Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the June 2026 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: July 21, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**June 9, 2026**
Time:	5:00 PM - 5:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, James Jones, Aaron Brenner, Leoner Francisco, Br. Brian Carty, David Ingles, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia, Mary O'Grady, and Fr. Anthony Andreassi **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Jolleen Wagner, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Maria Murphy, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Margaret Rippe, Ruby Amezquita, Yenny, Baustista, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Brian Giglio (Vertex), Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex), and Unknown iPhone Attendee
Apologies:	

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	5:00 pm
2	Approval of May Minutes	Eckholdt	5:01 pm
3	Re-election of Trustee & Officers	Eckholdt	5:01 pm
4	Vertex Sublease	Mulcahy	5:03 pm
5	Bank Account Opening	Salvatierra	5:07 pm
6	Executive Session	Murphy	5:10 pm
7	Brilla Schools Update	Valle	5:26 pm
8	Adjournment	Eckholdt	5:34 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 5:00 pm.

Item 2. Approval of May Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Mr. David Ingles motioned to approve and Fr. Anthony Andreassi seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the May meeting.

Item 3. Re-Election of Trustee and Officers

- Mr. Eckholdt introduced the re-election of Mr. David Ingles to the Brilla Board to continue as a trustee. Mr. Ingles recused himself from the vote due to its relation to his re-election.
- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the resolution of Mr. Ingles's re-election and reappointment to the Brilla Board for another term. Ms. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Fr.

Andreassi seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other Board members unanimously approved the resolution for Mr. Ingles's re-election and reappointment to the Brilla Board.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, Section 4.3 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the members of the Board shall each serve three (3) year terms, and shall each serve until a successor has been elected and qualified or until such member's death resignation or removal; and

WHEREAS, the term of **David Ingles** as a member of the Board is set to expire, and the Board deems it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla to approve, ratify and confirm the election of David Ingles to another three (3) year term to serve as a member of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves, ratifies and confirms the election of David Ingles to another three (3) year term to serve as a member of the Board until his successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until his earlier death, resignation or removal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any member of the Board, any officer of Brilla or any appropriate agent of Brilla in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

- Mr. Eckholdt recused himself from the discussion and vote on his reappointment as Chair of the board.
- Mr. Ingles motioned to reappoint Mr. Eckholdt as the Chair of the board for the next one year term. Ms. O'Grady seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, Section 7.1 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the officers of Brilla shall be a Chair of the Board, a Secretary and a Treasurer (each such person, an "Officer" and, collectively, the "Officers");

WHEREAS, subject to an Officer's death, resignation or removal, Section 7.2 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the Board shall elect the Officers of Brilla at its annual meeting, and that such Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board; and

WHEREAS, **Eric Eckholdt** currently serves as the Chair of the Board, and the Board deems it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla to approve, ratify and confirm the election of Eric Eckholdt as the Chair of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves, ratifies and confirms the election of Eric Eckholdt to serve as the Chair of the Board of Brilla at the pleasure of the Board until his successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until his earlier death, resignation or removal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers and appropriate agents of Brilla be, and hereby are, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, instruments and documents in writing as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions, the execution by any such Officer(s) or agent(s) of any such document to be conclusive evidence of such Officer(s)' or agent(s)' authority to act in accordance with these resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any member of the Board, any Officer or any appropriate agent of Brilla in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

- Mr. James Jones recused himself from the discussion and vote on his reappointment as Treasurer of the board.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to reappoint Mr. Jones as Treasurer of the board for the next one year term. Mr. Leoner Francisco seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, Section 7.1 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the officers of Brilla shall be a Chair of the Board, a Secretary and a Treasurer (each such person, an "Officer" and, collectively, the "Officers");

WHEREAS, subject to an Officer's death, resignation or removal, Section 7.2 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the Board shall elect the Officers of Brilla at its annual meeting, and that such Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board; and

WHEREAS, **James Jones** currently serves as the Treasurer, and the Board deems it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla to approve, ratify and confirm the election of James Jones as the Treasurer.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves, ratifies and confirms the election of James Jones to serve as the Treasurer of Brilla at the pleasure of the Board until his successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until his earlier death, resignation or removal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers and appropriate agents of Brilla be, and hereby are, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, instruments and documents in writing as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions, the execution by any such Officer(s) or agent(s) of any such document to be conclusive evidence of such Officer(s)' or agent(s)' authority to act in accordance with these resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any member of the Board, any Officer or any appropriate agent of Brilla in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

- Mr. Ingles recused himself from the discussion and vote on his reappointment as Secretary of the board.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to reappoint Mr. Ingles as the Secretary of the board for the next one year term. Fr. Andreassi seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, Section 7.1 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the officers of Brilla shall be a Chair of the Board, a Secretary and a Treasurer (each such person, an "Officer" and, collectively, the "Officers");

WHEREAS, subject to an Officer's death, resignation or removal, Section 7.2 of the bylaws of Brilla provides that the Board shall elect the Officers of Brilla at its annual meeting, and that such Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board; and

WHEREAS, **David Ingles** currently serves as the Secretary, and the Board deems it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla to approve, ratify and confirm the election of David Ingles as the Secretary.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves, ratifies and confirms the election of David Ingles to serve as the Secretary of Brilla at the pleasure of the Board until his successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until his earlier death, resignation or removal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers and appropriate agents of Brilla be, and hereby are, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, instruments and documents in writing as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions, the execution by any such Officer(s) or agent(s) of any such document to be conclusive evidence of such Officer(s)' or agent(s)' authority to act in accordance with these resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any member of the Board, any Officer or any appropriate agent of Brilla in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Item 4. Vertex Sublease

- Ms. Sheila Mulcahy presented on the annual renewal of the Vertex sublease.
- Ms. Mulcahy noted that the proposed one year lease term is substantially similar to prior years and has been reviewed by legal counsel.
- She explained that the lease amount reflects projected enrollment and remains aligned with rental reimbursement funding received from the Department of Education (DOE).
- Ms. Mulcahy highlighted a new provision in the sublease granting the school the option to continue leasing the space for one additional year in the event of a separation from Vertex, consistent with terms negotiated in the Charter Management Organization (CMO) agreement.
- Mr. Matt Salvatierra noted that a longer-term lease may be considered in the future as enrollment stabilizes, but no changes are proposed at this time.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to approve the Vertex sublease and Mr. Ingles seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The resolution was passed to approve the Vertex sublease.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, Brilla is a party to that certain Sublease dated as of July 1, 2025, by and among Vertex Partnership Academies, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation ("Vertex"), Public Prep Charter School Academies, a New York not-for-profit corporation ("Public Prep"), and Brilla, pursuant to which Brilla and Public Prep sublease from Vertex part of a building located at 1160 Beach Avenue, Bronx, New York, all land and improvements located at 1143 Taylor Avenue (a/k/a 1131 Taylor Avenue), Bronx, New York and a building located at 1801 Watson Avenue, Bronx, New York (the "Existing Sublease");

WHEREAS, the Existing Sublease will expire on June 30, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Board deems it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla for Brilla to enter into a sublease for part of a building located at 1160 Beach Avenue, Bronx, New York, all land and improvements located at 1143 Taylor Avenue (a/k/a 1131 Taylor Avenue), Bronx, New York and a building located at 1801 Watson Avenue, Bronx, New York, as subtenant, with Vertex as sublandlord, pursuant to that certain Sublease by and between Vertex and Brilla (the "Sublease"), in substantially the form presented to the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Brilla be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to enter into the Sublease, in substantially the form presented to the Board, with such changes, modifications and amendments to the Sublease as Eric Eckholdt, as Chair of the Board, or any other duly authorized officer of Brilla (each, an "Authorized Person") may, individually or together with another Authorized Person, in such Authorized Person's reasonable discretion, approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of the Sublease by Brilla;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Authorized Person be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to execute and deliver the Sublease and such further agreements, instruments and documents ancillary to the Sublease that are deemed necessary and appropriate by any Authorized Person in connection with the foregoing resolutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Authorized Person be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, instruments and documents in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of Brilla as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any agreements, instruments and documents required in connection with the foregoing, in the name and on behalf of Brilla, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Authorized Person with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Authorized Person may, in his or her discretion, approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such agreements, instruments and documents in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any Authorized Person in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Item 5. Bank Opening

- Mr. Salvatierra presented a proposal to open a separate bank account for Vertex, as required under organizational policy.
- Mr. Salvatierra explained that the account would be held directly by Brilla.
- Mr. Salvatierra noted that all high school revenues and expenses will be processed through the new account.
- Mr. Salvatierra stated that the proposed authorized signatories on the account are Mrs. Yeime Valle, Mr. Matt Salvatierra, and Mr. Brian Giglio.
- In response to Mr. Jones's question, Mr. Salvatierra indicated that Vertex is expected to close the existing account previously used to hold high school funds, though any decision regarding that account remains at Vertex's discretion.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to approve the resolution authorizing the opening of the bank account. Mr. Ingles seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The resolution was passed to approve the bank account opening.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, the high school program operated jointly with Public Prep Charter School Academies has historically maintained its operating bank account under the ownership of the charter management organization, Vertex Partnership Academies, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, per charter revision, Brilla is transitioning to serve as the sole education corporation governing the high school program (the "High School Program"); and

WHEREAS, in connection with this transition, Brilla will assume ownership of the operating bank account for the High School Program by establishing a new account in Brilla's name; and

WHEREAS, Brilla's financial policies require approval of the Board prior to the opening of any new bank account;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the opening of a new operating bank account in the name of Brilla for the High School Program at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following individuals are designated as authorized signers on the account:

Yeime Valle, Executive Director
Matthew Salvatierra, Chief Financial Officer
Brian Giglio, Head of School, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon opening of the bank account information regarding same shall be transmitted to the Treasurer and entered into the fiscal books and records of Brilla; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any officer of Brilla is authorized to take all actions reasonably necessary to open the account and to carry out the intent of the foregoing resolutions.

Item 6. Executive Session

- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to move into executive session to receive legal advice regarding policy updates. Mr. Eckholdt invited the CMO C-Suite Team and the Brilla Board into the executive session. Mr. Ingles seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Mr. Eckholdt called for a motion to exit the executive session and resume the public session. After a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved exiting the executive session and resuming the meeting.

IItem 7. Brilla Schools Update 5:26 pm

- Mrs. Yeime Valle provided updates on recent Brilla Schools events, including a successful eighth-grade prom jointly hosted by Brilla College Middle School, Brilla Veritas Middle, and Brilla Pax Middle.
- She reported on the Brilla Gala that took place on May 19 noting strong attendance, positive feedback, student performances, and artwork displays, with funds raised supporting eighth-grade scholarships. She recognized the gala chair and operations team for their work.
- Mrs. Valle shared end of year academic updates, including ongoing Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) testing and upcoming state and Regents exams. She highlighted strong Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) results, with significant year over year gains and improvements in students reading at grade level.
- Ms. Margaret Rippe and Ms. Emily Brooks noted increased student confidence and improved preparedness for state standardized testing.
- Mrs. Valle shared upcoming milestones including graduation ceremonies on June 22, the last day of school on June 26, and the start of the summer program on July 1.
- Mrs. Valle also noted upcoming leadership onboarding on July 20 and the next Board meeting on July 21.
- Mrs. Valle concluded by noting strong end of year progress and expressing appreciation for staff efforts in preparing for year end activities.

Item 8. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the May 2026 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: June 9, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**May 19, 2026**
Time:	5:00 PM - 5:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, James Jones, Aaron Brenner, Leoner Francisco, Br. Brian Carty, David Ingles, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia, Mary O'Grady, and Fr. Anthony Andreassi **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Jill Limongi, Maria Murphy, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Brian Giglio (Vertex)
Apologies:	

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	5:02 pm
2	Approval of April Minutes	Eckholdt	5:02 pm
3	Reading Physical Books	Carbone	5:04 pm
4	Brilla Budget	Salvatierra	5:13 pm
5	Brilla Schools Update	Valle	5:41 pm
6	Adjournment	Eckholdt	5:48 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 5:02 pm.

Item 2. Approval of April Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Mrs. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Mr. David Ingles seconded the motion. Mrs. Stephanie Saroki de Garcia abstained. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the April meeting.

Item 3. Reading Physical Books

- Mr. Mike Carbone presented plans for a new whole book curriculum initiative across Brilla Schools.
- Mr. Carbone explained that the initiative is intended to strengthen literacy outcomes by increasing students' engagement with complete texts and physical books.
- Mr. Carbone shared that the curriculum team narrowed thousands of titles into a curated kindergarten through eighth grade book list based on developmental, cultural, and academic criteria.
- Mr. Carbone stated that implementation will begin in phases next school year to support students, families, and teachers in adapting to full-text reading expectations.
- Mr. Carbone noted that students in grades three through eight will gradually build personal home libraries by keeping books at the end of each school year.

- Board discussion occurred around instructional delivery, pacing, class discussions, and family engagement.

Item 4. Brilla Budget

- Mr. Matt Salvatierra presented the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, including projected enrollment, revenue, expenses, and long-term financial assumptions.
- Mr. Salvatierra reviewed enrollment trends and noted softer enrollment projections at certain campuses.
- Mr. Salvatierra overviewed major expense drivers, including staffing, facilities, and rising health insurance costs.
- Mr. Salvatierra reported a health insurance renewal costs increase and described adjustments to employee contribution structures and benefits plans.
- Board discussion occurred around enrollment trends, charter school funding, health insurance increases, and long-term financial sustainability.
- Mr. Salvatierra and Mr. Carbone shared examples of current and planned AI-related operational efficiencies, including implementation of data integration and support tools.
- Board discussion occurred around the broader demographic trends and future strategic planning considerations for the network.
- Board Members approved the fiscal year 2027 budget as presented.

Item 5. Brilla Schools Update

- Mrs. Yeime Valle announced the opening of the Brilla Horizon Family Resource Center and highlighted strong community participation and family programming.
- Mrs. Valle shared updates on student events, including the Brilla Cotillion, prom, and upcoming eighth-grade capstone presentations.
- Mrs. Valle recognized board member Mr. Leoner Francisco for participating in a New York City Charter Center visit and interview session

Item 6. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the April 2026 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: May 19, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**April 21, 2026**
Time:	5:00 PM - 5:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, James Jones, Aaron Brenner, Leoner Francisco, Br. Brian Carty, David Ingles, and Mary O'Grady **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Abigail Akano, Kelly Quinn, Yenny Bautista, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex), Brian Giglio (Vertex)
Apologies:	Fr. Anthony Andreassi and Stephanie Saroki de Garcia

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	5:01 pm
2	Approval of March Minutes	Eckholdt	5:01 pm
3	High School Placement Update	Brooks, Quinn	5:02 pm
4	Federal Funds Update	Salvatierra	5:33 pm
5	Brilla Schools Update	Valle	5:37 pm
6	Adjournment	Eckholdt	5:50 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 5:01 pm.

Item 2. Approval of March Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Mrs. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Mr. James Jones seconded the motion.There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the March Meeting.

Item 3. High School Placement Update

- Ms. Emily Brooks gave an overview of high school applications and placement for School Year 2025–2026, noting that approximately 50 percent of scholars have committed and highlighting select student acceptances to competitive schools.
- Ms. Kelly Quinn explained that staff support families through an individualized process to identify and apply to best-fit high schools.
- Ms. Brooks highlighted the Vertex partnership and noted plans to strengthen the relationship, with students participating in site visits and twenty-nine scholars accepting offers so far.

- Ms. Brooks noted that increased awareness and outreach have contributed to stronger placement outcomes.
- Ms. Quinn summarized scholarship and financial aid efforts, reporting over $4.2 million awarded to date and emphasizing a collaborative, network-wide approach.
- Ms. Quinn highlighted key programs, including Student Sponsor Partners (SSP) scholarships and the Cardinal Ambassador Scholarship, noting ongoing enhancements and fundraising efforts to expand access.
- Board members engaged in discussion regarding partnerships, scholarship processes, and outcomes, and requested follow-up on SSP scholarship data.

Item 4. Federal Funds Update

- Mr. Matt Salvatierra summarized federal funding, noting approximately 2.1 million dollars, representing less than 3 percent of the budget, is expected through the Every Student Succeeds Act Title funds, which provide meaningful supplemental support to schools.
- Mr. Salvatierra explained the requirement to increase transparency and stakeholder engagement, including informing and gathering input from the board, staff, families, and the community, and noted that periodic updates will be provided.
- Mr. Salvatierra shared key uses of funds, including Title I for academic support and staffing, including a set aside for students experiencing homelessness, Title II for teacher development, and Title IV for well rounded programming such as arts and social emotional learning.
- Mr. Salvatierra noted that additional details on next year's funding and planned use will be shared at a future meeting, with family engagement to follow.

Item 5. Brilla Schools Update

- Mrs. Yeime Valle provided an update on Brilla Schools, highlighting trimester two award celebrations held during the week of March 16 across all schools and emphasizing the importance of recognizing student attendance and excellence.
- Mrs. Valle reported that the school lottery took place on April 2 at Brilla Veritas Middle School, with trained staff conducting immediate outreach to families following the event.
- Mrs. Valle explained that enrollment is ongoing, with families registering daily, and staff are preparing for upcoming home visits.
- Mrs. Valle highlighted a recent visit to Vertex Partnership Academies, sharing positive feedback on programming and student opportunities.
- Mrs. Valle reviewed upcoming state testing dates, noting that schools are currently in full testing mode with science exams underway, English Language Arts exams scheduled for April 29 to 30, and math exams scheduled for May 6 to 7.
- Mrs. Valle announced that the next board meeting will take place on May 19, followed by the Brilla Gala.
- Mr. David Ingles gave an update on the Brilla Gala preparations.

Item 6. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the March 2026 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: April 21, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**March 17, 2026**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, James Jones, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia, Aaron Brenner, and Leoner Francisco **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Margaret Rippe, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Mayra Torres, Cristina Arjona, Elizabeth Berger, Gabriela Monroy, Giselle Sierra, Jermaine Pena, Jho Williams, Erica Pagan, Kendra Radkowski, Susana Weyer, JoMarie Aquino, Patrick McGowan, Christina Endanattu, Yamel Gonzalez, Zeuxi de la Cruz, Abigail Akano, Clara Grullon, Yenny Bautista, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex), Brian Giglio (Vertex), Angelina Colon (Parent), and Carla Deschamps (Parent),
Apologies:	Br. Brian Carty, Darla Romfo, David Ingles, and Mary O'Grady

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
2	Approval of February Minutes	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
3	Vote to Amend Seton Management Agreement	Mulcahy	12:02 pm
4	Programs Update	Valencia	12:11 pm
5	Principal Update	Rippe, Pagan	12:25 pm
6	Brilla Schools Update	Valle	12:43 pm
7	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:52 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:01 pm.

Item 2. Approval of February Minutes

- Mr. Eric Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Mr. James Jones motioned to approve and Fr. Anthony Andreassi seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the February Meeting.

Item 3. Vote to Amend Seton Management Agreement

- Ms. Sheila Mulcahy presented a proposal for a vote to amend the Seton management agreement to allow Seton to provide functions on behalf of Vertex.
- Ms. Mulcahy clarified that time from existing Seton staff will be handled through internal cost reallocation rather than reimbursement.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to approve the resolution and Mr. James Jones seconded the motion. Mrs. Saroki de Garcia and Mr. Aaron Brenner recused themselves due to their relationship to Seton Education Partners. All other board members unanimously approved the resolution.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

March 17, 2026

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, Brilla is a party to that certain Amended and Restated Academic and Business Services Agreement, dated January 21, 2020, by and between Brilla and Seton Education Partners, a Wyoming not-for-profit corporation ("Seton"), as amended by that certain Amendment to Amended and Restated Academic and Business Services Agreement, dated July 1, 2024, by and between Brilla and Seton (collectively, the "Management Agreement") pursuant to which Seton provides academic and business services to Brilla for all of its Kindergarten through 8th grade educational programs; and

WHEREAS, Brilla and Vertex Partnership Academies, Inc. ("Vertex") entered into that certain High School Program Services Agreement, dated December 5, 2025 (the "High School Agreement"), pursuant to which (a) Vertex will provide services only to Brilla College Preparatory Charter School's grades 9-12 and (b) Seton is to render certain services to Brilla related thereto; and

WHEREAS, Brilla and Seton desire to amend the Management Agreement to expand the scope of Seton's services to include (a) responsibilities referenced in the High School Agreement and (b) the payment of fees to be earned by, or reimbursed to, Seton under the High School Agreement by entering into a Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Academic and Business Services Agreement (the "Amendment"), which has been provided to the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Brilla be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to enter into and execute the Amendment with such changes, modifications and amendments as Eric Eckholdt, as Chair of the Board, or any other duly authorized officer of Brilla (each, an "Authorized Person") may, individually or together with another Authorized Person, in such Authorized Person's reasonable discretion, approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of the Amendment by Brilla; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon execution of the Amendment by Seton, that Brilla be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to provide a copy to Brilla's authorizer, the State University of New York, for its approval or other action pursuant to Brilla's charter agreement, and deliver such further agreements, instruments and documents ancillary to the Amendment that are deemed necessary and appropriate by any Authorized Person in connection with the foregoing resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Authorized Person be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, instruments and documents in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of Brilla as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any agreements, instruments and documents required in connection with the foregoing, in the name and on behalf of Brilla, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Authorized Person with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Authorized Person may, in his or her discretion, approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such agreements, instruments and documents in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any Authorized Person in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Item 4. Programs Update

- Mrs. Maria Valencia presented updates on academic programs, including Brilla Rise, Brilla Summit, and the Brilla Solis Summer Program.
- Mrs. Valencia described Brilla Rise as targeting students in the 25th–50th percentile, focusing on literacy through small-group instruction, adaptive tools, and STEM enrichment, with participants outperforming peers on state exams.
- She shared that Brilla Summit serves 7th and 8th grade students with a focus on literacy and math

acceleration and has expanded due to increased demand.
- Mrs. Valencia reported that the Brilla Solis Summer Boost Program addresses summer learning loss, served 320 students last year, and resulted in nearly half of participants reaching basic or proficient levels in ELA.
- Mrs. Valencia outlined 2026 plans, noting the program will run July 6–31, aims to serve 500 students, and has already received over 475 applications, with funding expected through a Bloomberg philanthropic grant.
- She emphasized that the program is free for families and staffed by stipend-supported teachers, and acknowledged concerns about reliance on annual grant funding, with plans to pursue multi-year commitments.

Item 5. Principal Update

- Ms. Erica Pagan presented updates from Brilla College Prep Elementary, highlighting improvements in academic performance, teacher development, and family engagement.
- Ms. Pagan reported notable gains in both ELA and math proficiency, attributing the improvement to departmentalized teaching, targeted instructional coaching, and a strong emphasis on phonics and literacy.
- She noted strengthened teacher development through increased coaching and observations, with fifteen teachers meeting early-year evaluation benchmarks and staff surveys reflecting improved satisfaction with professional growth.
- Ms. Pagan shared enhancements in family engagement, including the introduction of progress update meetings prior to report cards, more frequent academic communication, and positive parent feedback.
- Ms. Margaret Rippe addressed a parent question regarding retesting practices, acknowledged variability in current protocols, and committed to reviewing for consistency while offering follow-up support.

Item 6. Brilla Schools Update

- Mrs. Yeime Valle presented Brilla Schools updates, including the board retreat and State of the School event.
- She also highlighted ongoing advocacy efforts, including meetings with public officials, and shared that Black History Month was celebrated across all schools.
- Mrs. Valle announced that the school lottery will take place on April 2.
- Mrs. Valle reminded board members of the upcoming spring break and the April state testing period.
- Mrs. Valle confirmed that the next board meeting is scheduled for April 21.
- Mrs. Valle announced the inaugural Brilla Gala following the May board meeting.
- Ms. Jolleen Wagner encouraged board participation, and requested support with sponsorships and auction contributions.

Item 7. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 pm.

- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the February 2026 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: March 17, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**February 3, 2026**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, David Ingles, Mary O'Grady, Leoner Francisco, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia, Aaron Brenner, and James Jones **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Margaret Rippe, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Mayra Torres, Cristina Arjona, Elizabeth Berger, Gabriela Monroy, Giselle Sierra, Jermaine Pena, Jho Williams, JoMarie Aquino, Patrick McGowan, Katherine Prieto, Solange Perez, Yamel Gonzalez, Zeuxi de la Cruz, Abigail Akano, Clara Grullon, Yenny Bautista, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex), Angelina Colon (Parent)
Apologies:	Br. Brian Carty, Darla Romfo, and Fr. Anthony Andreassi

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
2	Approval of January Minutes	Eckholdt	12:02 pm
3	Talent Acquisition Update	Amezquita	12:02 pm
4	Finance Update	Salvatierra	12:31 pm
5	Brilla Upcoming Events	Valle	12:40 pm
6	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:42 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:01 pm.

Item 2. Approval of January Minutes

- Mr. Eric Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Ms. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Mr. James Jones seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the January meeting.

Item 3. Talent Acquisition Update

- Ms. Ruby Amezquita provided an overview of staffing trends, noting steady improvement from approximately 90 percent staffing in August with 267 of 298 positions filled to 95 percent staffing, with ICT and special education roles remaining the most challenging to fill.
- She reported that year-to-date staff separations have decreased by approximately 20 percent compared to three years ago and noted that the implementation of a portfolio-based recruitment model has improved accountability and service levels for school leaders.

- Ms. Amezquita shared that Gallup Q12 engagement results have stabilized at the 46th percentile, with an average engagement score of four point zero five out of five, indicating sustained staff engagement.
- In response to Mr. Eckholdt's question regarding the Gallup Q12 peer group, Ms. Amezquita clarified that the survey is national in scope and that Brilla opted into the education survey, with benchmarking conducted against grades kindergarten through grade twelve peers.
- Ms. Amezquita outlined upcoming priorities to further strengthen retention and competitiveness, including compensation design work, expanded professional growth and certification support such as a master's program pilot, and continued storytelling efforts including The Brilla podcast.
- Ms. Amezquita projected approximately sixteen new hires for the 2026–27 school year and highlighted increased labor market pressures due to anticipated DOE hiring, while noting that overall staff retention remains at approximately 81 percent, with higher stability observed at more established schools.

Item 4. Finance Update

- Mr. Matt Salvatierra presented the FY26 year to date financial results, noting that performance is tracking close to budget.
- Mr. Salvatierra explained that favorable revenue performance is primarily attributable to higher base funding driven by stronger than budgeted enrollment at approximately 93 percent compared to 90 percent budgeted, partially offset by lower special education and facilities rent assistance revenues.
- He noted that expense variances are largely due to higher costs for substitute services and facilities expenses, partially offset by personnel savings and lower than anticipated academic and instructional consulting expenditures.
- Mr. Salvatierra reported that the organization remains in a strong cash position, with approximately 140 days of operating cash on hand, largely due to the timing of early per pupil payments.

Item 5. Brilla Upcoming Events

- Mrs. Yeime Valle provided an overview of upcoming events, including the State of the School presentations on February 6.
- She noted that ELA and math interim assessments will be administered throughout February.
- Mrs. Valle shared that the mid winter break will take place from February 16 to 20.
- She reported that a teacher professional development day is scheduled for March 9.
- Mrs. Valle also shared that student led conferences and the conclusion of the Brilla Rise and Summit tutoring programs will occur in March.
- Mrs. Valle concluded by confirming that the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 17.

Item 6. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm.

- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the January 2026 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: February 3, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**January 20, 2026**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, David Ingles, Darla Romfo, Mary O'Grady, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, and Leoner Francisco **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Margaret Rippe, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Cristina Arjona, Mayra Torres, Susana Weyer, Yenny Bautista, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex)
Apologies:	Br. Brian Carty, Aaron Brenner, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia, and James Jones

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:02 pm
2	Approval of December Minutes	Eckholdt	12:03 pm
3	Academic Update	Carbone	12:03 pm
4	Compensation Group	Wagner	12:21 pm
5	Enrollment Update	Burgos	12:27 pm
6	Bank Account Closure	Salvatierra	12:41 pm
7	Brilla Schools Update	Valle	12:43 pm
8	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:49 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:02 pm.

Item 2. Approval of December Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Ms. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Ms. Darla Romfo seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the December meeting.

Item 3. Academic Update

- Mr. Michael Carbone overviewed the academic update, which included comparative data from the 2024-25 New York State exams, Brilla's ranking among Bronx schools serving similar demographics, and the correlation between student retention and state exam achievement.

- Mr. Carbone shared 2024-25 New York State exam results, noting significant improvement in ELA proficiency, including an 18-percentage point increase and performance exceeding the Bronx, New York City, and New York State district schools.
- Mr. Carbone highlighted that Brilla outperformed New York State charter schools as a group in ELA proficiency in 2025 for the first time and substantially closed the gap with New York City charter schools as a group.
- Mr. Carbone reported that math proficiency remained relatively stable year over year, continued to exceed Bronx district schools as a group, and remains an area of strategic focus.
- Mr. Carbone reviewed Brilla's rankings among all Bronx schools having comparable student demographics, noting Brilla placed third in ELA and eighth in math among all such Bronx schools serving similar demographics, based on test takers in grades three through eight.
- Mr. Carbone presented retention analysis demonstrating a strong positive correlation between student tenure with Brilla and academic outcomes.
- Mr. Carbone noted that students enrolled at Brilla for four or more years significantly outperformed newer students and that Algebra I test results were excluded from certain math figures, which would otherwise raise Brilla's proficiency rates.

Item 4. Compensation Group

- Mrs. Yeime Valle noted that the compensation work was initiated at the direction of Mr. Eric Eckholdt to establish a clear compensation philosophy.
- Ms. Jolleen Wagner reported that she and Mrs. Valle, in partnership with the Charter School Growth Fund, reviewed proposals and selected KLG & Associates to support the work.
- Ms. Wagner outlined that KLG & Associates will lead a three-phase engagement, beginning with a four-part learning series to develop a shared baseline of knowledge.
- Ms. Wagner highlighted that the learning sessions will take place over four weeks, followed by a project close-out.
- Ms. Wagner clarified that the outcome of this phase will be a defined compensation philosophy, with specific decisions and timelines addressed in later phases, and that Mrs. Valle will follow up with Board members regarding participation in the working group.

Item 5. Enrollment Update

- Ms. Zoranlly Burgos overviewed the enrollment update, including current enrollment and preparation for the 2026–27 application cycle.
- Ms. Burgos reported that current enrollment stands at 2,506 students, with a focus on August recruitment and backfilling lower grades to support long-term outcomes.
- Ms. Burgos noted that application numbers are below last year's totals, but align with pre-2024 levels, as last year's increases were driven by large numbers of applicants from Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Conception School.
- Ms. Burgos shared that the enrollment lottery is scheduled for April 2, and that efforts are underway to grow applications and strengthen retention through early outreach, expanded recruitment, partnerships, earlier reenrollment, and increased marketing.
- Ms. Burgos highlighted that an "intend to return" survey conducted in November showed 98 percent of families plan to return, with follow-up planned for the remaining 2 percent.
- Ms. Burgos reported that retention last year was approximately 79 percent, identified common causes of attrition, and noted that enhanced retention strategies are being implemented this year. She also confirmed that a lottery will be held as required, regardless of capacity.

Item 6. Bank Account Closure

- Mr. Matthew Salvatierra noted that the finance policy requires Board approval to open or close bank accounts.
- Mr. Salvatierra presented a resolution requesting authorization to close the organization's accounts with East West Bank.
- Mr. Salvatierra shared that East West Bank had been used for approximately five years, including for PPP loan processing and real estate account structures.
- Mr. Salvatierra explained that the accounts are being closed to simplify banking operations and consolidate investments with Morgan Stanley.

- Mr. Salvatierra clarified that the letter of credit with East West Bank was previously closed following the lease cancellation.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to approve the resolution and Ms. O'Grady seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the resolution.

Resolution to Terminate Banking Relationship with East West Bank and Close Accounts

WHEREAS, Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools (the "School") maintains deposits with East West Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is in the best interests of the School to terminate its banking relationship with East West Bank and to close all such accounts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the officers of the School, including the Chief Financial Officer or any other authorized officer, to take all actions necessary and appropriate to terminate the School's banking relationship with East West Bank and to close all accounts held by the School at East West Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such officers are authorized to execute any documents, provide any notices, and take any additional steps required to effectuate the foregoing, including the transfer of funds to other financial institutions designated by the School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Item 7. Brilla Schools Update

- Mrs. Valle presented the Brilla Schools Update, noting limited activity over the past month due to winter break.
- Mrs. Valle highlighted the December 12 trimester awards, which recognized student attendance, academic growth, elective achievements, and honor roll status, and emphasized their positive impact on family engagement and retention.
- Mrs. Valle shared that winter NWEA testing began following the break and reported strong growth, with detailed results to be presented at the next meeting.
- Mrs. Valle noted the launch of the high-dosage tutoring program on January 15, building on the success of last year's pilot.
- Mrs. Valle outlined upcoming events, including school showcases, the Brilla Board retreat, the February 3 Board meeting, and the State of the School presentation on February 6.
- Ms. Valle confirmed that a grade-level breakdown of student tenure will be prepared for discussion at the February meeting to support retention and backfilling analysis.

Item 8. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm.

- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the December 2025 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: January 20, 2026**

Agenda:

Date:	**December 16, 2025**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members:** Eric Eckholdt, Darla Romfo, Mary O'Grady, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, James Jones, Leoner Francisco, Br. Brian Carty, Aaron Brenner, David Ingles, and Stephanie Saroki de García **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Margaret Rippe, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Sandra Tamayo, Abigail Akano, Clara Grullon, Cristina Arjona, Elizabeth Berger, Erica Pagan, Gabriela Monroy, Gisell Sierra, Jermaine Pena, Jhonell Williams, JoMarie Aquino, Katherine Prieto, Kendra Radkowski, Mayra Torres, Yamel Gonzalez, Solange Perez, Susana Weyer, William Scott, Yenny Bautista, Zeuxi De La Cruz, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:**
Apologies:	

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:00 pm
2	Approval of November Minutes	Eckholdt	12:00 pm
3	Principal Update	Berger	12:02 pm
4	Community Impact	Claudio, Tamayo	12:14 pm
5	Brilla Schools Updates	Valle	12:36 pm
6	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:46 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:00 pm.

Item 2. Approval of November Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Ms. Darla Romfo seconded the motion. Ms. Stephanie Saroki de García abstained. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the November meeting.

Item 3. Principal Update

- Ms. Elizabeth Berger, Principal of Brilla Caritas Elementary School, provided an update and overview of the current state of the school.
- Ms. Berger reported that Brilla Caritas exceeded enrollment targets at 105 percent, serving 541 students with 83 percent family retention, the highest among Brilla elementary schools, while making operational adjustments to support growth and maintain Brilla standards.

- She shared academic outcomes, including 55.4 percent ELA proficiency, a 13 percent year over year increase, and 63 percent math proficiency, supported by over 200 Launch Learning classroom observations and curriculum updates aligned to the science of reading, expanded writing instruction, increased math fluency practice, and preparation for computer based state assessments.
- Ms. Berger noted growth in special populations, with 35 percent multilingual learners and 21 percent of students receiving services, supported through added staffing, expanded integrated co teaching, and partnerships with external agencies.
- In response to Board questions, Ms. Berger addressed family attrition, teacher certification and staff effectiveness, and parent engagement strategies, including Parent University, Coffee and Conversations, school events, and strong teacher responsiveness, emphasizing Brilla's family focused approach to community building and retention.

Item 4. Community Impact

- Ms. Sandra Tamayo, Director of Community and Family Engagement, gave an overview of Community Impact.
- Ms. Tamayo emphasized that parents are children's first teachers and highlighted Brilla's focus on building trust, advocacy, and family engagement through workshops, resource collections, Parent University, and Coffee and Conversations with principals.
- Ms. Tamayo noted that Brilla Horizon, the emerging family resource center, will connect families with vetted community partners, offering services such as English/GED classes, literacy support, and guidance for undocumented families.
- Mrs. Reyes Claudio shared that insights from the board retreat and 10-year strategy planning, along with family feedback, have shaped Brilla Horizon, which will pilot this spring as a centralized hub offering free services and a structured referral system.
- Ms. Tamayo noted that the resource center elevates, but does not replace, school-level family engagement, complementing existing programming and principal-led initiatives.
- Board discussion addressed operational considerations, including integration with schools, limited community access, and expanding recreation/physical education offerings.

Item 5. Brilla Schools Updates

- Mrs. Yeime Valle presented Brilla Schools updates, highlighting recent events and community initiatives.
- Mrs. Valle shared that Brilla hosted a network wide Character Walk on November 13 and 14, allowing visiting educators to observe Brilla's character strategies, and noted a visit from Regent Dr. Aramina Ferrer, during which scholars engaged in civic learning and received public praise from the Regent.
- Mrs. Valle reported on recent initiatives, including the November Food and Toy Drive collecting canned goods and toys for local pantries, the distribution of over 400 fresh food boxes to families with support from Sharing Excess and Canon Strategy Group, and the Thanksgiving fundraising drive which exceeded its $13,000 goal to provide gift cards for 130 families.
- Mrs. Valle reminded the Board of upcoming dates, including the Academic Committee meeting on December 18, the next Board meeting on January 20, and the two week Winter Break, and expressed gratitude to Board members for their continued support.

Item 6. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Approved

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the November 2025 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: December 16, 2025**

Agenda:

Date:	**November 18, 2025**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=85648359414
Participants:	**Board Members:** Eric Eckholdt, Darla Romfo, Mary O'Grady, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, James Jones, Leoner Francisco, Br. Brian Carty **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Andrew Ketchum, Maria Murphy, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Abigail Akano, Christina Endanattu, Clara Grullon, Cristina Arjona, Erica Pagan, Gabriela Monroe, Gisell Sierra, Jermain Pena, Jhonell Williams, JoMarie Aquino, Patrick McGowan, Katherine Prieto, Kendra Radkowski, Mayra Torres, Sasha Tolentino, Solange Perez, William Scott, Yenny Bautista, Zeuxi De La Cruz, Victoria Rojas, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex)
Apologies:	David Ingles, Aaron Brenner, and Stephanie Saroki de Garcia

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
2	Approval of October Minutes	Eckholdt	12:03 pm
3	Character Update	Carbone, Wagner, Ketchum	12:03 pm
4	Finance Update	Jones, Salvatierra	12:17 pm
5	Brilla Schools Network Updates	Valle	12:29 pm
6	Executive Session	Valle	12:38 pm
7	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:49 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:01 pm.

Item 2. Approval of October Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Ms. Mary O'Grady seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the October meeting.

Item 3. Character Update

- Mr. Michael Carbone introduced the Character Update session, emphasizing character formation as shaping mind, heart, and will for student flourishing.
- Mr. Carbone highlighted the partnership with the Kern Family Foundation. He noted that Brilla recently hosted representatives from the Foundation to learn about the Brilla Character model.
- Ms. Jolleen Wagner presented the purpose of Brilla's character work, emphasizing character formation as a way of being.

- Ms. Wagner underscored that character formation is shared work requiring all stakeholders to reflect on who they are becoming together.
- Mr. Carbone reviewed the evolution of Character Formation at Brilla since 2017 and affirmed Brilla's strength in combining academics and character development.
- Mr. Andrew Ketchum presented current character formation structures, including Positive Virtue Intervention Systems (PVIS), Quietest Moment of the Day, Crew and Morning Meeting, and Shine Awards.
- Mr. Ketchum shared data showing strong impact, noting that Brilla has had no expulsions in 13 years, nearly 70 percent of families report growth in five or more character benchmarks, and two campuses earned the State School of Character designation.
- In response to board discussion, Mr. Carbone and Mrs. Valle acknowledged behavioral challenges but affirmed that existing systems strengthen the school community and reduce incidents.

Item 4. Finance Update

- Mr. Matthew Salvatierra provided an overview of the Brilla Finance and Audit Committee update.
- Mr. Salvatierra reported that the Finance Committee met on October 29.
- Mr. Salvatierra stated that Brilla received a clean, unmodified audit opinion, marking ten consecutive years of clean audits.
- Mr. Salvatierra requested Board approval to open an account with Airwallex, noting that Airwallex will replace Stripe as the platform supporting Procurify Spend Cards used to manage and monitor organizational spending.
- Mr. Eckholdt made a motion to approve the Airwallex account, and Mr. James Jones seconded the motion.
- Mr. Salvatierra presented the year-to-date budget and provided key financial headlines.
- Mr. Salvatierra noted current enrollment of 2,515 students, approximately 93 percent of the target, and stated that schools below enrollment targets will operate under tighter spending controls to align budgets with enrollment.

Item 5. Brilla Schools Network Updates

- Mrs. Valle presented Brilla Schools Network updates, highlighting recent events including Hispanic Heritage Month, Coffee and Conversations, and Homecoming Week.
- Mrs. Valle provided an overview of upcoming events, including a Thanksgiving Drive as well as Food and Toy Drives.
- Mrs. Valle noted and highlighted Mr. Jones's visit to Brilla Veritas Middle School.
- Mrs. Valle reported that the Thanksgiving Drive's goal was met, while emphasizing that community needs remain greater than the goal achieved.
- Mrs. Valle invited Ms. Maria Murphy, Legal Director, and Mr. Ketchum, Director of Character Formation, to introduce themselves to the Board.

Item 6. Executive Session

- Mr. Eckholdt moved to enter Executive Session, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion, for the purpose of discussing a complaint related to an employee.

Item 7. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the October 2025 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: November 18, 2025**

Agenda:

Date:	**October 14, 2025**
Time:	5:00 PM - 5:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Veritas Middle School, 378 E 151st, Bronx, NY 10455 and Zoom https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/4790833951?pwd=U0dFTy9qVVl6MElvRU80ZUc5MWkyZz09&omn=88909582875
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, David Ingles, Aaron Brenner, Darla Romfo, Mary O'Grady, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, James Jones, and Leoner Francisco **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Margaret Rippe, Andrew Morris, Zoranlly Burgos, Abigail Akano, Christina Endanattu, Clara Grullon, Cristina Arjona, Daniel Mejias, Elizabeth Berger, Erica Pagan, Gabriela Monroe, Gisell Sierra, Jermain Pena, Jhonell Williams, JoMarie Aquino, Katherine Prieto, Mayra Torres, Sasha Tolentino, Solange Perez, William Scott, Yenny Bautista, Zeuxi De La Cruz, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones **Other:** Brian Giglio (Vertex), Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex)
Apologies:	Br. Brian Carty, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	5:05 pm
2	Approval of September Minutes	Eckholdt	5:06 pm
3	Vertex Vote	Mulcahy	5:06 pm
4	Facilities Update	Valle	5:13 pm
5	Advancement Update	Wagner	5:18 pm
6	School Principal and Year Focus Update	Rippe and Brooks	5:29 pm
7	Brilla Schools Network Updates	Valle	5:48 pm
8	Adjournment	Eckholdt	5:52 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 5:05 pm.

Item 2. Approval of August Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Ms. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Mr. Leoner Francisco seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the September meeting.

Item 3. Vertex Vote

- Ms. Sheila Mulcahy presented the proposed resolution to approve the substantially complete Vertex Charter Management Organization (CMO) contract for Brilla.
- Ms. Mulcahy provided a detailed overview of the terms of the contract, consistent with Brilla's ongoing relationship with Vertex as outlined in the Board presentation.

- Mr. Eckholdt asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. David Ingles motioned to approve and Ms. O'Grady seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the resolution.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

October 14, 2025

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, the Board has deemed it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla for Brilla to explore a charter revision to continue a high school program at Brilla College Preparatory Charter School managed by Vertex Partnership Academies Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation ("Vertex"), commencing with the 2026-27 school year (the "High School Program Revision"); and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the High School Program Revision, the Board approved drafts of (a) a term sheet for a charter management organization agreement ("CMO Agreement") with Vertex (the "Term Sheet") on May 20, 2025 and (b) the High School Program Revision on August 19, 2025, which excluded the CMO Agreement, and, in each case, empowered Eric Eckholdt, as Chair of the Board, to approve final versions of all documents with the exception of the CMO Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Brilla and Vertex finalized the Term Sheet on June 17, 2025 and have been negotiating a draft of the CMO Agreement, currently in substantially the form presented to the Board under separate cover, which should be fully negotiated in the near term, and which Brilla must submit to the State University of New York Board of Trustees ("SUNY") for approval as part of the High School Program Revision; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CMO Agreement be, and hereby is, approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board, or any other duly authorized officer of Brilla (each, an "Authorized Person"), be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to negotiate the final form of, and execute, the CMO Agreement and such further agreements, instruments and documents ancillary thereto that are deemed necessary and appropriate by any Authorized Person in connection with the foregoing resolutions upon such terms as the Chair of the Board, or any Authorized Person may decide, and thereafter to submit such executed CMO Agreement to SUNY; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Authorized Person be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, revisions, instruments and documents in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of Brilla as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any agreements, instruments and documents required in connection with the foregoing, in the name and on behalf of Brilla, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Authorized Person with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Authorized Person may, in his or her discretion, approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such agreements, instruments and documents in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any Authorized Person in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Item 4. Facilities Update

- Mrs. Yeime Valle provided an update on Brilla Schools facilities. She noted that while the two new school buildings are operational, they do not yet fully meet Brilla standards due to a compressed preparation period.
- She shared that transitioning into both new and existing facilities continues to present typical operational challenges.
- In response to Ms. O'Grady's question regarding space utilization in the school building where the meeting was being held, Mrs. Valle reported that the space is fully utilized. One floor is occupied by a community partner and another is designated for Network use.
- In response to a question from Mr. Eckholdt regarding the five million dollars in expenditures, Mr. Matt Salvatierra clarified that the funds have been allocated, but not yet fully disbursed. Mrs. Valle confirmed that this reflects stage one of the facilities plan and that planning is underway for stage two.

Item 5. Advancement Update

- Ms. Jolleen Wagner provided an update on Seton New York's Advancement efforts, emphasizing the goal of expanding student access to resources and opportunities beyond what the Brilla model's sustainable budget can provide.
- Ms. Wagner noted that advancement priorities are focused on three areas: high school scholarships, urgent family support, and programmatic enhancements that extend the holistic model.
- Ms. Wagner added that fundraising is pursued through two avenues: direct fundraising on behalf of Brilla and Seton-led efforts in service of Brilla, with the shared goal of student and family flourishing.
- Ms. Wagner shared recent successes include securing the Kern Family Foundation grant for character and culture work and mobilizing thousands of books for students and Bronx families.
- Ms. Wagner noted challenges, including declining high school financial aid. She emphasized the need for sustained scholarship support and indicated a long-term goal of establishing a dedicated fund or endowment.
- Ms. Wagner affirmed Vertex enrollment remains a priority, but is limited by capacity. She confirmed partnerships with the New York State Supplement Program (SSP).
- Ms. Wagner shared that Mrs. Valle will follow up with information on the upcoming Thanksgiving Drive.

Item 6. School Principal and Year Focus Update

- Mr. Michael Carbone opened the session by introducing Ms. Margaret Rippe, Superintendent of Elementary Schools, and Ms. Emily Brooks, Superintendent of Middle Schools.
- Ms. Rippe introduced the elementary school principals and outlined three focus areas: academics, culture, and enrollment. Academic efforts include foundational math skills, expanded phonics instruction, and the implementation of new math routines. Character formation is integrated into instruction and supported through family partnership.
- Ms. Rippe added that enrollment efforts prioritize strong starts in kindergarten and first grade, along with retention in fourth and fifth grades.
- In response to Mr. Eckholdt, Ms. Rippe reported that the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) proficiency is approximately 50 percent, and noted that the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) data remains a key focus for younger cohorts.
- Ms. Brooks introduced the middle school principals and outlined parallel priorities. Academic efforts include continued implementation of the English language arts (ELA) curriculum and targeted interventions. Culture work focuses on community-building, intellectual preparation, and consistent behavior expectations. Enrollment strategies center on the transitional retention from fourth grade to fifth grade.
- Ms. Brooks described the use of small instructional groups to support differentiated learning and reaffirmed the commitment to preparing students for Vertex high school.

Item 7. Brilla Schools Network Updates

- Mrs. Valle provided a summary of recent events, beginning with the New York Charter School Rally held on September 18. She noted that students did not attend in order to preserve instructional time; only parents participated.
- Mrs. Valle gave an overview of the recent staff development day, emphasizing its purpose in equipping staff to more effectively support student learning and to ensure they feel confident and prepared in their roles.
- She also shared highlights from a recent community celebration.
- Mrs. Valle concluded by previewing upcoming events and invited Board members to indicate which

events they would like to attend.

Item 8. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the September 2025 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: October 14, 2025**

Agenda:

Date:	**September 16, 2025**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom (https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/9762292693?pwd=RVpMY3Z1dDFBckhlclREWktlckdFdz09)
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, David Ingles, Aaron Brenner, Darla Romfo, Mary O'Grady, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, James Jones, Leoner Francisco, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Margaret Rippe, Andrew Morris, Zoranlly Burgos, Abigail Akano, Christina Endanattu, Clara Grullon, Cristina Arjona, Daniel Mejias, Elizabeth Berger, Erica Pagan, Gabriela Monroe, Gisell Sierra, Jermain Pena, Jhonell Williams, JoMarie Aquino, Katherine Prieto, Mayra Torres, Sasha Tolentino, Solange Perez, Susana Weyer, William Scott, Yenny Bautista, Zeuxi De La Cruz, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones, **Other:** Brian Giglio (Vertex), Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex)
Apologies:	Br. Brian Carty

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
2	Approval of August Minutes	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
3	Academic Update	Carbone	12:02 pm
4	Enrollment Update	Burgos	12:16 pm
5	Brilla Schools Network Updates	Valle	12:40 pm
6	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:53 pm

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:01 pm.

Item 2. Approval of August Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Ms. Mary O'Grady motioned to approve and Mr. James Jones seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the August meeting.

Item 3. Academic Update

- Mr. Michael Carbone presented an overview of New York State (NYS) assessment data, highlighting strong growth in English Language Arts (ELA). He reported significant gains in ELA proficiency among both Multilingual Learners (MLLs) and students with disabilities. Additionally, he noted that Brilla outperformed the state, New York City, and the Bronx in ELA. Preliminary results place Brilla third out of forty-four comparable Bronx schools. Final rankings will be shared once the New York State Education Department (NYSED) releases official results.

- Mr. Carbone noted a 1 percent increase in Math proficiency, attributing it to the prior year's strategic focus on literacy. He reported gains in NYS Science exams, citing departmentalized instruction in elementary grades, and highlighted a 98 percent Algebra I Regents pass rate, the largest cohort to date, with all eighth graders now taking both the Algebra I and Living Environment exams.
- Mr. Carbone reviewed positive outcomes from last spring's tutoring program for "cusp" students, who showed stronger ELA and Math performance compared to peers not enrolled in the program. He outlined next steps for supporting growth in ELA and Math.
- In response to a question from Mr. Eckholdt, Mr. Carbone confirmed that all students will take the Algebra I Regents this year, compared to approximately two-thirds last year.
- In response to a question from Mr. Aaron Brenner, Mr. Carbone noted that ThinkVerse AI is being piloted in middle schools as part of the blended learning program, with early positive feedback.

Item 4. Enrollment Update

- Ms. Zoranlly Burgos provided an overview of current enrollment. Brilla is serving 2,561 students, reaching 93.8 percent of the enrollment goal of 2,730, with 100 percent of recruitment targets met. Brilla Caritas Elementary, Caritas Middle, Veritas Middle, and Pax Middle are each enrolled at 91 percent or higher, with average daily attendance exceeding 92 percent.
- Ms. Burgos noted enrollment challenges in kindergarten through second grade, citing low birth rates and competition from nearby schools. She noted that discharges were due to family relocations or transfers to other charter schools.
- Ms. Burgos shared that marketing efforts have expanded to include middle school grades, supported by digital advertising, family engagement, and weekly canvassing led by Underdog. Enrollment efforts will continue through New York State's (Basic Education Data System) BEDS day on October 1, with plans to increase application targets and strengthen internal transfer processes. The next application cycle will open on October 1 for the 2026–27 school year.
- In response to a question from Ms. Darla Romfo, Ms. Burgos clarified the names of the partnership schools: Brilla Veritas Middle School, Brilla Pax Elementary School, and Brilla Pax Middle School. She noted that enrollment data for these schools will be shared at a later date.
- The board discussed Brilla's canvassing efforts in comparison to another charter school, as well as the possibility of setting an earlier lottery date. Mrs. Reyes Claudio confirmed that the lottery cannot be held before April 1 at 11:59 p.m.

Item 5. Brilla Schools Network Updates

- Mrs. Valle summarized recent events, including EPIC, an adult field day that concluded staff onboarding and strengthened cross-campus relationships, and Back to School Night, held before the school year, which saw increased family engagement. She reported a positive start to the first day of school, emphasizing the importance of a welcoming, child-centered environment for students, families, and staff. The Coffee and Conversations event was also highlighted as a key family engagement opportunity.
- Mrs. Valle noted the quick turnaround to open the partnership schools, acknowledging significant progress despite buildings not yet being fully ready.
- Mrs. Valle outlined upcoming events, including Late Staff Onboarding, Staff Professional Development Day, Brilla Schools Community Celebration, and Homecoming Week. She also noted that the next Board Meeting is scheduled to be held in person on October 14 at Brilla Veritas Middle School.

Item 6. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.

- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

BRILLA
The Brilliant Choice in the Bronx

Final

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the August 2025 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: September 16, 2025**

Agenda:

Date:	**August 19, 2025**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom (https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/9762292693?pwd=RVpMY3Z1dDFBckhlclREWktlckdFdz09)
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, Darla Romfo, Mary O'Grady, David Ingles, Br. Brian Carty, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, James Jones, Leoner Francisco, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Reyes Claudio, Matt Salvatierra, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Jolleen Wagner, Jill Limongi, Emily Brooks, Molly Rippe, Andrew Morris, Ruby Amezquita, Zoranlly Burgos, Maura Friddle, Tabetha Hyde-Belisle, and Abigail Jones, **Other:** Brian Giglio (Vertex), Sheila Mulcahy (Vertex), Robert Keogh (4th Sector Solutions)
Apologies:	Aaron Brenner

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:00 pm
2	Approval of July Minutes	Eckholdt	12:01 pm
3	Vertex Vote	Mulcahy	12:01 pm
4	FY 2025 Academic Committee Summary	Carbone	12:18 pm
5	Talent & Acquisition Update	Amezquita	12:42 pm
6	FY 2025 Year-End Budget Report	Salvatierra	12:59 pm
7	Brilla Schools Network Update	Valle	1:03 pm
8	Adjournment	Eckholdt	1:10 pm

BRILLA
The Brilliant Choice in the Bronx

Final

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:00 pm.

Item 2. Approval of July Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Ms. Mary O'Grady seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the July meeting.

Item 3. Vertex Vote

- Ms. Sheila Mulcahy reviewed with the board the proposed changes to the terms of Brilla's relationship with Vertex as described in detail in the board presentation.
- She outlined the strategic and operational advantages of the proposed revision.
- Mr. Eckholdt moved to approve the Vertex resolution. Ms. O'Grady seconded the motion. There were no abstentions, and all other board members unanimously approved the resolution.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BRILLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS

August 19, 2025

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Brilla"), does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, on or about December 18, 2024, Brilla notified Vertex Partnership Academies Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation ("Vertex") and Public Prep Charter School Academies, a New York not-for-profit education corporation ("Public Prep"), that, effective July 1, 2026, Brilla would no longer be participating in the joint high school program with Public Prep and Vertex (the "Joint High School Program"), and notified Vertex that Brilla was terminating that certain Amended and Restated Academic Business Services Agreement, dated August 1, 2022 (the "Prior Management Agreement"), by and between Brilla and Vertex, pursuant to which Vertex provides academic and business services to Brilla within the framework the Joint High School Program; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2025, the Board deemed it advisable and in the best interests of Brilla for Brilla to explore a charter revision to continue a high school program at Brilla College Preparatory Charter School managed by Vertex, commencing with the 2026-27 school year (the "High School Program Revision") and to do so pursuant to a charter management organization agreement to be negotiated with Vertex (the "CMO Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2025, the Board approved the presentation of a non-binding draft term sheet for the CMO Agreement (the "Term Sheet") to the board of trustees of Vertex (the "Vertex Board") for its review and potential approval in order for Brilla and Vertex to negotiate a CMO Agreement, which Term Sheet the Chair of the Board sent to the Vertex Board, and finalized with Vertex on June 17, 2025 (copy provided to the Board); and

WHEREAS, the Board has not yet approved the final CMO Agreement; and

WHEREAS, staff of Brilla and Vertex have worked on the components of a draft High School Program Revision including a draft CMO Agreement (a summary of the High School Program Revision has been provided to the Board), which, after Board approval, such High School Program Revision needs to be finalized and submitted to the State University of New York Board of Trustees for action by its Charter Schools Committee ("SUNY") as required by the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Brilla be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to submit the High School Program Revision, including the final Term Sheet but not including the CMO Agreement, to SUNY for review and potential approval with such changes, modifications and amendments as Eric Eckholdt, as Chair of the Board, or any other duly authorized officer of Brilla (each, an "Authorized Person") may, individually or together with another Authorized Person, in such Authorized Person's reasonable discretion, approve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of CMO Agreement by the Board, Brilla shall be authorized to deliver same to SUNY as part of the High School Program Revision and in lieu of the Term Sheet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Authorized Person be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to execute and deliver the High School Program Revision and such further agreements, instruments and documents ancillary thereto that are deemed necessary and appropriate by any Authorized Person in connection with the foregoing resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Authorized Person be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, individually or together with another Authorized Person, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such agreements, revisions, instruments and documents in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of Brilla as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any agreements, instruments and documents required in connection with the foregoing, in the name and on behalf of Brilla, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Authorized Person with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Authorized Person may, in his or her discretion, approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such agreements, instruments and documents in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any Authorized Person in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Item 4. FY 2025 Academic Committee Summary

- Mr. Michael Carbone presented the 2024–25 End-of-Year Demographics Report for Brilla Schools, including enrollment, gender, lunch eligibility, and special population data. In response to Ms. Darla Romfo, he clarified "dual enrollment" as students identified as both multilingual learners and students with disabilities.
- In response to Ms. O'Grady, Mr. Carbone confirmed full elementary enrollment and noted middle school growth due to grade expansion and two new campuses.
- Mr. Carbone reported steady student retention, noting that many withdrawals occurred among first-year students. Attendance remains slightly below target, with some chronic truancy concerns.
- He highlighted solid gains in literacy, stable Math performance, and positive growth on state assessments. Full results will be presented in September.
- Mr. Carbone outlined upcoming interventions: Eureka Math 2.0 pilot, Thinkverse AI tutoring, curriculum updates, and staffing completions. He detailed strategies to support multilingual learners.
- Mrs. Yeime Valle reported a 1 percent overall and 18 percent literacy gain on preliminary state tests.
- In response to Ms. Romfo, Mr. Carbone explained that most 8th graders took the Algebra I Regents, impacting growth data. Mr. Eckholdt recommended this be clarified in stakeholder communications.

Item 5. Talent & Acquisition Update

- Ms. Ruby Amezquita reported that 90 percent of projected August 2025 staffing roles have been filled, with teacher retention at 89 percent, the highest level since 2021. She noted that Gallup Q12 Engagement scores improved from the thirty-ninth to the

forty-sixth percentile, attributing gains to leadership, culture-building, and targeted personnel investments. Involuntary terminations decreased by 13 percent year-over-year, while 101 new hires exceeded projections due to increased enrollment.

- Ms. Amezquita highlighted a pilot partnership with the University of Mount St. Vincent, offering an accelerated Master's program in Special Education to address ongoing SPED staffing challenges.
- Addressing questions from Ms. Saroki de Garcia and Mr. Eckholdt, Ms. Amezquita provided details on the SPED certification program and the composition of the initial pilot cohort.
- In response to Ms. Romfo, Ms. Amezquita confirmed the hiring of twenty-six staff members from partner schools Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart.
- Responding to Mr. Eckholdt, she shared that the Personnel Team is collaborating with the NYC Charter School Center to align and validate teacher certification records.

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Item 6. FY 2025 Year-End Budget Report

- Mr. Matt Salvatierra presented the year-to-date FY25 Budget vs. Actuals report. The draft year-end financials indicated that revenue was close to expectations, with significant savings in personnel costs due to vacancies throughout the year.
- Mr. Salvatierra noted that expenses for CMO fees and curriculum investments were lower than budgeted, resulting in a positive net income compared to budget projections.
- In response to a question from Mr. Eckholdt regarding hiring targets, Mr. Salvatierra explained that the budget includes a vacancy factor based on prior-year hiring trends, budgeting for 97 percent of instructional expenses.
- Mr. Salvatierra reiterated that actual hiring this year was lower than budgeted, which contributed to some cost overages in other areas.
- No further questions were raised.

Item 7. Brilla Schools Network Updates

- Mrs. Valle reviewed highlights from the Brilla Solis Summer Program, which served 400 students through academic enrichment and structured activities. The program was funded by Bloomberg, with approximately $450,000 contributed this year and a commitment to fund the program for the next three years.
- In response to Mr. Eckholdt's question regarding student assessment results, Mrs. Valle confirmed that students performed well on both Bloomberg's and the school's internal assessments.
- She shared that sixty-six Brilla alumni are starting college this fall. A special alumni event was held for sixteen of these students to provide support and encouragement as they begin their college journey.
- Mrs. Valle provided an overview of the ribbon-cutting ceremony held for Brilla Pax, noting that despite ongoing construction challenges, the event marked a significant milestone in the school's development.

- She also highlighted upcoming events, including the full return of students on Thursday, August 21; the next board meeting on September 16, 2025; and the Brilla Schools Community Celebration on September 27, 2025.

Item 8. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

- Minutes submitted by Tabetha Hyde-Belisle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.

BRILLA
The Brilliant Choice in the Bronx

Final

Brilla College Preparatory Charter Schools ("Brilla")
Board of Director Meeting Minutes from the July 2025 Meeting

Approved by: Brilla Board **DATE: August 19, 2025**

Agenda:

Date:	**July 15, 2025**
Time:	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST
Location:	Brilla Schools Network, 420 E 145th St, Bronx, NY 10454 and Zoom (https://setonpartners-org.zoom.us/j/9762292693?pwd=RVpMY3Z1dDFBckhlclREWktlckdFdz09)
Participants:	**Board Members**: Eric Eckholdt, Stephanie Saroki de Garcia, David Ingles, James Jones, Fr. Anthony Andreassi, Leoner Francisco **CMO Staff:** Yeime Valle, Jolleen Wagner, Michael Carbone, Maria Valencia, Matt Salvatierra, Reyes Claudio, Zoranlly Burgos, and Abby Jones **Other:** Robert Keogh (4th Sector Solutions), Kyle Pellerin (4th Sector Solutions), Joe Keeney (4th Sector Solutions), Bria Cunningham (Couch White), Vanessa Barry (Mariposa Consulting)
Apologies:	Darla Romfo, Brother Brian, and Mary O'Grady

Item No.	Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time
1	Call to Order	Eckholdt	12:04 pm
2	Approval of June Minutes	Eckholdt	12:05 pm
3	Food Service Vendor Change	Valle	12:05 pm
4	Enrollment Update	Burgos	12:11 pm
5	BSN Updates	Valle	12:35 pm
6	Adjournment	Eckholdt	12:54 pm

BRILLA
The Brilliant Choice in the Bronx

Final

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Eric Eckholdt at 12:04 pm.

Item 2. Approval of June Minutes

- Mr. Eckholdt moved for a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Mr. David Ingles motioned to approve and Mr. James Jones seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other board members unanimously approved the minutes from the June meeting.

Item 3. Food Service Vendor Change

- Mrs. Reyes Claudio overviewed a proposal to move to a full-service contract with Brilla's food service vendor, Red Rabbit. This change would include handling food compliance and counting meals. Mrs. Yeime Valle added that Brilla has experienced issues with counting meals in the past and expressed her confidence in Red Rabbit's ability.
- Mrs. Claudio asked for Board approval to move forward with the full-service contract.
- In response to a question from Mr. Jones regarding cost savings due to this change, Mrs. Claudio noted that Brilla is expecting to break even and move the burden away from the school operations team.
- Mr. Eckholdt motioned to approve the full-service contract between Red Rabbit and Brilla. Mr. Ingles seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. All other Board members unanimously approved the full-service contract between Red Rabbit and Brilla.

Item 4. Enrollment Update

- Mrs. Valle introduced Brilla's enrollment consultant, Ms. Vanessa Barry. Ms. Barry overviewed the current state of enrollment for Brilla, including the landscape of charter school enrollment in NY and Brilla's enrollment efforts.
- Ms. Barry noted that Brilla is 93% enrolled according to its enrollment target. She attributed the increase in enrollment to data visibility and marketing, strategic partnerships, an added lottery preference for students coming from closing schools, and consultants like Mariposa and Underdog. Ms. Barry noted that Brilla has plans to increase Kindergarten applications for the upcoming academic year.
- Ms. Zoranlly Burgos added that Brilla has engaged current families to market Brilla schools via word of mouth. She noted that our enrollment target is 2,730 students, and that Brilla will be about 94.9% enrolled by BEDS (Basic Educational Data System) day.
- In response to a question from Ms. Stephanie Saroki de García surrounding Brilla's enrollment progress from last year's kindergarten class to this year, Ms. Barry noted that three of four Brilla kindergarten classes are at 100% enrollment target and that she would send exact numbers as a follow-up email.

- In response to a question from Mr. Aaron Brenner surrounding Brilla's kindergarten to first grade retention rate, Ms. Barry stated that Brilla's retention rate is 98%, in comparison to the national average of 82%.
- In response to a question from Mr. Eckholdt surrounding the organization of the enrollment effort, Ms. Barry explained that Ms. Burgos directly manages Brilla's enrollment process and leads a fully staffed enrollment team.
- There was discussion surrounding the advantages of building partnerships with pediatricians in the local area to build relationships. Ms. Barry explained that Brilla currently markets at pediatric dental offices and pediatrician offices.
- There was a discussion surrounding the migration of families out of the Bronx, led by Mr. Jones and Mr. Eckholdt. Ms. Barry explained that families moving is the top reason why families leave Brilla, and that Brilla makes efforts to recapture families.

Item 5. BSN Updates

- Mrs. Valle overviewed recent events in the Brilla Schools Network, including Kindergarten graduation, Fourth Grade Stepping Up Ceremony symbolizing the class's move to middle school, and Eight Grade Graduation.
- Mrs. Valle overviewed leadership transitions happening in the Brilla Schools Network office, including the addition of members to the executive team and new Principals. Mrs. Valle thanked Mr. Eckholdt for his encouragement in the expansion of the executive team.
- Mrs. Valle overviewed the upcoming events in the Brilla Schools Network including the Summer Solis tutoring program, New Staff and All Staff Onboarding, the Pax Building Ribbon Cutting ceremony, elementary school and middle school Back to Schools Nights, and the first day of school on August 21.

Item 6. Adjournment

- Upon being duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.

- Minutes submitted by Maura Friddle on behalf of Mr. David Ingles, Board Secretary.