

November Board Meeting Minutes

General Information

Name of Meeting	November Board Meeting
Date of Meeting	11/18/25
Time of Meeting (CT)	5:30 - 7:30 PM CST
Number of Attendees	8
Quorum Present (Y or N)	Y
Location	1615 S Christiana Ave, Chicago, IL 60623

*Call to Order

Roll Call / Board Members in Attendance

- Present:
 - Bruce Miller
 - Hill Hammock
 - Robin Steans
 - John Horan
 - James Brooks
 - Alees Edwards
 - Karen Castleberry
 - Wilonda Cannon
- Not Present
 - Al Bennett
 - Carrie Stewart

School Staff Attendees

- Present:
 - Jemia Cunningham Elder, Chief Executive Officer
 - Genessa Brown, Sr. Director of Operations

Guest Attendees

- Present:
 - Brytain Tate
 - Tawana Watts

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Public Comment
3. Board Compliance
4. Committee Reports
5. Governance
6. Closed Session (*discretionary*)
7. Return to General Session
8. Public Meeting Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

- **Motion to Approve Agenda:** Hill Hammock
- **Seconded by:** James Brooks
- **Approved/Rejected:** Yes
- **Amendments (if any):** Add a motion to approve NLCP's CEO performance review and the 2025–26 goals and objectives.

Agenda Summary

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

- **Discussion Summary:** No Public Comment
- **Action Taken:** None
- **Responsible Party:** N/A
- **Timeline/Deadline:** N/A

Agenda Item 3: Board Compliance

- **Discussion Summary:**
- All board members are required to complete two hours of board training. Compliance status emails, along with details on additional board training opportunities, will be sent out soon.
 - **Action Taken:** N/A
 - **Responsible Party:** Keanna Greer
 - **Timeline/Deadline:** 6/27/26

Agenda Item 4: Committee reports

Academics:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has awarded both North Lawndale College Prep campuses—Christiana and Collins—a **Commendable** designation for the 2024–2025 school year. This recognition affirms NLCP's continued commitment to providing a high-quality, college-preparatory education for all students.

Human Resources:

As of August 27, 2025, NLCP has 19 certified teachers. An additional seven teachers are enrolled in PEL programs and are expected to complete the programs and obtain licensure by June 30, 2027.

Finance:

As of 9/30/2025, our current cash balance is \$1.5 million, which provides us with approximately 58 days of operating cash based on our FY26 budget. This healthy buffer, reflected in our exceptional 2.3x current ratio, demonstrates the organization's ability to cover all immediate obligations and sustain operations smoothly.

Governance:

The following board members were appointed to officer positions: Chair: Bruce; Vice Chair: James; Treasurer: Carrie; Secretary: John.

- **Discussion Summary:**
- **Action Taken:** Approve SY25-26 Officers
- **Responsible Party:** NLCP Board of Directors
- **Timeline/Deadline:** 11/30/25

Agenda Item 5: Vote: Review and approve Parent Representative Tawana Watts for appointment to the NLCP Board.

- **Discussion Summary:** The Board discussed the recommendation to appoint Parent Representative Tawana Watts to the NLCP Board, noting her perspective as a parent and her potential contributions to the organization. The discussion concluded with agreement to move the item forward for a vote.
It was suggested that the Governance Committee consider amending the bylaws to align the Parent Member's term with the duration of time the member has a student actively enrolled at NLCP.
- **Action Taken:** Approved
- **Responsible Party:** NLCP Board of Directors
- **Timeline/Deadline:** 11/30/25

Agenda Item 6: Closed Session

- **Discussion Summary:** 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity

Agenda Item 7: Return to General Session

Agenda Item 8: Vote: Review and approve NLCP's CEO performance review and the 2025–26 goals and objectives.

- **Discussion Summary:** The Board reviewed NLCP's CEO performance evaluation and discussed the proposed 2025–26 goals and objectives, noting areas of strength, progress toward strategic priorities, and opportunities for continued growth. Following discussion, the Board expressed alignment with the evaluation and goals and moved the item forward for approval.
- **Action Taken:** Approved
- **Responsible Party:** NLCP Board of Directors
- **Timeline/Deadline:** 11/30/25

Agenda Item 9: Public Meeting Adjournment

Motions

- **Motion 1:**
 - Motion: Call meeting to order
 - Made by: Hill Hammock
 - Seconded by: James Brooks
 - Roll Call Vote:
 - Bruce Miller - Yes
 - Hill Hammock - Yes
 - Robin Steans - Yes
 - John Horan - Yes
 - Wilonda Cannon - Yes
 - James Brooks - Yes
 - Alees Edwards - Yes
 - Karen Castleberry - Yes
 - Details: N/A
- **Motion 2:**
 - Motion: Public Comment
 - Made by: Bruce Miller
 - Seconded by: James Brooks
 - Details: No Public Comment
- **Motion 3:**
 - Motion: Approve 10/7 Meeting Minutes
 - Made by: Hill Hammock
 - Seconded by: James Brooks
 - Bruce Miller - Yes
 - Hill Hammock - Yes
 - Robin Steans - Yes
 - John Horan - Yes
 - Wilonda Cannon - Yes

- James Brooks - Yes
 - Alees Edwards - Yes
 - Karen Castleberry - Yes
 - Details: No Public Comment
- **Motion 4:**
 - Motion: Approve 10/7 Meeting Minutes
 - Made by: Hill Hammock
 - Seconded by: James Brooks
 - Bruce Miller - Yes
 - Hill Hammock - Yes
 - Robin Steans - Yes
 - John Horan - Yes
 - Wilonda Cannon - Yes
 - James Brooks - Yes
 - Alees Edwards - Yes
 - Karen Castleberry - Yes
 - Details: No Public Comment
- **Motion 5:**
 - Motion: Approve officer positions: Chair: Bruce; Vice Chair: James; Treasurer: Carrie; Secretary: John.
 - Made by: Hill Hammock
 - Seconded by: Alees Edwards
 - Bruce Miller - Yes
 - Hill Hammock - Yes
 - Robin Steans - Yes
 - John Horan - Yes
 - Wilonda Cannon - Yes
 - James Brooks - Yes
 - Alees Edwards - Yes
 - Karen Castleberry - Yes
 - Details: No Public Comment
- **Motion 6:**
 - Motion: Vote: Review and approve Parent Representative Tawana Watts for appointment to the NLCP Board.
 - Made by: Robin Steans
 - Seconded by: Wilonda Cannon
 - Bruce Miller - Yes
 - Hill Hammock - Yes
 - Robin Steans - Yes
 - John Horan - Yes
 - Wilonda Cannon - Yes
 - James Brooks - Yes

- Alees Edwards - Yes
- Karen Castleberry - Yes
- Details: No Public Comment

- **Motion 7: Public Meeting Adjournment**

- Motion: Meeting adjourned
- Made by: Bruce Miller
- Seconded by: Hill Hammock
- Details: N/A
- Time of Adjournment: 11/18/2025, 7:30 PM CST
- Next Meeting: 1/20/2026, 5:30 - 7:30 PM CST