

MEHP Annual Governance Board Meeting
January 20, 2026
4 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Keith King, Alexia Phinizey, Keith Sanford, Tammy Swenson, Dr. Sue Anne Wells

Staff Present: Dr. Ronnie Christian, Devan Hanyon, Jeanne Hinchee, Cristol Kapp, Kayla Phillips, Lynne Regal, Anna Shand, Dr. Elaine Swafford, Leigh Topping

I. Welcome – Dr. Sue Anne Wells

- Welcomed auditor

II. Agenda Review – Dr. Sue Anne Wells

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from the November 18, 2025 Board Meeting — Keith Sanford, Alexia Phinizey

IV. Welcome Guests -- Auditor

- Dr. Wells posed the question: how can we communicate better with our community and get them involved in the schools?

Auditor's Report

- \$3.5 million in total assets
- Net position: very healthy
- Federal expenditures under threshold

V. Director's Report – Leadership and Change: Looking Ahead toward the Next Decade: Updates – Dr. Elaine Swafford

- MEHP Data comparison: 5th grade reduced the AMO expectations, however 3rd and 4th grade met their AMO levels
- Legislative update: facilities funding (possible increase), immigration laws

Chief of Staff Report — Dr. Ronnie Christian

- Targeted, intentional — TN Ready Incentives
- Growth across all tested areas since Benchmark 1

- Attributing growth to strategies, principals, teachers
- Positive impact on every child

HR & Operations:

- Applications coming in
- HR focusing on recruitment and canvassing local communities
- Average faculty tenure questioned; approximately 74-78% retention
- Question: has voucher program impacted enrollment? Dr. Elaine Swafford said it has not yet impacted enrollment. A big factor in enrollment is the fact that downtown Chattanooga is saturated with charter schools, so all the schools are targeting the same people.

VI. Committee Reports

Academic Review Committee: No Report

Development/Marketing: Lynne Regal

- Dr. Elaine Swafford and Lynne Regal thanked Harshad Shah for his financial commitment to CGLA, and announced the Shah Foundation Student Activity Building
- Dr. Kelly Arnold announced as the chair of Odyssey on March 25
- Thank you to Keith Sanford — big grant from Bobby Stone Foundation' Board members encouraged to purchase/sell table sponsorships for the Odyssey Awards Luncheon
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Facilities/Finance: Jeanne Hinchee

- Fundraising expected to go green by end of year
- TISA outcomes received in January, based on FY25; projected decrease due to low enrollment

VII. Next Joint Meeting – Tuesday, March 17, 4 p.m., 2026

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Department of Interior invited Dr. Sue Anne Wells and Mustang Leadership Program students to participate in the 250th Anniversary celebration

