

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 3, 2025, 4PM

5235 W. Belden

AGENDA

Agenda Item	Purpose	Time	Facilitator
Welcome	Introduction of Meeting Participants and Guests	5 mins	Adnan Assad
New Business/Old Business	Opportunities for Public Comment	5 mins	Alex Maturi
Minutes & Consent Agenda	- Approval of Minutes - Consent Agenda	10 mins	Adnan Assad
CEO Report	CEO Updates	20 mins	Julie Dakers
Executive Committee	Committee Report	5 mins	Adnan Assad
External Affairs Committee Report	- YTD Fundraising Progress 2026 Benefit Results	15 mins	Jeff Kemerley
DBEIJ Committee Report	- Committee Report - Family Satisfaction Survey Results	15 mins	Candace Williams Sarah Collentine
Education Council	Committee Report	10 mins	Brooke Roark
Finance Committee Report	- YTD Financials - FY27 Budget Approval	25 mins	Katheryn Steward
Board Meeting Schedule	FY27 Board Meeting Schedule	5 mins	Adnan Assad
Adjourn		5 mins	Adnan Assad

Total time: **120** minutes

Guests interested in participating in the meeting may contact info@christopherhouse.org. Registration for public comment closes the Friday before the Board meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Approved by the Board on 09/09/2026

June 3, 2026, at 4:00 PM
Christopher House Stewart Campus
5235 W Belden Ave, Chicago IL 60639

Attendance

Board Members Attending In-Person: Adnan Assad, Ronit Barrett, Desire Bernard-Forbes, Jessica Cardoni, Dee Dee Chesley, Mike Edeke, Roberto Interiano, Jeff Kemerley, Lauren Long, Alex Maturi, Justin Orr, Brooke Roark, Katheryn Steward, Candace Williams

Board Members Attending via Microsoft Teams: Angela Igbineweka-Obaseki,

Board Members Absent: Rolando Acosta, Shavon Hale, Carlos Pineiro, Kim White

Christopher House Staff Attending: Sarah Collentine, Dr. Kellie Corley, Julie Dakers, Brenda Horton, Michael Perez, Seema Rehmatullah, Karen Ross-Williams, Becky Seibel, Traci Stanley, Bonnie Werstein

Guests Registered for Public Comment: Jamar Etienne, Jordan Reece, Kai Bandiziukas, Cory Cole, Dori Smith, Endora Turner, Ken Fitzner, Kelli Braver, Desiree Moises, Christian Martinez, Iris Velaquez.

Quorum Met. Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM by Chair, Adnan Assad.

Minutes Recorder: Bonnie Werstein

Welcome Presented by Adnan Assad

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair with a quorum present. Board members and guests participated both in person and virtually. The Chair welcomed attendees and reviewed meeting protocols and expectations for participation. The agenda followed the order presented in the board packet and meeting materials.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The Board opened the meeting with a structured public comment period and reviewed guidelines designed to ensure respectful, inclusive, and productive participation. The Board Secretary, Alex Maturi called on eleven speakers that were registered, eight addressed the Board in the order listed below and Desiree Moises submitted written letters from students that were presented to Board Secretary.

Speakers:

Jamar Eitenne — 5-8 Art Teacher

Jordan Reece — Seventh and Eighth Grade ELA Teacher and CTU Delegate
 Kai Bandziukas – K-4 PE TEacher
 Dori Smith – Former Diverse Learner (Special Education) Teacher
 Endora Turner — Paraeducator and CTU Delegate
 Desiree Moises - School Social Worker
 Cristian Martinez – Former School Social Worker
 Iris Velaquez – Floater Teacher

Key themes raised (summary)

Current and former elementary staff members addressed the Board regarding leadership practices, staff retention, communication, student grouping practices, organizational culture, and student support services. The Board listened attentively to all comments and received the feedback in accordance with established policy. As required, no Board deliberation or response occurred during the public comment period.

Board response: Board members acknowledged the importance of the perspectives shared and affirmed their commitment to ongoing governance oversight and continuous organizational improvement

Minutes and Consent Agenda, Presented by Adnan Assad

The Board reviewed the March Board Meeting Minutes with opportunity for questions and discussion, no changes were recommended.

Motion was made by Alex Maturi and seconded by Roberto Interiano and carried unanimously to approve the minutes for March 11, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.

Adnan acknowledged that the Consent Agenda was shared and reviewed but did not require a board vote but asked if members had any questions about the materials in the Consent agenda packet.

The consent agenda, included shared governance and compliance materials required for program operations, including PPC February approved meeting minutes, PPC March 2026 agenda and approved meeting minutes, PPC April 2026 Agenda and approved meeting minutes, Early Head Start and Head Start March 2026 Menus, March 2026 and April 2026 Early Head Start and Head Start Fiscal Reports, FY26 Enrollment, Winter 2026 Analysis Report, DCFS Guidance of Immigration, Illinois 2026 HB312 Report, PY27 Early Childhood Program Year 2027 selection criteria, Seed Work for PPC and Self-Assessment Action Plan 2026-2027.

Head Start Shared Governance Note: Per 45 CFR Part 1301, relevant items are subject to Parent Policy Council review/approval. Staff will ensure reciprocal approvals and file cross-approvals with the official record.

CEO Report, Presented by Julie Dakers

Julie Dakers, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on organizational operations, strategic priorities, and external developments. The CEO reported on preparations for the upcoming early head start federal review, summer programming plans serving more than 200 elementary and middle school students, and ongoing efforts to strengthen academic outcomes and organizational performance.

A significant portion of the report focused on the organization's elementary charter renewal process. The Board reviewed performance ratings across academic performance, financial performance, inclusive programming and equitable systems, and organizational compliance. Leadership shared that Christopher House had received a recommendation for a four-year charter renewal, reflecting strong financial management, organizational compliance, and programmatic performance, while acknowledging continued academic growth opportunities. Approval of charter renewals recommendations is scheduled for the upcoming Chicago Public School (CPS) Board Meeting Board on June 10th. CH Board members engaged in thoughtful discussion regarding the charter authorization process, renewal timelines, governance implications, and advocacy opportunities. Detailed questions were raised concerning historical renewal practices, assessment methodology, and potential outcomes associated with the CPS board vote. Leadership provided additional clarification and context throughout the discussion.

Executive Committee Report, Presented by Adnan Assad

The Executive Committee reported on actions taken during recent Executive Committee meetings, including governance oversight, strategic initiatives, and key organizational approvals. The committee reviewed and approved the Early Head Start grant application, budget revisions, and self-assessment action plan, all of which support ongoing compliance and continuous quality improvement efforts.

The Board also received personnel updates including an update regarding the appointment of the organization's new Chief Human Resources Officer. Committee representatives described the comprehensive search and interview process that included leadership, staff, Board participation, and Parent Policy Committee input and formal letter of support. The Executive committee approved the CHRO hire in May's Executive Committee meeting as noted in the committee minutes. The Board formally welcomed Brenda Horton and expressed appreciation for her commitment to Christopher House.

External Affairs Committee Report, Presented by Jeff Kemerley

Jeff presented the External Affairs Committee report and reviewed year-end fundraising performance. The Board received an update indicating that fundraising results exceeded annual goals, achieving approximately 104% of budgeted expectations. Strong performance was reported across foundation grants, sponsorships, and gala revenue.

The committee provided a detailed debrief of the annual benefit event, highlighting:

- 100% Board participation in philanthropic giving.
- A sold-out event.
- Strong sponsorship performance.
- Successful paddle raise and auction activities.
- Increased overall revenue compared to prior expectations.

Board members engaged in a robust discussion regarding event outcomes and future opportunities. Thoughtful questions were raised concerning attendee engagement, venue capacity, auction strategy, sponsor cultivation, event scheduling, promotion efforts, and future fundraising growth. Committee leadership facilitated a comprehensive discussion regarding lessons learned and priority improvements for FY27. Board members offered constructive feedback and identified opportunities to further strengthen fundraising performance and community engagement.

DBEIJ Task Force Report, by Candace Williams

The Board received a report from the DEIBJ Task Force. Members reviewed current initiatives and ongoing efforts designed to strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice throughout the organization. Discussion emphasized maintaining alignment with Christopher House's mission, strengthening organizational culture, and ensuring equitable experiences and outcomes for children, families, and staff.

Education Advisory Report, by Brooke Roark

The Education Advisory Council presented findings from the Spring 2026 Parent Satisfaction Survey. Results demonstrated strong family satisfaction across both Early Childhood and Elementary/Middle School programs. The committee highlighted positive feedback regarding teacher quality, family support services, student safety, and sense of belonging.

Board members engaged in meaningful discussion regarding family engagement trends, survey participation, communication efforts, and identified opportunities for improvement. Particular attention was given to family feedback related to staff retention, communication systems, and extracurricular opportunities. The Board acknowledged the positive results while emphasizing the importance of continued improvement in identified growth areas.

Finance Committee Report, Presented by Kathryn Steward

The Finance Committee presented the proposed FY2027 operating budget. Committee leadership outlined the budget development process, financial assumptions, organizational priorities, projected deficit, cash-flow planning, staffing considerations, and risk mitigation strategies. The Board reviewed financial projections and discussed the organization's long-term sustainability strategy.

Board members asked thoughtful questions regarding revenue assumptions, enrollment projections, compliance requirements, staffing investments, cash reserves, and deficit management. A detailed discussion occurred regarding financial risks and opportunities, including planned checkpoints for budget monitoring and organizational performance throughout the fiscal

year. Committee leadership and management provided clarification and additional context in response to Board inquiries.

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley and seconded by Candace Williams and carried unanimously to approve the FY2027 Budget.

Board Governance

The Board reviewed the proposed FY2027 Board Meeting Schedule and discussed calendar considerations for the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion was made by Jessica Cardoni and seconded by Roberto Interiano and carried unanimously to approve the FY2027 Board Meeting Schedule.

Closed Session

Motion was made at 5:35 PM to enter into a Closed Session by Alex Maturi and seconded by Brooke Roark and carried unanimously to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters, in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)). The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all members present voting in favor. No final action was taken in closed session, and all formal Board actions remained in open session.

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley and seconded by Jeff Kemerley and carried unanimously to go back into open session.

Motion was made by Candace Williams and seconded by Alex Maturi and carried unanimously to adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55PM

Key Decisions:

Governance

- Approval of March 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of FY2027 Board Meeting Schedule

Financial Stewardship

- Approval of FY2027 Operating Budget