



Learning Gate Community School
 16215 Hanna Road Lutz, FL 33549
 Phone: 813-948-4190 Fax: 813-948-7587
 WWW.LEARNINGGATE.ORG

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Monday – February 16, 2026

MISSION

To cultivate students through academic excellence, critical thinking and environmental responsibility, focusing on student success, outdoor education and serving the community.

VISION

To be a leader in education and environmental stewardship in Tampa Bay, contributing to a sustainable world.

I. Call meeting to order 6:00 P.M.

- Verification and acknowledgement that a quorum is present

II. Announcements

III. Public Input

Attendees that wish to provide public input should follow the process below:

A signup genius link has been provided on the Board of Director’s page of the School’s website: www.learninggate.org The signup link will be open until 2 hours before the start of the scheduled board meeting. When called upon, the attendee will be unmuted and should state their first and last name for appropriate record keeping in the meeting minutes. All attendees will be muted until they are called on by the board president. Speakers will be granted three minutes to address the board. When 10 or more speakers wish to speak during public comment, the board may reduce the time per speaker. The Board reserves the right to modify the speaking time based on the circumstances of any individual Board meeting. The Board respects the public’s right to speak to the board, but we cannot tolerate behavior intended to interrupt the orderly conduct of this meeting. Our civility policy is in effect.

IV. Ecosphere Restoration Presentation – Rene Brown

V. Executive Committee Updates

- Secretary – Minutes – Ezra Johnson
- Treasurer – Financial Reports - Denelle Miller

VI. Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Denelle Miller
 Governance – Chrissie Price
 Facilities - John Zdanowicz
 Fundraising – Kathy Goltermann

VII. Principal’s Update

Michelle Mason - Out of Field Instructional Positions

VIII. Staff Updates

Kelly Fox
 Carlos Jordan
 Kris Smith – Deck Bid Update – Substitute Teacher Company

IX. Parent Liaison Update

Brigitte Oates - Hanna Campus
 Shanna Hunt- Lutz Lake Campus

X. Expansion Updates

XI. Strategic Planning

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

XIV. Adjournment

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Feb 16, 2025

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Stan Kroh, Ezra Johnson, Mauricio Arias, Chrissie Price, Denelle Miller, Trina Halfhide,

Board Members Absent: John Zdanowicz, Thania Clevenger,

Tom Ries- Ecosphere Restoration Institute: Grant for 78K. Main objective is to get rid of non-native (aggressive) plants and renew the wetlands. Working with one contractor want to get as much done as possible. Will need permits from 3 agencies. Removing invasive, Grading, planting native plants.

Staff in Attendance:

Kris Smith, Kathy Goltermann, Dr Carlos Jordan, Kelly Fox, Jim McGinity

Parent Liaisons:

Brigette Oates – Hanna Campus

Shanna Hunt- Lutz Lake Fern Campus-

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM** by **Stan Kroh**

Public Input-

Executive Committee Updates

- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **Ezra Johnson** presented the January minutes for approval.
Denelle M moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **Chrissie P**, motion passed.

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**Treasurer's Report
(Denelle M) – We**

have ended the month with positive financial statement. Everything is in order. We are still looking for fundraising dollars!

Trina H motioned to accept the financial report, Ezra J seconded, motion passed.

Committee Updates:

Finance Committee (Denelle Miller)-)- Nothing new to report. We will be sending out a meeting request for the next few weeks.

Governance Committee (Chrissie Price)- Nothing new to report, Steve McCarty has resigned from the board. Served 8 years. Huge thank you to Steve for all that he has done for LG!!!

Facilities Committee (John Zdanowicz)-

Fundraising Committee- (Kathy Goltermann)- Raised 28K from readathon which just ended.

March 7th is the Gala. TECO is sponsoring all the teacher's tickets! Eco Fest is April 5th!

Dr. Jordan- Looking for more entertainment which we've found- Got Casino Table bids for 10 tables. Have 3,380 bid for the tables.

We need approval for approval for casino tables.

Denelle M motioned to approve casino tables, Trina H seconded, motion passed.

Principal's Update (Michelle Mason) Not in attendance.

Staff Update:

- **Kris Smith:** Out of field instructors need approval.

Amy Love, George Radka, Heidi Hughes, Elise Sales, Elizabeth A'Hearn

Chrissie P Motioned to approve out of field teachers. Trina H seconded, motion passed

- **Kelly Fox:** Tours are full. Getting home schoolers back...

Every February we do a night hike with several stations. We have 4 groups of 20. A very special opportunity!

- **Dr. Carlos Jordan-** Traditionally 8th grade goes to the Keys. But the trip fell through, so they are now doing a pathfinder trip in Palmetto.

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- **Kathy Goltermann**
– See **Fundraising Committee** above.
- **Kris Smith:** The deck bid (approved from last meeting) needs to be revised. Cost is now \$25,550. + 700 insurance, Because plans were with a different engineer he needs to redo them \$6,300. Need motion to approve new amounts or we could get a new bid. We will get more bids.

I was approached by a substitute teacher company. Maybe we should consider this. They don't have a minimum of how much we use them but with new legislation coming up this might be a good idea. Need approval to move forward.

Trina H motioned to approve going forward with new substitute teacher company.
Denelle M seconded. Motion passed.

- **Parent Liaison Updates:**
 - **Hanna Campus (Brigette Oates)-** Nothing to report today
 - **Lutz Lake Fern Campus- (Shanna Hunt)-** Nothing to report today.

Strategic Planning-

Old Business-

New Business-

Adjournment

- Danelle M motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM, seconded by **Trina H**, motion passed.

Minutes Recorded By:
Ezra Johnson, Secretary

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**LGCS Board Executive
Signatures**

Signed by:
Stanley Kroh 3/24/2026
BAFDB6D61F5049D...
Stanley Kroh, Chair Date

Signed by:
Chrissie Price 3/24/2026
853306CA452D410...
Chrissie Price, Vice Chair Date

DocuSigned by:
Ezra Johnson 3/24/2026
95F04F6E6B044D9...
Ezra Johnson, Secretary Date

Signed by:
Denelle Miller 3/24/2026
CD515521DFE041A...
Denelle Miller, Treasurer Date

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