



The board approved these meeting minutes on August 26, 2025.

School Name- Gentry Academy		
Charter Number- 4284-07		
Date- Monday, August 11, 2025		
Address- 1420 County Road E East Vadnais Heights, MN 55110		
Board Member Names	Present	Absent
Brad Beck		X
Samuel Fellows	X	
Nikki Foley	X	
Jennifer Kurth (Ex Officio)	X	
Ellie Neumann	X	
Joe Norlin	X	
John Smith	X	
Megan Stone	X	
Akiko Ziegler	X	
Others Present		
School Mission Statement		
<u>Mission:</u>		
At the core of Gentry Academy's ability to build great leaders is the philosophy that true leadership does not come from a single characteristic but rather a collection of traits, values, and skills that work together. It is Gentry Academy's mission to strive to bring together this collection of traits, values, and skills on a daily basis so as to help the students achieve their best possible selves.		
<u>Vision:</u>		
Gentry Academy's vision to "Build Tomorrow's Leaders" creates the foundation which all learning and development are built upon. Through its high-quality Leadership and Life Skills Program students are guided to discover, recognize and embrace their own unique skill set, passions, and opportunities for personal growth that set them up for success in life. Students are presented with a powerful opportunity to learn in a traditional classroom setting that is integrated with the highest-caliber leadership and W.I.N. (What I Need) Time curriculum. Each student deserves not only the best opportunities to learn and grow but also should enjoy the advantage of being surrounded by innovative and passionate peers who will simultaneously challenge and support them.		
1. Call to Order		

By Nikki Foley		Time- 4:32 pm	
2. Community Comment			
None			
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest if any			
None			
4. Approval of the Agenda			
Motion- The meeting's agenda was presented for approval.			
Made by: Nikki Foley		Seconded by: Megan Stone	
Discussion			
None			
Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	7	0	0
5. Approval of Consent Agenda			
Motion- None			
Made by:		Seconded by:	
Discussion			
None			
Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain
6. Treasurer's Report			
Motion- None			
Made by:		Seconded by:	
Discussion			
Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain

7. Committee Report			
Motion- None			
Made by:		Seconded by:	
Discussion			
Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain
8. Policy Development, Review, and Revision			
Motion- None			
Made by:		Seconded by:	
Discussion			
Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain

9. Strategic Plan Update and Review of Progress Toward Contract Goals	
10. Board Business (old and new)	
Motion- For Gentry Academy to withdraw from the free school lunch program.	
Made by: Nikki Foley	Seconded by: Joe Norlin
Discussion -Jennifer Kurth presented the family feedback survey results, overall families were not pleased with the program last year, around 160 lunches per day out of the 300+ students, 80% said no or minor impact if we withdraw, 0.8% (2 students) impact would be looking at different schools, comments included concern about food quality/portion/not healthy options, shared parent questions/ideas/etc. -Points of discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the 0.8%'s why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Didn't say, but could be financial • Is the food good? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lunch supervisors hear negative feedback every day from students, a la carte options are very slim and kids are missing those extra options • What are the community table and a la carte options that are available now? 	

- If students don't want something that they have to take for their lunch they put it on the community table and anyone can take it. A la carte is very minimal.
- What would the deficit be with the new program? Can the foundation cover families that can't afford lunch?
 - Supplementing some funding would hopefully work and parents were asked about donating and some said they would, goal is to not have that deficit if moving programs
- How does withdrawing from the free program affect staff?
 - Being a part of the program requires an extensive amount of reporting to the state and it would be significantly less work for staff to not be in the program
- Can we supplement with other things (more a la carte items) and keep the free program?
 - All foods that are being sold in the lunch room recipes have to be approved by the state
 - The guidelines the state has are difficult to follow
 - We tried other items besides nautical bowls and it's hard to get them accepted

JS & AZ- bringing cold lunch and getting a hot lunch to eat more or give to other students

JS- worried about the \$50-60,000 deficit and quality

- Did we look at different free lunch program vendors?
 - We didn't this year, but we had in the past
 - Not that many differences because of state guidelines
 - Current vendor has tried to accommodate with changing recipes
- If we get a yea vote what are the next steps?
 - We can get out of our contract if not participating in the free program
 - Look at the 3 bids we have and make a choice from there
- What are the bids?
 - John Smith shared a summary of the bids (Euphoria Foods, Done Right Foods, Tahar)
- Will the \$50-\$60,000 deficit go away if using a new program?
 - After bids shared, of 3 issues going with a new vendor would solve 2 hopefully and then possibly solve the 3rd (deficit) if going with Tahar
- Will parents be concerned about a cost with this starting in September?
 - It was stated in survey and has been an on-going conversation since to June, so there shouldn't be concern
- If we choose to move to away from free program this year can we go back the following year?
 - Yes you can enter back in
- How many students before free program were free and reduced?
 - 0, but our student body has changed
- Do you think that families that qualify for reduced lunch might put us back into a deficit?
 - I think there is a way that we could supplement maybe like reduced fee and that would help
- From a marketing perspective is it better to say that we have the free program or a school that provides greater options/fuel for food?
 - A family shared that the great food years ago was a selling/retention point for them

Vote

	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	5	2	0

11. Board Training	
Training- None	
Date	
Trainer	
12. Director's Report (organized by the qualifications required for evaluation of leadership)	
Instruction and Assessment	
Human Resource and Personnel Management	
Effective Communication	
Board, Authorizer, and Community Relationships	
Legal and Compliance Management	
Financial Management	
13. Announcements	
-Next meeting is Tuesday, August 26, 2025	
14. Adjournment	
By: Nikki Foley	Time: 5:30

Next meeting will be held:
Tuesday, August 26 @ 4:30 pm

Gentry Academy School Board Clerk

Ellie Neumann
Date Approved

8/26/2025

GENTRY ACADEMY
1420 COUNTY ROAD E
VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN 55110

Gentry Academy School Board Chair

N. Foley
Date Approved

09/08/25

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