



BOARD MEETING

DATE AND TIME

- 2/10/2026 at 1300

ATTENDANCE LIST

- Mr. Thomas, E., Mr. Hartsaw, K., Mr. Merrell, C., Dickinson, S., Mrs. Preston-Hughes, E., Mr. Blackall, D., Mr. Duprey, W.

CALL TO ORDER

- Mr. Hartsaw called board members and staff to order at 1308

AGENDA

- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - GRABASH
 - REWARD POINTS
 - TRUANCY LEGISLATION
 - E-RATE
 - STATE TESTING
 - FLDOE SAFETY OFFICE (VISIT)
 - DRILLS, FIRE INSPECTIONS, MENTAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY IN COMPLIANCE
- The motion for the Old Business Minutes to be accepted was made by Mrs. Preston-Hughes, E. and seconded by Mr. Thomas, E.

NEW BUSINESS

-SPRING BREAK TRIP (MARCH 16-18)

Mr. Blackall shared with board members the field trip to New York and the importance of granting students the opportunity of a classroom without walls. There are 20 students enrolled for the New York trip. The itinerary will keep the students busy from 0900 to 1900. Among the many sites we will visit are the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, West Point, and a Broadway play. The trip is scheduled from March 16th to March 18th.

-PROM

Prom will be held on April 25th, 2026, at The Embassy Suite in downtown Orlando. Board members were invited, and the school's prom flyer was issued to all. Prom is an event fully funded by Mr. Hartsaw.

-FASHION SHOW

Fashion Show is an initiative by Ms. Perkins, our Business Courses Teacher. The program is designed to help students gain self-confidence and improve their skills at performing in front of large audiences. The event will be held on March 10th, 2026, in the Sanctuary area at the New Covenant Church in Orlando. Board members were invited, and the event's date and time were shared.

-BLOOD DRIVE

Mrs. Mendez spearheaded this event. The One Blood Bus Drive set up shop in the school's front yard, and students, along with teachers, donated blood. There was a total of 26 units of blood donated among teachers and students. The support from students and teachers was noted by the blood drive staff, who were amazed that a small school could match a heavily populated high school's donation rate.

-E-RATE

E-Rate is a federal initiative that provides discounts to help most U.S. schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. This type of discount is considered a Level One Category grant. While Category One focuses on bringing internet connectivity to the building, Category Two funding is dedicated to the infrastructure required to distribute that internet within the building. Workforce Advantage Academy (WAA) applied for grants in both categories for the 2026-2027 school year. WAA's application has been processed, and vendors have begun to reach out to our institution, offering their infrastructure products and services.

-OCPS PROPERTY IF SCHOOLS CONSOLIDATE

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is currently evaluating a Facility Consolidation and Optimization plan to address declining enrollment, which involves potentially closing seven schools by the 2026–2027 school year. Mr. Blackall researched the schools and shared with the board members that one school could benefit WAA if the opportunity to rent it were available. Mr. Blackall will continue to follow OCPS' current stand on this matter and will share any opportunities that could help WAA's budget in the future.

-TEACHERS NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Mr. Van Horn (History teacher) will not be returning to WAA next school year due to personal reasons. This will create a vacancy in that position, which Mr. Blackall has already planned to fill internally. Additionally, Mrs. Mendez (English Teacher) may not return next school year due to personal reasons, which will create a vacancy that will be posted on Indeed if the situation materializes and Mrs. Mendez must resign.

-BUDGET

While the current school rezoning and consolidation process in 2026 is driven by declining enrollment and a resulting \$41 million loss in state funding, the district is also facing a separate, major financial obligation to repay Disney.

The "return of money" refers to a massive property tax refund following years-long legal battle over how Disney's resort properties were valued. Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) will refund Disney up to **\$80 million**, from which WAA will have a year to repay \$103,000.00.

Mrs. Jones' retirement, along with the closing of the Transition Teacher Assistant position, savings on uniforms with a new vendor, and reductions in costs for small mini pods, will provide WAA with payments to cover the current debt owed to Disney

-ADJOURNMENT TIME: 1415

No other items follow under the Board Meeting held on 2/10/2026 at 1300

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

May 6, 2026, at 1300 has been selected and approved by _____ as the date for the last board meeting of the 2025-2026 school year.