

Minutes of Board of Directors Special Public Meeting



EDUPRIZE Schools
1383 E Baseline Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85233
8/10/2026

Members Present:

Seth Klempner
Carrie Larson
Todd Noel
Samantha Watters
Amy Ruck

Members Absent:

None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Carrie Larson at 4:31 pm. A quorum being present, the meeting proceeded.

A motion was made by Carrie Larson to table items 2 & 4 to a later meeting to allow parents time to speak, and Samantha Watters seconded the motion. The Board approved, with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson, Todd Noel, Samantha Watters and Amy Ruck in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

2. Review, Discussion and Consideration of an Authorizing Resolution of EDUPRIZE Schools Inc. in connection with the proposed purchase of currently leased facilities, construction of additional facilities and obtaining bond financing in connection with the same.

Tabled

3. Consideration of Retaining Baker Tilly for the FY2026 Audit

A motion was made by Samantha Watters to approve Baker Tilly to perform the FY 2026 audit, and Carrie Larson seconded the motion. The Board approved, with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson, Todd Noel, Samantha Watters and Amy Ruck in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

4. Consideration of Line of Credit Extension

Tabled

Call to the Public

Carrie Larson provided an overview of Open Meeting Law, noting that the board is unable to engage in discussion or deliberation on topics not posted on the agenda, and outlined the process for public comment, including three-minute time limits per speaker.

Cayleen Lyons: Argued that the enrollment shortfall and resulting layoffs were a planning failure, and urged the board to postpone expansion and redirect those funds to preserve the eliminated positions.

Elizabeth Deming: Described years of eroding programs and said Friday's cuts feel like the final straw, asking the board to protect the educational experience, be more transparent, and invite parent input on rebuilding the school's identity.

Scott Raikonen: Raised concerns about a potential breach of the two-week contract clause for laid-off employees, and criticized what he described as a secretive, corporate financial structure benefiting insiders at the expense of the school community.

Matt Crovetti: Expressed concern that the loss of reading interventionists and aides will directly harm his daughter's newly established supports, and questioned how campus expansion is consistent with cutting essential staff.

Jason Gardner: Representing approximately 100 parents and 175 students, summarized community concerns including loss of support staff, growing class sizes, and lack of transparency, and flagged that administration and central services costs rose 22–40% while instruction rose only 3.5%.

Justine Wheeler: Praised the school's original culture of knowing every student and family personally, and expressed fear that this culture and basic safety are deteriorating as class sizes grow and staffing shrinks.

Dan Kesser: Briefly expressed heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional, personalized support his son has received and said he hopes it never goes away.

Ashley Miller: Questioned how the management firm became involved with the school and whether those decisions are accessible in public records, and criticized the pattern of last-minute, disruptive decisions and the treatment of long-tenured staff.

Rochelle Haneford: After already pulling one child due to prior concerns, expressed heartbreak at facing the same situation with her kindergartner, and asked the board directly how they plan to keep young children safe with higher enrollment and fewer staff.

Jonna Wilhelm: As a longtime front desk employee, described fielding distraught parent calls all day while personally grieving the loss of coworkers, and criticized the layoffs as heartless for being delivered as a mass notification rather than individual conversations.

Alicia Andrus: As a laid-off aide and parent, expressed sadness about bonding with students for 12 days only to be let go, and noted that summer cuts would have allowed her to find other work and make different enrollment decisions for her own children.

Brian Andrus: Drew a parallel between safe nurse-to-patient staffing ratios and student-to-support-staff ratios, arguing that each person removed exponentially increases the risk of students failing.

Nicole Savage: Said she chose EDUPRIZE specifically for its technology program, live learning lab, and K–12 model, and expressed concern that those distinguishing features are disappearing.

Alexandria White: Shared her son's significant reading growth through the learning lab and intervention program as evidence of their value, and expressed fear about those supports being cut during an already difficult personal situation.

Jared: Drawing on 30+ years of charter school experience, warned that the current pattern of cuts and declining enrollment mirrors schools he has seen fail, and announced that complaints are already being filed with the state charter board.

Carter Bailey: As a CPA, characterized the situation as textbook private equity behavior, cutting staff while adding physical assets, and urged parents to connect their frustration to their voting choices, noting Arizona receives \$5,000 less per student than the national average.

The board noted that a school-hosted town hall may provide an opportunity for parents to have direct dialogue with school administration outside of the formal board meeting structure.

5. Adjournment

The next Board meeting will be held on August 20, 2026 at 2:00 PM

A motion was made by Seth Klempner to adjourn the meeting, and Samantha Watters seconded the motion. The Board approved, with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson, Todd Noel, Samantha Watters and Amy Ruck in favor. None opposed. None abstained. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm by Carrie Larson.