

Proposed Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Rise Academy

The Board of Directors of Rise Academy held a regular meeting on January 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at 207 N. M.L.K. Blvd., Lubbock, TX.

The following directors, constituting a quorum of the board, were present at the meeting:

Richard Baumgartner, Phyllis Gant, Raquel Gonzales & Kimberly Bush

Absent: Frank Gutierrez

Meeting Called to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by R. Baumgartner.

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2026, were approved on first motion by P. Gant and second by R. Gonzales. The vote was 4 to 0 in favor.

Public Comment No members of the public were present for comment.

Financial Matters Baumgartner presented the monthly financial reports for December 2025 & January 2026. R. Gonzales asked if the outstanding checks going back to October and November 2025 could be looked at and resolved. After some discussion, the financial reports were approved on first motion by P. Gant and second by K. Bush. The vote was 4 to 0 in favor. Baumgartner next presented amendments to the 2025-26 budget. While going through the amendments, Baumgartner mentioned that he had terminated the behavior interventionist, D. Osby, for budgetary reasons., as well as an assistant. R. Gonzales asked Baumgartner whether that was the best decision, given that the behavior interventionist position was created to take pressure off Baumgartner as director from having to handle so many discipline problems. Baumgartner admitted that Osby's departure could cause discipline problems to burden him again, but that there were few options if a satisfactory financial profile was to come into place to present to possible lenders. After discussion, these amendments were approved on first motion by R. Gonzales and second by P. Gant. The vote was 4 to 0 in favor.

**Vote on SB11 –
Organized Prayer
& Bible Reading**

Next, Baumgartner explained to the other members that the board had to decide whether organized prayer, including Bible reading, was to take place during the instructional day, as allowed for under SB 11, which was passed in the last Texas legislative session. Baumgartner began by

presenting his position on the matter. He stated that he saw such sessions as unconstitutional, violating the “establishment clause” of the First Amendment, and likely the “free exercise clause,” as well. He stated that the Lubbock ISD board had voted against holding these religious sessions, and that most ISDs in the state were also deciding against the option. The other board members essentially agreed with Baumgartner, with P. Gant stating that Wednesday nights and Sundays were the times for religious devotion, and not during the day in public schools. Baumgartner added that the practical implementation SB11 would be complicated because the law required parental permission and the separation of those students whose parents who either didn’t grant permission or were opposed to the practice. On first motion by P. Gant and second by K. Bush, the board voted 4 to 0 to decline the adoption of SB 11.

Gym Use Options

Next, Baumgartner turned to the use of the gym for a men’s basketball league and the rental of it to outside groups. He explained that in the past Rise at times rented out the gym to outside groups for various uses. He said that the point came, however, where concerns about the wear and tear of the gym led him and Ms. J. Jones to stop the rentals. Now, however, given the need for additional revenues, the question was whether the renting of the gym should resume. Baumgartner also presented the idea that Rise could host a men’s basketball league that would be entirely controlled by Rise (no outside teams) to limit the likelihood of problems related to outside group use, while at the same time generating some revenue. After discussion, the consensus was that more details were needed as to revenue potential and costs associated with the league.

Update on New New Campus Plans

Baumgartner began by reviewing the email from the financial analyst with Masterson Associates. The email emphasized the importance of increasing enrollment above all else, while also finding ways to reduce expenses where possible. With increased enrollment and good cost controls, according to the analyst’s email, a \$7 to \$10 million project might be possible. Next, Baumgartner informed the other members that he had backed away from an engagement with the Bloomwell Group to do an enrollment campaign and instead entered into an agreement with Target River to carry out a digital marketing plan to boost enrollment. Finally, Baumgartner stated that Lenora Ask, the architect, and the RamTech people with the modular company were collaborating on a building design.

Board Governance Forms

R. Gonzales re-signed her board governance form, replacing the initial form that contained incorrect information.

Conflict of Interest Resolution

Finally, board members passed the required resolution attesting that none of them had a conflict of interest in any respect regarding business

or real estate transactions with the school. The resolution was passed on a 4 to 0 vote on first motion by P. Gant and second by R. Gonzales.

Adjournment

On motion by P. Gant and second by K. Bush, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed

Dated: _____ Name/Title_____