Hillcrest Academy
Operating Board Minutes
14 July 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
In Person

Hillcrest Academy, in partnership with the family and the church, offers students an academically excellent, Christ-centered education rooted in an Anabaptist perspective. Within a caring community, Hillcrest prepares students for lives of Christian discipleship, peacemaking, and service.

Board Members Present: ~~Joel Beachy~~, Nick Detweiler-Stoddard, Allison Goertz, ~~Troy Roth~~, Robin Schrock, Gretchen Yoder, Sarah Yoder, and Ella Walker

Principal: Nate Miller

Annual Meeting

I. Opening
   A. Election of a president pro term - Allison Goertz was elected as temporary president pro term.
   B. Welcome and Introductions - Commitment to Mission - Allison read aloud the mission statement of Hillcrest Academy.
   C. Devotional Focusing - Allison shared a devotion and prayer to start the meeting.

II. Annual Meeting Agenda
   A. Board member support of Mennonite Confession of Faith and Missio Dei - The Operating Board reviewed the documents and affirmed using these documents as foundational documents to guide the Operating Board work.
   B. Covenant Litany of the Board - The board participated in a reading of the Covenant Litany of the Board from Series 200.
   C. Election of New Board Members - The board discussed new board representatives from Washington Mennonite and Lower Deer Creek congregations and an At Large position. Wellman Mennonite will continue to not have a representative at this time.

ACTION 1 Affirmation of Cassidy Hertzler as Washington Mennonite Operating Board Member.
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

ACTION 2 Affirmation of Gabby Fredrick as At Large Member starting in December 2025.
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

ACTION 3 Affirmation of Terry Erb as Lower Deer Creek Operating Board Member.
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

   D. Affirmation of Officers - The board discussed appointing President, Secretary, Finance Chair positions for the 2025-2026 school year. The Vice President position will remain unfilled at this time.

ACTION 4 Affirmation of Allison Goertz as Operating Board President.
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

ACTION 5 Affirmation of Sarah Yoder as Operating Board Secretary.
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

ACTION 6 Affirmation of Gretchen Yoder as Operating Board Finance Chair.
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

   E. Set time and place for regular board meetings - Regular Board meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at Hillcrest Academy.

F. Annual Report - The board reviewed the first draft of the 2024-2025 Annual Report.
G. Adjournment

ACTION 7 Adjourn at 7:45 PM
Ella/Robin/Carried

July Board Meeting

I. Consent Agenda
   A. June Minutes - The June minutes were reviewed.
   B. Administrative Reports - Principal, Advancement, and Enrollment reports were reviewed.

ACTION 1 Approve consent agenda items
Unanimous Vote of Affirmation

II. Strategic and Generative Work
   A. Board Member Committees - Board members reviewed committees and contact information was updated.
   B. Finance Committee CSP update - Finance Committee Chair shared information with congregations through their board members about CSP contributions. No questions have been posed by congregations.
   C. Potential change to policy 201.4 - The Board discussed a change to Policy 201.4 regarding the composition of Operating Board members. The proposed language change included maintaining one representative from the Rosedale Network and increasing to up to three additional at-large members to balance community representation.

ACTION 2 Approve motion to change the language of the composition of the Operating Board in Policy 201.4..
Nick/Ella/Carried

   D. At-Large Term - The board discussed a change to the term for an at-large position to begin in July 2023-June 2026 to balance the start dates of the other two at-large positions

ACTION 3 Change term date for new at-large board position.
Allison/Gretchen/Carried

   E. Nominate new at-large member - The Board discussed electing Marshall Swartzendruber for the third at-large position to finish the term beginning in July 2023 and ending in June 2026.

ACTION 4 Affirmation of Marshall Swartzendruber as at-large Operating Board member.

   F. Student Handbook - The Board participated in the first read of the Student Handbook with a final vote of approval to be taken in August. One specific change discussed was to approve Tom Carey and Beth Swantz as student abuse investigators.

ACTION 5 Approve Tom Carey as the first investigator and Beth Swantz as alternate student abuse investigator.
Robin/Nick/Carried

   G. Kirkwood Memo of Understanding for work-based learning activities - The Board reviewed the Kirkwood Memo of Understanding for work-based learning.

ACTION 6 Approve signing of the Memo of Understanding for Kirkwood Community College.
Sarah/Gretchen/Carried

   H. Approval of Case for Support communication document for use in the Feasibility Study- The Board reviewed the document to be used in the Feasibility Study.

ACTION 7 Approve Case for Support document.
Ella/Sarah/Carried

   I. Approval of Tami Brenneman and Nate Miller named to act together to manage Hillcrest's Everence account.

ACTION 8 Approve Tami Brenneman and Nate Miller to manage the Hillcrest Everence account.
Nick/Robin/Carried

J. Bus/Transportation update and inspection results - Nate Miller shared an update on the bus inspections. It was decided to replace or repair two buses. Ledru Miller purchased one bus for $4,000 at auction.
K. Roof repair update - The roof repair was completed this month.
L. Board Retreat topic brainstorming - The board will consider a board retreat topic for September.

ACTION 9 Adjourn at 9:15 PM
Robin/Gretchen/Carried

July 7, 2025 Special Session (virtual)

A. Bus purchase - The board discussed the purchase of one to two buses.

ACTION 1 Approve the purchase of up to two buses for up to $7,000 individually or a total spent of $11,000.
Allison/Gretchen/Carried (virtually)

Executive Session

Next Meeting: Monday, August 11
Devotion: Ella Walker