mean, that might be a question that we need to ask. Tom and the admin team, because they're the ones that are putting these things together. But, I mean, I think that that could be a good time. I mean, and I'll, I'll do this.

01:45:10:11 - 01:45:31:05

Unknown

I would love to do this in February. I don't know about you guys think, I mean, I know that's not very far from now, but I don't want it to be like, oh, it's April, and we're finally getting to answer your questions because people all other. Yeah, I want it. Yeah. Sooner or later. And I think you should definitely do it in February.

01:45:31:05 - 01:45:57:28

Unknown

We should, you know, get dates together. We can work with our principals to see what would be best, for a date. And we all should collectively come back via email, with what date works for our school so that we're just getting on top of this? Okay, that's a good idea. Does anybody want to be in charge of this?

01:45:58:00 - 01:46:17:14

Unknown

I don't mind being in charge. That would be good. And everybody's response from them and

their principal. Yes. Yeah, that would be great. And then we can communicate it. You know, out of. Okay. High school is going to be this day, but there's going to be this day, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, because maybe it's just too hard to try to do it all at one time.

01:46:17:14 - 01:46:39:18

Unknown

I mean, I just think it would be overwhelming. I think it would be too many people and too many questions and everything like that. I think we will have the ability to have much better dialog if we do it broken up like this. I think so too. And guys, let's just have a commitment here. Can we commit to having a date for each campus by next Friday?

01:46:39:20 - 01:46:48:05

Unknown

Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah, let's do it. Oh, we don't.

01:46:48:07 - 01:47:25:17

Unknown

Or. All right. Well, We have that in the works and the other stuff in the works. So that's all I have for new business is, Anybody else have anything for new business board members? No. But just to reiterate, we'll have, dates by January 16th to to choose tax. Correct. Okay. Perfect. So should each of us reach out to our campuses and principals and find out what things would be good.

01:47:25:19 - 01:47:50:12

Unknown

For a date in February. Perfect. Thank you. All right. Well, that's all I have for any business. Anybody else have any new business in one? All right, well, we'll let, I know we've been going for two hours now, so we'll get to the executive director update. And, I know that there's some presentations and things here, and we do have some action items.

01:47:50:12 - 01:48:22:11

Unknown

So board members, please stick with me. I'm sorry. We don't typically have long meetings like this, but we have a lot to cover. And so, Tom. Thank you. Mandy. And, thank you to this board. And welcome to the new board members. I appreciate, all the public comments as well. I've met with a number of the people that spoke tonight, and I welcome an opportunity to meet one on one with anyone else who was who spoke or or would like to meet with me individually.

01:48:22:14 - 01:48:51:06

Unknown

I also would like to acknowledge that, you know, we didn't come this far to only come this far. You know what I walked into? We didn't have policy for this, this state. We didn't have, certified administrators. We didn't have, a lot of things. We had, financial obstacle of the new bond. In

three years, we went from 1800 kids to to nearly 3000 a year, 60%, while we, had to build a new organization.

01:48:51:06 - 01:49:14:21

Unknown

So I thank this board for their continued support for the vision and the support for the, the the path that we've taken. I know last year was a challenging year, and I know we've had some obstacles this year, but I, I do have tremendous confidence in our school leaders and our central office team that has have really stuck through all this and have carried that vision.

01:49:14:21 - 01:49:38:05

Unknown

And we really we haven't moved the target. And one of the great things I've heard, both tonight and across the state, this this week alone is how how wonderful the staff is at green across all our campuses. And that that is a credit to our staff. But it's also the the water we put in the pool.

01:49:38:05 - 01:49:59:04

Unknown

We've made sure that our staff feel, buoyed, buoyed by what we do. We give them some some autonomy and some flexibility. And we've been, working very hard to ensure comparable, compensation and support and benefits. So I just want, I know we've had some, a rough patch here, but we didn't come this far. I'd only come this far.

01:49:59:04 - 01:50:21:26

Unknown

And I don't want anyone to forget that. We have a just just this week alone, we got the communication around our school leaders. Every school leader is a certified administrator. Everybody at central office is a professional administrator. Catherine White, who does our policy as a jurist talk. We have a high quality team that have brought this where it is right now.

01:50:21:28 - 01:50:46:22

Unknown

The the wonderful, enrollment at, our brand new school in Simpsonville is a testimony to the vision that we crafted and then hired a good, amazing staff, that made that brought that into fruition. The the ability to personalize education, give students a chance to have personal mission statements. That's all the vision we brought here four years ago when this board brought me here.

01:50:46:24 - 01:51:14:06

Unknown

So I, I have never been more proud of the work that I've done professionally for nearly 40 years and what we've accomplished in four short years at Creighton. So I understand we have to make continuous improvement. It's one of the goals in our strategic plan. But we are I don't want

us to forget that. Just just in the end of December, Greenville County recognized Green Charter schools as the best charter schools in the county for the third straight year.

01:51:14:09 - 01:51:41:22

Unknown

Empowered by Meg Ryan, nationally recognized this last fall. Today I was down at the district and there was, I think, 14 or 15, schools that were recognized as schools with excellent, excellent. Three of them were ours. So I just want to remind everyone, let's not lose the forest for the trees here. We are really moving in a good direction and it will only get better.

01:51:41:24 - 01:52:02:07

Unknown

2425 was an absolute challenge. Who was the when our bond was to the second part of our bond, and it was when we had to ramp up to open that beautiful school in Simpsonville. And if you look at the schools that I have built since I got here in at the high school in Simpsonville, they are markedly better for students and teachers.

01:52:02:10 - 01:52:30:13

Unknown

So I just want to illustrate that because my predecessors put up more challenging learning spaces. And to that point, even though the bond happened in 2021, the improvements in the place gates at the elementary school and the improvements in the parking lot at the Midland is because of our ability. And Chase Willingham. I'll call him out of saving money and opening up our schools so well that we had leftover bond proceeds.

01:52:30:19 - 01:52:54:07

Unknown

So I just want to thank everyone. I appreciate all the staff, all the parents, all the kids and our central office and school leaders team for the hard work that goes on, every day at Green. So with that in mind, one of the obligations I have as the executive director is ensuring there is a consistent and equitable distribution of resources.

01:52:54:09 - 01:53:18:21

Unknown

So part of what tonight is, is really just giving you an opportunity to to hear from, two of our directors. I think I had the wrong sheet in front of me, but I think Mr. Jones Lewis is presenting first, and she's going to explain, how we built our special education department and how, how those staff are distributed in the process.

01:53:18:24 - 01:53:49:21

Unknown

Important to know, we do have, an effective and new, custodial vendor in every campus. It's citywide. They're amazing. I know we had that hiccup, and there was some perception out there

that we had fired or eliminated cafeteria workers. None of that happened. So, you know, we'll get into the personnel distribution shortly, but, I assure you that Maya and her team, ensures we are compliant and legal and everything around special ed, my.

01:53:49:22 - 01:54:17:29

Unknown

You want to take it from here? Yes, I know, so what? Can you everyone hear me? Greetings, everyone. Greetings. I apologize in advance if Pearl or spice barks because they might hear you guys speaking. Those are my fur babies. I don't think I'm able to share my screen. I think the board has the, like your PowerPoint.

01:54:18:01 - 01:54:53:23

Unknown

My. I think the board has. Okay, okay. Well, I admire Jones Lewis, the director of student services. I actually just celebrated my five year anniversary January 4th. I came during in the midst of covet with the hybrid schedule. It was just me and our office that was also a record firm. And so now I am the director of student services, and I have a small department.

01:54:53:25 - 01:55:23:12

Unknown

We have Jamie McNeal, who's our 50504 coordinator. My southern twang just came out a little bit. We have Jessica Harrison, who is the veteran, and our department. She is our multilingual, multilingual language coordinator. And we also have Susan Jones, who is our school psychologist. So we have an in-house school psychologist. And then we also contract with a, a contracted agency, Mindful Assessment.

01:55:23:19 - 01:56:19:22

Unknown

That's our other school psychologist. We currently we are currently serving across the network 290 students, who've been identified as multilingual learners who actually receive language services, 423 students with disabilities across our network. We have doubled, almost tripled since I've started in 2021. And we also had, 189 students who currently have Final Fours. And I would like to echo what someone said earlier, we have the most amazing, staff building administrator, ELT members, board members, paraprofessionals, special education teachers, front office, managers.

01:56:19:24 - 01:56:40:06

Unknown

Susan. Margaret, I wouldn't have made it this far without you. With powerschool. So I'm very thankful for, our team, our building, leadership is impeccable. So I'm very thankful for them. So I want to say thank you to them to, So this parent service models. I don't know if you guys have known the history.

01:56:40:06 - 01:57:00:14

Unknown

And you guys, I could talk a little bit more than Tom, so I'll try not to, but I really can, stick to the PowerPoint. I'm going off script. I know I'm going to hurry up. So when I first started, you guys, we were are. We only implemented the, resource model to provide special education services for our students.

01:57:00:17 - 01:57:26:00

Unknown

So I'm happy to say that we have grown. We now three of our campuses have, self-contained classes. We also have the resource model, and we also have the push models where teachers, they do push and please, when you see our special education teachers and our paraprofessionals, give them a hug and thank them for, for, for for me and just thank them because they are amazing.

01:57:26:03 - 01:57:59:02

Unknown

We also our teachers collaborate with our general education teachers. And like I say, we also we have contract providers. We provide our students with O.T., we provide our students with PD, we provide our students with vision, services. And if we have a student that does enroll at our school, if there's a, service that we need, then my team and I, we will identify contract and agency to make sure that we provide those services outlined in all of their IEPs.

01:57:59:04 - 01:58:09:27

Unknown

Melissa, sharing the PowerPoint for everybody, to see that because she's amazing. Thank you. Melissa. There to go ahead. My.

01:58:09:29 - 01:58:41:01

Unknown

And I do apologize. This was done in Canva and I shared it in Google. And I would like to give a huge shout out to Jessica Harrison, our MLP, data. Our students last year exceeded the district's district, averages on their access testing last year. So all of our students who, took, the test, the access test or participated, they, exceeded the expectations that were outlined in the requirements.

01:58:41:01 - 01:59:08:12

Unknown

So please, when you see our MLP teachers, they work really very hard with all of our students and our email population. Actually, I don't have this listed, but we actually have 290 that receive services. We have another 200 that, are monitored. So we have about 400 students altogether. But two 290 actually receive direct services. Can can I just interrupt here?

01:59:08:12 - 01:59:38:19

Unknown

Just when you look at that, the number of students we serve, one of the things that, this speaks to is our integrity around applications and a blind lottery. One of the things that we are at Green is a free public education. And, these numbers are aligned equally with the state averages because we have a blind lottery, there's no, handpicking of kids.

01:59:38:19 - 02:00:04:11

Unknown

It's they're accepted. Now, sometimes we can't provide all the services they need and that that we have to ramp up as best we can. But, you know, we we can make a determination if it's not an appropriate setting for a student. And Maya would facilitate that through the IEP process. But why we have so many multi-language learners, 504 students and special ed students is because we do a blind lottery and we accept them all.

02:00:04:14 - 02:00:32:12

Unknown

And that puts make screen so special to. We have so many kids with unique needs. And we also have 40 countries represented at green because we simply just accept who signs up. Go ahead. And we well, the stars of the presentation are our special education teachers. We have tripled our staff and I'm proud to I listed everyone's name.

02:00:32:12 - 02:01:04:18

Unknown

I'm going to give everyone a shout out. We have missed Cara Cara class. Doctor Mona, you, Saffy, these are Greeneville staff members. They are special education teachers. Miss Clara Guerrero, Amanda Leonetti, Sarah Hadsell is our middle school special education teacher. And Jennifer, Miss Jennifer Compton, miss Angela Mayfield is our paraprofessional at an elementary school in Sandy. Sandy Thompson is not only out there professional, but she's also our Final Four coordinator at our Green elementary school, Sara Teal.

02:01:04:20 - 02:01:27:03

Unknown

Who is our MLP teacher? Miss Alisha Heck, who is, our MLP, teacher at the elementary school, Linda area. Engelman, our MLP teacher at the elementary school. And I get a little nervous sometimes. You guys, I don't like speaking in front of people. I'm very shy. People don't know that. But I am our green, low country and Middle East.

02:01:27:04 - 02:01:51:26

Unknown

They may be small, but they are mighty. You all, we have missed their, The nursery was small and special education teacher, Cheryl Bowman was, Mark Mitch Hoffer. He just joined our team not too long ago. And Rachel Kerns, our MLP teacher, Miss Jairus, but she is our special

education teacher. But we do contract with the agency.

02:01:51:28 - 02:02:13:18

Unknown

That's all. We have one teacher for several years, so we had to reach out and we had to contract with the contracting agency because our numbers tripled down there within a year and a half. Miss Jennifer Gray, who, we added to our team last year. She was actually a general education teacher, and she wanted to become a special education teacher this year.

02:02:13:21 - 02:02:46:23

Unknown

Miss Karina Vega, MLP teacher, and Linda Pew pew, who's our parent professional. That they're, I green upstate high school. We have mister Cornelius Foster, miss Beth childress, Bethany Miller and Anita Layton is our MLP teacher. But those are my three special education, teachers. Wonderful team. You guys, please go and meet and greet them. Our Made in Spartanburg team, Lauren Goodwin, Jennifer Lewis and Ashley Freda are our special education teachers in district.

02:02:46:24 - 02:03:14:15

Unknown

The environment is our paraprofessional, Payne Vang, our MLP teacher, and Nikki was Nikki Guy on our MLP teacher for our Spartanburg campus and our green Simpsonville campus. I have a surprise that's on this slide. I'm debuting it tonight and I hope I don't tear up with you guys, but this is really what brings about, we have Miss Brittany Tatro, our special education teacher, Doctor Lauren.

02:03:14:15 - 02:03:53:15

Unknown

Neat. Miss Kristen smith. Miss Kristen smith, I met her my first year here at green, and I would always get stuck in the car line, and she would always move all the cars. So I came back out because I was always rushing to another meeting or going to a doctor's appointment. But, we had Mr. Sheeba Fleming, who teaches at our elementary school, her brother, Doctor Fleming, who spoke live and spoke, spoke to who she was and what they saw and encouraged her to go back to college and and, May of April or May of 2023.

02:03:53:18 - 02:04:20:21

Unknown

She was helping me out the parking space and she said, Miss Jones Lewis. She said, I'm going back to school. And I'm majoring in special education. I said, I'm going to be there at the graduation. You keep me posted. And December 12th, she graduated. She graduated. She's a fully certified multi categorical special education teacher. And her certification at 5 p.m. Monday.

02:04:20:21 - 02:04:45:18

Unknown

I may be saying too much, but I'm so proud of her. She's fully certified, and she said she loves green. And this is what brings about this is what we do. We breathe life into one another. We encourage each other. We are there and we push one another. Sometimes it's uncomfortable, but sometimes we need it. And that is what we're all about.

02:04:45:18 - 02:05:15:27

Unknown

That's what it means to grow with green. So to see both Fleming, Doctor Fleming, Christian Smith, the village that she had, Marlena Fitzgerald, thank you. Thank you for cultivating Kristen Smith and believing in her. Sorry. Debbie Arnold cannot be carried over here like she. But. And I think Stephanie's probably like this to me. She was the sunshine in the cafeteria for both of my children and in the bar line.

02:05:15:27 - 02:05:40:00

Unknown

And to know that happened. Yes, exactly. That's what I think I am exceedingly proud of. Yes. We we talk all the time about pursuing your personal and professional dreams and aspirations and I've had the good fortune of meeting with her a few times, and she exemplifies what, what we want to see in our students and our staff.

02:05:40:00 - 02:06:03:16

Unknown

And I, I just I was in awe, admire told me she said the certifications official. We need teacher there. She's she's good to go. So, no. And work harder. No one cares more. I'm so proud of Kristen myself. Yes. And she's an awesome person. Yeah. And she's she has expertise. She just has expertise, too. She's. And she does this.

02:06:03:16 - 02:06:27:24

Unknown

She loves green and she loves our students. And she's dedicated and she's a hard worker. So I'm very proud of her. And I'm honored to watch her growth and watch her grow with green. Sorry, Debbie. Honor care professional. She's wonderful. Caitlin Spagnolo, MLP teacher, and Angie Quinn, our MLP teacher. That those are that those are our wonderful staff members.

02:06:27:27 - 02:06:55:07

Unknown

Current focus. I'm sorry, you guys. I have you all in a little box that I'm moving around my screen. Our current focus area is moving forward. Instructional quality, always professional development and cross team collaboration. So what a lot of you guys don't see behind the scenes is that, you know, I work closely with our, teaching and learning operations, HRA, growth and compliance.

02:06:55:07 - 02:07:18:07

Unknown

We all work together. Cross team collaboration, how we can improve. And with our building administrators, we have some staff members that, some of our special education teachers actually stepped up and attended where they were identified by their building administrators and myself to be lead. So they went through the district training and also have provided in-house training for them.

02:07:18:09 - 02:07:49:14

Unknown

This happened to the people that the individuals that we have in the organization who are dedicated, who, want to grow from within and they contribute to us every day. So, those are our areas of focus. And then thank you. Any questions for me? I make it look easy, but it's not easy. You guys. You do make a thank you.

02:07:49:16 - 02:08:10:20

Unknown

Yeah, yeah. Thank you for this presentation. I mean, I, I remember when you first got here and you know, that the special ed department was so small and you had so little to work with, and, the fact that that's so many. I wanted to make a point here because Tom brought up, like, look, we do a blind lottery, and that's true.

02:08:10:20 - 02:08:28:25

Unknown

And you know, and that's a really important thing because, you know, there were federal laws that guaranteed every kid has the right to an education or a free public education. We also don't get as much money as the other public schools down the street today. Like we didn't have as much money as they get. Because we don't get all those local tax dollars that follow us.

02:08:28:25 - 02:08:46:24

Unknown

That's what James was talking about in our last meeting. And, you know, but we still have to serve those students. And, I mean, I know there's challenges to it. I know that, you know, my my son is going to school to be a teacher right now. And I was talking to my niece who just changed her major to education, and she talking about going into special ed.

02:08:46:24 - 02:09:05:23

Unknown

And I said, well, you will be a unicorn because you can't find a special ed teacher right now. They're they're so hard to find. So, and the fact that green cultivated their own and an amazing staff member that's been here for like, a decade, that's. Thank you for bringing that sunshine. We needed that sunshine right now. We need.

02:09:05:23 - 02:09:32:03

Unknown

Yes, yes. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I, I want to, as we move into, Don's presentation on, our staffing pattern, part of what we did last winter was develop a scheduling rubric that really speaks to how we serve, you know, our most impacted kids first. So that's part of what you'll hear.

02:09:32:05 - 02:09:57:19

Unknown

But that's really the, the foundational document that guides, equitable distribution of resources, consistent implementation of our model, regardless of the size of the school. Obviously, the bigger the school, the more maybe electives or more, selection of electives exist, but we wanted to make sure we, guarantee a certain level of green instruction across the school.

02:09:57:19 - 02:10:16:29

Unknown

So, I'm going to let Don take it over. You'll have to look in your packets because that was just a packet of information. It was not a PowerPoint. But, Don, really, you know, and I have to say that, Don's another one that is truly a legend to me. And I'll try not just teared up because I.

02:10:16:29 - 02:10:45:19

Unknown

I don't know if everyone realizes what Don referring into in the, in the winter of 2022, you know, the things that she had to navigate, she's not only incredibly bright, incredibly hard working, but she's clearly dedicated to green and savvy about how to navigate some of the most complex, challenges. And normally within personnel and HR, we're always challenging.

02:10:45:21 - 02:11:11:12

Unknown

And she does that with such a deft hand. So, this is her presentation to really reinforce and share with the board the full staffing pattern across the network that you see that it's consistently applied and that, you know, what reductions were made and, and really the decision making we go through when we meet with principals and develop a budget, obviously we'll do that more with chance this time.

02:11:11:12 - 02:11:33:04

Unknown

But this has been our approach for the last several years. So, Don, do you want to talk about our decision making protocols? Sure. Good evening everyone. I'm Don de Boer, I'm the director of human resources, and I apologize because my area is not quite as sunshine and bright as, my ears is. And special education, so won't be quite so sunny.

02:11:33:04 - 02:12:01:22

Unknown

Sorry. But we're discussing tonight the framework that green uses to make staffing better decisions at our campuses. And, first and foremost, our staffing decisions are student centered. Every year and throughout the school year, we align staffing with student needs, enrollment, compliance requirements, and available resources. While we apply consistent models across the campuses, we also make site specific adjustments to ensure equity and responsiveness.

02:12:01:24 - 02:12:47:12

Unknown

There are six key factors that guide all of our decisions when it comes to staffing. And that first is special education in multiple, Multilingual Learner Program students. It's a tough one. Sorry. Each year, Department of Student Services works closely with the Human Resources Department to review the total number of students that have IEPs or those that are coming in with IEPs, that we are, anticipating, as well as those students requiring MLP servant services, staffing for special education teachers, paraprofessionals, MLP teachers that's driven by identified caseloads and required service minutes, not not by a fixed FTE ratio.

02:12:47:14 - 02:13:12:05

Unknown

These staffing patterns are monitored throughout the year, and we do make adjustments. We have to come back and make adjustments as student needs change, or student populations change and grow. The second factor that we use to make these decisions is our campus schedules and enrollment projections. And as Tom said, we use a standardized scheduling rubric across the campuses to ensure consistency on our.

02:13:12:08 - 02:13:37:00

Unknown

One of our major goals is to ensure that a student at the Low Country campus is getting, an equal or equitable education as someone in Spartanburg or someone in Simpsonville, or someone at Green Pelham Elementary or Grade Middle, our decisions are informed by the projected numbers of returning students, the anticipated new enrollment for the campus, and the number of home rooms that will we anticipate per grade level.

02:13:37:03 - 02:14:09:14

Unknown

That alone allows us to align instructional staffing with expected students populations. Third, physical space and classroom capacity is another, big consideration that we have to look at when we figure each and every, staffing pattern out by campus. Each campus has unique space considerations. We review classroom availability, size, as well as the space needed for specialized services like intervention, special education, MLP instruction.

02:14:09:17 - 02:14:33:20

Unknown

As a general rule, we plan for classroom enrollment up to 24 students per classroom with flexibility when student needs or space limitations require adjustments. This is important to note because obviously the schools of the high school and central have, oh, every classrooms over 600ft². Some of the other campuses have real physical constraints on how many kids you can fit in the room.

02:14:33:20 - 02:15:02:18

Unknown

So so that's what Don's referring to. Next is electives, programing. Elective offerings are determined based on the total student population of a campus. The number of home rooms per grade level available, physical space. That can be a challenge in some of our buildings. Staffing for electives is aligned to ensure students have access to a well-rounded program while remaining realistic about the actual capacity of each particular campus.

02:15:02:21 - 02:15:28:14

Unknown

Next is support staff support. Staffing is scaled to the campus size and operational needs. In general, campuses are staffed with anywhere from one and a half to three office staff members, with school counselors and nursing support assigned based on student population and service requirements for for a particular campus and then finally school administration. Each campus has one principal.

02:15:28:16 - 02:15:53:13

Unknown

As we have discussed, campuses with a consistent enrollment of more than 400 students are also assigned an assistant principal to ensure adequate instructional leadership and school support. To kind of summarize, staffing patterns are formally reviewed during the annual planning and budgeting process. But we also do we monitor them closely throughout the school year. The patterns of do not stay static throughout a school year.

02:15:53:20 - 02:16:09:26

Unknown

When enrollment shifts happen or student service needs change, we review and adjust staffing as needed. We review them throughout the school year to respond to the changes that come up as we move through each school year. Over the ten months.

02:16:09:28 - 02:16:36:05

Unknown

Thank you. Can I just make a comment here of I, it was mentioned earlier that there's a lot of focus, in our meetings about enrollment. And one of the reasons that we look at enrollment pretty much every month, month to month, is because that is a big part of our staffing patterns. I mean, if we have a change of enrollment, that means we may need to hire a new teacher or hire

a new paraprofessional or something like that.

02:16:36:05 - 02:16:56:08

Unknown

I mean, that's one of the reasons that's what part of what the board and the executive leadership team does is constantly be monitoring enrollment, because there are so many changes that have to happen. And if there are drops in enrollment, then obviously it changes some things. And if there were increases in like multi-language learners, for example, then we have to make sure that we have the right kind of staff in place for them.

02:16:56:11 - 02:17:17:22

Unknown

All right. Raising that correctly okay. I yes. Have we watch it consistently. Yep. And I mean we have to actually go around and look the time because that's how the school is funded. I mean, we don't get the property tax dollars that all the other schools do. So it is simply what we get from enrollment from the state.

02:17:17:24 - 02:17:44:07

Unknown

And I think probably, you know, important to point out here is obviously ramping up. We had to do to meet the 2021 bond and really be in the position, the good, strong position we are now. It was more times we missed enrollment or or overstaffed and we've we've made some mistakes along the way. But it was only because we really didn't have a roadmap before.

02:17:44:08 - 02:18:06:22

Unknown

Right? When you think about going forward, we're only ending kindergarten to most every school now or the the first year in that school, like the ninth grade or sixth grade at the middle school. So I do think that it becomes easier to predict, you know, we we opened sensible. We didn't know how many staff kids would get. And, you know, this year we doubled in size there.

02:18:06:25 - 02:18:26:13

Unknown

Those are hard things to predict when you have such a short runway of of experience doing this. We opened the high school because we knew we had to do that. But, you know, I think we do. We have learned each year a more effective way to to do this. And that's why last winter we did the scheduling rubrics so we could okay, now what have we learned?

02:18:26:18 - 02:18:48:01

Unknown

What are the ways we want to focus. And I think this is what sets screen apart. And I think this is why so many people want to come bring their kids to green. Is it it's it ensures personalization. We're still we're going to have enough kids to offer a wide range of choices, but still small

enough to have that personal contact.

02:18:48:03 - 02:19:11:24

Unknown

One of the things that led to the improvement and the development of the scheduling rubric was the incredible schedule at the middle school, where we have, a project lead the way teacher at every grade. So they have three grade level teams, they have double language arts and a project lead the way. So in most middle schools you don't see that it starts to feel much like a junior high.

02:19:11:26 - 02:19:32:04

Unknown

But we still give a double period and 85 minute period every day of language arts. We still have math and science on a day by day, but then they get the kind of application of math and science in their project Lead the Way classes. So they're really getting about 100% more language arts and 50% more science in that.

02:19:32:06 - 02:19:58:03

Unknown

And we did that because we know that kids consider, they get excited about learning where they start shutting down in seventh and eighth grade. They start thinking about, do I really like school that much? So we know that if kids feel skilled and feel knowledgeable and competent, it's going to help them. And language arts and math are the things that will give you the skills to pursue higher learning.

02:19:58:03 - 02:20:20:15

Unknown

So we were excited to try that schedule to middle school. It still needs to be tweaked. It still needs to be improved. But that was really the impetus for developing a system wide rubric that led to this decision making model and staff. And so, I want to thank Don for putting that together. In addition, in your packet is also the distribution of the reductions that you asked for.

02:20:20:15 - 02:20:43:18

Unknown

So as you can see, that significant reductions were made, at Central Office to ensure that we always protected the classroom experience for students, as we heard from our stakeholders and as we know, the relationship between teacher and student is the most critical thing at green. And that's what sets us apart, because everything is focus. Everything we do focuses on that relationship.

02:20:43:20 - 02:20:51:01

Unknown

So, does anyone have any questions for Don?

02:20:51:03 - 02:21:16:07

Unknown

I do, just real quick, just so much. Campuses have a full time substitute and some have a full time substitute that also has a little bit of extra work. They do like social media or, and, so all of our campuses, K to eight, have a full time building substitute at the, the high school has we call a student support specialist.

02:21:16:09 - 02:21:46:18

Unknown

So her role is she does provide some, some building coverage when she's able to, but she actually works more with our students that are working, taking dual enrollment classes or going, working with the accelerate program. So, so all of our K to eight buildings have a full time building subs substitute though. And then anyone that does like social media that that's a that's above and beyond the duty of the work day type of situation.

02:21:46:21 - 02:22:22:02

Unknown

Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Okay. I think my next item is calendars, right? I think that's what next is. Again, I know everyone believes this as much as I do, but Susan Mark for it is amazing. Typically we do calendars in February, but, I reached out to, not too long ago also, and, you know, last winter or last time we approved the calendars, we because we now bring our Spartanburg families to the high school.

02:22:22:02 - 02:22:44:26

Unknown

We have an upstate Midlands and low country calendar. So, we're still trying to focus on, kind of area where the schools exist. But we did, eliminate the Spartanburg calendar last year. So they're all aligned in the upstate. So there's three calendars before you, for your approval. They really, there's really nothing radically different about them.

02:22:44:26 - 02:23:26:21

Unknown

They are aligned with, the full week at Thanksgiving, the two weeks at the, Christmas holiday, spring break, based on the area you're in, and they're all starting on the same day. So I don't know, Susan, if you wanted to elaborate on any more than that. Just the other big thing was, that each of the calendars we try to closely aligned with the zoned district in which the school sits so that it's easy for families who have children at multiple schools to be able to, manage transportation.

02:23:26:23 - 02:24:05:18

Unknown

And also, I think that on all of them, we in the term for, winter break, just make a clean break for

the kids and staff and then the other thing that's different this year was the make up calendar days that we've typically put at the end of the year. This year, we have put them within the year, so that we don't have a situation where we're asking people to come back after Memorial Day, because a lot of times people already have plans for vacation and then they don't attend.

02:24:05:18 - 02:24:32:05

Unknown

And then the district says we have to hold true at the meetings, so it becomes a whole thing. So we hope to avoid that this year or next year. So, if you have any questions about the calendar, Susan's available. But this is a much a, you know, obviously a board prerogative. But something we've done each year, each year we've made, you know, subtle improvements in the calendar.

02:24:32:05 - 02:25:00:09

Unknown

I do think that last year we, had the first semester and before the holiday, which I think, was really great, it allowed for kids to feel like, you know, they can go to the holiday with, that work done. And, so I think that was a big improvement. It made us start a little earlier, but I think it gives us a nice kind of clean to semester, especially at our high school, because we have a two semester program there.

02:25:00:11 - 02:25:22:10

Unknown

It does make it, if people don't know, we do have a 4x4 block there. So it does make sense to do the fall into it before the holiday break. So any questions on the calendar? But I am seeking, support for the proposed calendars. My question is not actually for you necessarily or use these are offered, although, you know, I think you're amazing.

02:25:22:13 - 02:25:38:05

Unknown

It is for like factored in the do you have copies of these calendars? I don't want you to vote on something that you don't have in front of you. They were sent the packet, the board packet. Yeah. I wanted to make this. Okay. I just wanted to make sure that you you knew what you were voting on.

02:25:38:09 - 02:25:42:26

Unknown

Thank you. Yeah, absolutely. Okay.

02:25:42:28 - 02:26:11:07

Unknown

So, I guess I'll keep running this meeting until it's over. The, we will approve them in a bundle. So we'll just take one vote to cover all three of them. So can I have, a motion to approve the calendars as presented? Yes. All right. Well done. Went first, Laurel got second. So, any

comments, anything that needs to be addressed, any changes, anything like that?

02:26:11:07 - 02:26:41:25

Unknown

Board members seeing? None. I'll call the question. All in. Okay. All in favor of passing, the next year. Next school year calendars for all of the campuses. Please say hi and raise your hand. We the way we live. So here. I'm here. Sorry. Just just make sure I thank you again. I have been and these are going to get disseminated to stakeholders immediately.

02:26:41:25 - 02:27:00:10

Unknown

Right? Or as soon as possible, because I know there are people trying to plan for next year. Yeah. I think Susan will make sure that gets out to the principals. Thank you all very much. So the last item I have is an action item as well. And first and foremost, I want to tell, address two things.

02:27:00:12 - 02:27:21:06

Unknown

Obviously, you know, we had some vandalism at the middle school, you know, within, within a few few hours, we were able to, start investigating. And having Jeff Long at green is amazing. He was the, over the SRO at the middle school back when he was the major at at green at City of Greenville.

02:27:21:08 - 02:27:45:07

Unknown

So within a week, we were able to make, the police made arrests of of the delinquent who broke into the school and caused a lot of water damage. So, the legal side is ongoing. Mr. Whitehead has a plan to open Monday. It really was, minimal, extensive damage. Just a lot of water damage.

02:27:45:09 - 02:28:19:06

Unknown

The. No, no, white. No, smart boards were damaged. It was really just flooring, ceiling tiles and some sheetrock. So, Servpro and our insurance company have worked very closely on this. They've been they've air dried the whole thing, tested it for everything. Building materials are arriving. We will, we will we will approach the repair of the school as, the top of the first and then the bottom of the after.

02:28:19:06 - 02:28:53:03

Unknown

So, we can run the school. We, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Rollins and Mr. Willingham figured out how to do that. They're going to start installing the flooring, I believe tomorrow upstairs, they're going to move from the front of the building to the back. So whatever is left will still be able to use

those classroom. The top floor of the will be done first, to ensure that we can get every teacher up there back into the classroom and then, probably it will take another week or so to finish the bottom of the, but, they have a good plan.

02:28:53:03 - 02:29:20:20

Unknown

It's going to work. It's it's been an amazing, effort to both make the claim and follow up the Google and see what lessons learned from that, but, it was not a green child. It's not a kid. That was one of our stakeholders at all. He's just someone in the neighborhood, a handful of, kids that were unsupervised, they pulled the, the eyewash station shower down and rain.

02:29:20:22 - 02:29:41:25

Unknown

It poured out. 20 gallons a minute for 15 minutes before it went off. That was the extent of the damage, but it's in 300 gallons of water across the entire first floor or second floor, which then fell through and leaked through. So that's what we dealt with. Now this is part of the action item I need from you.

02:29:41:28 - 02:30:08:18

Unknown

But first I want to, you know, indulge me a minute here because I cannot express more gratefully the effort by Chris Finley and his staff to work with us on this challenge. Some of you may be aware there was, an expansion of Green Upper Campus and lower campus about a decade ago. And so they have literally been operating under the same school ID number.

02:30:08:21 - 02:30:33:14

Unknown

And because of that, last year, if you remember, we had the skylight problem film Parliamentary School and Greenville Middle was not able to use any remote days after that. Now we had the hurricane and we got the three days way then. So we were able to work it out. But I was not going to tell our stakeholders that we couldn't have school at the elementary school because some bureaucratic student ID number or school ID number.

02:30:33:17 - 02:31:04:10

Unknown

And Chris, completely got it, got his staff engaged with the State Department and by Monday afternoon had an answer that we're going to separate the schools. So, the elementary school has their remote days back. It's great for Susan. It's great for everybody in power school. And it was because of the hard work of Chris Neely and his staff to, to support it, see the sanity in it and make sure it happens.

02:31:04:10 - 02:31:23:07

Unknown

So, before you as simply the opportunity to waive three school days for the Greenville Middle School. So this week they will only have to make up one of the days that they're missing this week. It does not. I'm not asking for anybody else. Any. You know, we still have the winter to get through, completely.

02:31:23:07 - 02:31:45:25

Unknown

But this would be a tremendous relief for the middle school. And I would appreciate support for waiving three school days. They the district and Chris's staff confirmed that that is still, the legal right of the board to do. I don't want to do it for the whole charter because I want the elementary school. But to sell their remote base and and, you know, we're not touching any other school.

02:31:45:25 - 02:32:04:19

Unknown

So thankfully, we'll be able to do this going forward. So that's the final request and a note of gratitude to the district. Yes, please. Thank you. To our school district. Thank you so much.

02:32:04:22 - 02:32:37:14

Unknown

Board members, can I have a motion to approve the action item to waive the three days, for the Greenville Middle School campus summer camp? So we got a second, third day. Any comments? Questions? Board members, anything like that? I do want to comment real quick. Not so much on that. Just, having walked that building, I want to say that Servpro is doing an amazing job.

02:32:37:16 - 02:33:10:21

Unknown

And I know mold is always a concern. Everybody's always worried there's water is what Servpro was above and beyond testing, checking it. Yeah, it was thoroughly, thoroughly inspected. And bone dry and no signs of any issues. So that was always a concern. And there was probably 80 leaf blowers going this wall and cause like it was loud, but that they weren't going to do anything to their nature, you know, it was all safe.

02:33:10:21 - 02:33:41:22

Unknown

So, you know, that's what Chase makes sure of at green. You make sure we do it the right way. So, so, did did you vote on the. House? All right, all in favor, please say, and raise your hand. All right. Motion passes for the third three days. Well, thank you very much. I'll send your gratitude to the district and to the middle school staff as well.

02:33:41:24 - 02:34:01:01

Unknown

And, it is our past. Yes. And and, again, you know, I just really thank this board for their

continuous support and, you know, let's let's just keep moving forward. We didn't come this far. Don't come this far. And I really am proud of where we have come, where we're going. So thank you very much for your support tonight.

02:34:01:04 - 02:34:26:06

Unknown

And, I look forward to seeing you next time. All right. That is, the conclusion of our agenda, guys, I on a personal note, I just want to thank you all. It has been an honor and a privilege to be your chair for the last three years. So for the last time, can I please have a motion to adjourn?

02:34:26:09 - 02:34:37:20

Unknown

Calendar. Thank you. All right, you guys, have a wonderful evening. And thank you, Mandy. Thank you. Mandy. Thank you. Thank you, I.