

TSCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: Not specified

Location: Hybrid (In-person and via Zoom)

Attendees:

- **Board Members:** Jeff Barnes, Tom Marino, Deanie Parker, Deborah Waters Turner.
 - **Staff Members:** Nadia Barnard, Elizabeth Montgomery Brown, Emmanuel McKinney, Samson Mobashar, Maya Robinson, Pat Mitchell Worley.
 - **Guests:** Jennifer Weske (The Marston Group).
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I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order.

Agenda and Minutes Approval

- **Motion 1:** Motion to approve the minutes. Moved by Jeff Barnes and seconded by Deanie Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - **Motion 2:** Motion to approve the meeting agenda. Moved by Jeff Barnes and seconded by Deborah Waters Turner. The motion was approved unanimously.
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II. Financial Report

Elizabeth Montgomery Brown and guest, auditor Jennifer Weske, presented the financial reports.

FY25 Audit and 990 Presentation

- Jennifer Weske from The Marston Group presented the FY25 audit, issuing an unmodified (clean) opinion. There were no audit findings, material weaknesses, or deficiencies.
- Assets exceeded liabilities by approximately \$9.7 million. The net position decreased by roughly \$500,000 year-over-year, driven primarily by the expiration

of pandemic-era ESSER funds and a temporary dip in TISA (per-pupil) funding due to lower enrollment.

- TISA per-pupil allocation accounted for 82% of the school's funding, validating its status as a state-supported charter.
- The Marston Group noted that historic county property records for school and foundation land are currently disjointed. They offered to tidy and merge these records into a single property line item for clarity, which will not alter the books or recorded values.

FY26 Year-to-Date (Through December)

- Elizabeth reviewed the six-month financials, noting an adjusted net operating loss of approximately \$177,000 (excluding capital expenses).
 - **Revenue:** Trending favorably. TISA funding is coming in higher than anticipated (\$13,114 per pupil vs. the budgeted \$12,500). The school also fully utilized its \$133,000 SIG 2 funding, generated \$48,000 in interest income, and secured \$105,000 in new private grants.
 - **Expenses:** Personnel and benefits are over budget due to unbudgeted state retirement (TCRS) adjustments and unbudgeted payroll tied to the TAG 5 grant (which will be offset by grant revenue). Contracted services are also over budget by ~\$220,000, largely due to front-loaded costs that were budgeted evenly across 12 months.
 - **Balance Sheet:** Cash and equivalents sit at nearly \$5 million (184 days cash on hand). The debt service coverage ratio is currently 0.5 (falling short of the 1.1 covenant) but is showing improvement.
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III. Executive Director's Report

Maya Robinson presented academic, enrollment, and operational updates.

Enrollment & Attendance

- **Enrollment:** The school is exceeding its budgeted Average Daily Membership (ADM) of 641. Current enrollment is 655, with ADM trending at 653.4.
- **Chronic Absenteeism:** The school set a goal to reduce chronic absenteeism by 10% (from 42.4% last year to a target of 32.4%). Currently, the rate is 22.4% (162

out of 655 students), marking a nearly 8% improvement compared to January 2025.

Accountability & Academics

- **Federal Accountability:** The school did not meet the criteria to exit the federal Comprehensive Support and Intervention (CSI) list for 2025-2026. However, Maya clarified that TSCS is *not* on the state priority list (which carries risks of closure or takeover). Priorities remain focused on teacher/leader professional development and college/career readiness for students.
- **Interim Assessment #2 (SSIA 2):** * Overall achievement (proficiency levels 3 and 4) hit roughly 24%. The school's ultimate goal is 27.5% whole-school achievement to secure a state letter grade of "B."
 - Math and Social Studies exceeded their state AMO (Annual Measurable Objective) targets, while ELA and Science fell short.
 - To reduce the "below" rate and move more students into proficiency, the school has implemented mandatory assigned tutoring on Wednesdays, Fridays, and after school.
 - Starting with SSIA 3, the school will pilot full-length practice tests to better predict state test outcomes.

Staff & Student Highlights

- The competitive cheer squad is competing in the District Battle of the Bows.
- Band Director Shaman McGowan won 3rd place in a recent competition and will attend the prestigious Sphinx Connect conference in Detroit, Michigan.
- Director of Choirs Dakarius Dawson and Orff Music Director Arthela Williams-Moore will attend and teach at an International Festival in Jeju, South Korea in February. Upon return, they will host a Family Culture Night.

IV. Upcoming Events

- **Student Success Night:** Tonight (focusing on families whose students have IEPs and 504s).

- **High School Homecoming Game:** Friday, January 16 at 5:00 PM (Hosted at LeMoyne-Owen College).
 - **Parent-Teacher Conferences & Open House:** Thursday, February 5 from 1:30 PM - 7:00 PM (Spaghetti dinner served).
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V. Unfinished Business

- **Facilities Expansion:** Tom Marino and Pat Mitchell Worley provided a brief update on acquiring space across the street to eliminate portable classroom units. The Soulsville Foundation has secured \$2 million in state funding for the project to be spent by the end of the year.
 - **Memphis Delta Prep Building (Stafford Hall):** The TSCS board is monitoring the local school board's impending decision regarding the closure of Memphis Delta Prep elementary. MDP currently rents Stafford Hall from TSCS and serves as one of its enrollment feeders.
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VI. Adjournment

- **Motion 3:** Motion to adjourn. Moved by Deanie Parker and seconded by Jeff Barnes. The motion was approved unanimously.