



## MICS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 13, 2026

**Attendees:** Mike Ladd; Stephanie Sherer; Eric Laforce; Kevin Wiley; Glenn Byrum; Garrett Tryon; Erica Blackson; Katie Blixt; Rod Hewlin, Kelly Dempsey, Dawne Dowdy

Quorum Status: YES

- I. Call to Order: 5:33 pm
- II. Approval of minutes: Stephanie moved to approve March minutes; Mike seconded; all in favor to approve minutes – March minutes were approved.

- III. Public Comment:  
MICS high school student representative(s) re: 25-26 theme “MICS: Raise the Bar”

Three students presented in advance of the art market.

Faith Furlough -- attended MICS since third grade; arts have helped her to grow in confidence and competence; She participated in the art market.

Nolan Mullins– AP Art has given him a community and purpose at school; He has also been active in theater since 2021; he’s enjoyed the challenge of learning new skills including designing playbills and slide shows and many mediums of art.

Savannah Caldwell – Has participated in art and was given feedback in Gaston Art Show that inspired her to keep going and explore her ideas and theories.

- IV. School Report:
  - a. General Updates
    - i. Charter Renewal Update – had a great virtual meeting site visit on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026. Reviewers had a few recommendations: we continue working on EC teaching licensure (100% licensure is goal); strengthening cross building activities across elementary, middle and high school; create concrete tool for board goal measurement. We had two main action items: Revise COI policy and submit charter amendments.
    - ii. Community Engagement & PD
      - BoardOnTrack - [Board - CEO Partnership: EOY Evaluation](#) 4/24/26, 11am – Next training is available and all members are encouraged to attend
      - Scheduling Board Retreat – Kelly will send a doodle poll to schedule for July
      - BoardOnTrack - custom Board PD opportunity to be evaluated
  - b. Student Enrollment and Attrition Reports – Enrollment remains stable; down one student to 1,783 as of today

- V. Officer Elections Upcoming - May 2026 elections – Katie looking at Secretary; Eric as Vice Chair; Mike offered his availability as Treasurer in the event that Eric opted to serve as Vice Chair only and relinquish the Treasurer office. Voting to be held in May.
- VI. Committee Reports:
- Finance: No updates, but meeting on April 17th to discuss bus fees, rental report, and any additional changes to the early bird budget. ACTION: Eric moved to hire DMJPS as auditor; Erica seconded the motion and all board members in voted in favor of hiring as auditor.
  - Governance: Meeting held 04/03/26 at 8:00am. Present were Glenn, Eric, Kelly, Kim
    - Charter amendments were discussed as recommended by The Office of Charter Schools. The original Charter Application was dated 2010, areas addressed in the amendments are:
      - Classroom size – increase from average of 20 students per classroom in original charter application to “not to exceed 25” average students per classroom
      - School Calendar – revised to reflect current legislation
      - Foreign language offerings – revised to reflect current best practices
      - Food service for breakfast and lunch was not included in original charter application but is now offered on site.
      - Transportation services were not included in original charter application but are now offered within a 6-mile radius of the school
    - ACTION: Erica moved to approve Charter amendments as presented; Eric seconded the motion; and all members voted in favor of amendments.
    - Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy was reviewed with clarifications / updates made per legal guidance. Revisions shared with Board; ACTION: Erica moved to approve COI policy as presented; Katie seconded and all voted in favor.
    - Eric L. proposed edits to the SOAR fundraising policy. Last edit was 2018. Eric worked with SOAR and Glenn and Governance to propose policy. ACTION: Erica moved to approve the fundraising policy as presented; Mike seconded and all Board members in favor of new policy.
  - HR: No update this month. Next Meeting May 8th, 2026
  - Academics: No update this month
  - SOAR:
    - Completed the creation and review of the new Fundraising policy (see update from Kim/Governance)
      - Next meeting is scheduled for May 11th
      - Raised over \$50,000 at the school auction for a record-breaking year.
      - SOAR will be helping with school tours on April 14th and 15th, after kindergarten assessments
      - The 2026 Color Run is planned for May 15th, and registration opens April 13th.
      - MICS is hosting a track meet on April 16th, and the concession proceeds will be going to SOAR
  - Strategic Planning: Closed session March 19th, 2026, with Jenny, Dawne, Erica, Glenn, Eric,

Stephanie. Went into closed session with Erica motion and Eric second at 8:33. Came out of closed session with Dawne motion and Stephanie second at 10:05. Under section 143-318.11 (5)

VII: Closed Session:

- a. North Carolina Open Meeting Statute – Closed session section 143-318.11 (5) –

Erica moved and Garrett seconded that we move to closed session at 6:59 pm pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (5).

Erica moved and Eric seconded that we move out of closed session at 7:07 pm pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (5).

Next Board Meeting: 5-11-26

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.