



MICS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 9th, 2026

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

Quorum Status: Yes

- I. Call to Order: Kevin Wiley called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.
- II. Approval of minutes: Rod moved to approve the January Board Minutes; Eric seconded and all voted in favor of the approval.
- III. Public Comment: MICS high school student representative(s) re: 25-26 theme “MICS: Raise the Bar” – Two students spoke –

Riley Blue, a senior at MICS who started with the school as a kindergartener; Riley credits her participation in Science Cadet and yearbook with her success at MICS; Science cadets enable student to gain insight and experience in a lab setting which she hopes to carry over to a career in manufacturing or engineering; Yearbook has given her leadership experience; she created a high school yearbook club and middle school yearbook club to teach the skills needed. She believes both have provided her with opportunities to grow and develop.

Ayla Edwards, a senior at MICS who has committed to UNC Chapel Hill for nursing. She has been with MICS since 6th grade; She believes MICS has accommodated and supported her during her pursuit of her educational and career goals. In second semester of junior year, she enrolled in CNA program while working 3 nights a week. She took 8 classes in addition and passed the exam on the first try; she also participates in the Senior Advisory Council creating legacy opportunities for Seniors at MICS. She believes MICS has created a supportive environment for her to reach her goals.

IV. School Report:

a. General Updates

- i. Inclement weather response – School has responded to two major weather events in the last couple of weeks to best support academic momentum and get kids back in school. MICS is not required to make up any days following these events. A district is permitted to have 5 remote learning days before requiring any new instructional days added to the calendar.
- ii. Charter Renewal – On Thursday, March 12, 2026, MICS will host a virtual site visit as a component of the 2026-2027 charter renewal process. MICS BOD will participate in a 9:30 am focus group with the Charter Renewal team; Board should also expect to see

minimal charter amendments to clarify and correct current practices from 2010 vision. A meeting link will be sent out shortly for board focus group.

iii. Community Engagement

1. BoardOnTrack Events

- a. [Charter Leaders Training/Networking - 2/18/26](#)
- b. [Effective & Efficient Board Meetings and Committees - 2/27/26](#)

2. [MICS PTO Auction - 3/6/26](#) (click [HERE](#) for tickets)

3. [Spectrum News - 2/5/26](#)

- b. Student Enrollment and Attrition Reports – one disenrollment in early February reported; for the last three years; we are tracking essentially the same number of applications at the time of the lottery

V. Discussion: Board Recruitment for 2026-2027

- a. Alternates – BoardOnTrack affirmed the intent to pursue alternates but to avoid any perceived guarantee to formal board membership; consider requirement to join one appointed committee and attend committee meetings (HR/Governance for 2026/2027)
- b. Review the code of conduct/Member Agreement – BoardOnTrack – review by Governance prior to implementation for next year’s board
- c. Board interviews scheduled for February 16, 2026, at 5:30 pm (4 - 45/minute slots) – 10 confirmed attendance – will distribute scripted interview questions in advance.

VI. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance: No update this month. Meeting scheduled on 2/27/26
- b. Governance: No update this month.
- c. HR: Meeting held Jan 23rd, 2026, with Mike, Garret, Kim, Glenn and Kevin starting at 8:30 and ending at 10:02
 - i. Goals and Objectives for 24/25 finalized -- 7 Exceed, 7 meets & 2 not meet (SOAR Fundraising & just missing on increasing total % Proficiency, impacted by re norming)
 - ii. 25/26 Quick look at Goals and Objectives -- Trending favorable is Proficiency, Student Attrition & SOAR fundraising; Finance surplus is the only impacted trending from Exceeded to Meets
 - iii. State Budget still not approved -- Per pupil funding flat YOY, however some prior year state funding programs did not continue in 25/26 resulting in reduced overall state funding; Closely monitoring spending until we get a clearer look at 26/27 at the State funding level/Budget

- iv. Development opportunities for Professional Growth -- Glenn to review some non-school run leadership programs that would provide him with personal feedback with summary feedback to the HR committee

Next HR meeting is May 8th, 2026, at 8:30 am.

- d. Academics: No update this month.
- e. SOAR: No report; upcoming meeting on March 9, 2026; Tickets on sale for the March 6th Auction at Muddy River Distillery
- f. Strategic Planning: Closed session was held Feb 5th, 2026. Committee members in attendance were Jenny, Dawne, Erica, Glenn, Eric, Stephanie (on phone), and Katie. Went into closed session with Erica motion and Eric second at 9:05. Came out of closed session with Erica motion and Katie second at 10:46. Under section 143-318.11 (5); Will give summary in closed session but committee needs to meet again before full report out; Next meeting is Feb 19th, 2026

VII. Closed Session:

North Carolina Open Meeting Statute – Closed session section 143-318.11 (5) & (6) -- Erica moved to go into closed session; Katie seconded the motion and all in favor, so the board went into closed session at 6:48 pm.

Erica moved to leave closed session, Stephanie seconded and all voted in favor. Closed session ended at 8:04 pm.

Erica moved to approve new hire D. Andree; Stephanie seconded all voted in favor, approved.

Next Board Meeting: 3-9-26

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.