

HARAMBEE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday August 27th 2025

The meeting of the Board of Trustees Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 27th 2025 at 6:32 p.m.

Open Session

Board Members Present:

Maurice Baynard
Jan Gillespie- Walton
Charis Jackson
Larry Bell
Renee Whitby
Donna Holmes Lockett

Board Members Absent:

Heloise Jettison
Shawn Blue
C. Wade Mosely

Others Present:

Gregory Shannon	CEO
Danielle Bryant	Compliance Officer
Nakia Brown	Chief Academic Officer
David Rosario	Chief of Operations and Administration
Deleah Archer	Chief of Student Support & Innovation
Michelle Thornton	CFO
Jenita Lunsford	Board Liaison

Meeting Called to Order

Board Chairman Maurice Baynard called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Libation

Libation was led by Renee Whitby- Board member and cultural leader

Introduction of Visitors and Others Present

The team from NeuroElite introduced themselves and indicated that they were invited by Nakia Brown to provide information and a stem presentation.

Shirley Posey, CEO and Founder of NeuroElite

Deborah Toney- Moore

Dr. Quincy Burgess

Roll Call

Board Chair Maurice Baynard asked members and the senior leadership team to give introductions. Board members and the senior leadership team introduced themselves, stated their names and titles.

Review and approval of the June 25th 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Maurice asked if there were any corrections and/or additions to the Board Meeting Minutes from the June 25th meeting. He opened the floor to Board members for comments. There were no corrections and/or additions. Board member Larry made a motion seconded by Board member Renee to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor; none were opposed and there was a unanimous motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Approval: 6 **AYES:**0 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 0 **Absent:** 3

Board Chair Maurice turned the meeting over to Greg for the CEO report. Greg began with reciting the Mission, Vision and Core Values of the organization.

Harambee Institute exists to offer our community an education with a focus on the origins, current status, and future of the African world.

Our mission is to educate students to succeed as global citizens with a clear awareness of “who I am, where I am from, where I am going, and how I get there.”

Our vision is a collective and informed African American community utilizing science and technology as a means of promoting education for self-reliance, locally and globally.

Our core values are:

Greatness: Pursuit of excellence in all we do

Accountability: Owning what we do and who we are

Innovation: Open to new ideas with a growth mindset

Integrity: Honesty, transparency, and unity in all we do

CEO Report, Greg Shannon

Greg reported that they have opened the 2025-2026 school year in an orderly and efficient manner. They are now in the Charter renewal cycle and they have begun with data collection and information.

Charter Renewal Update/ Charter Renewal Site Visit

On August 28th Harambee is scheduled for a pre-renewal site visit. Two representatives from the Charter School office will conduct a pre-renewal site visit tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. They will be meeting with Greg and his whole team relative to the tenants of the charter renewal process. There is a data collection dump in all domains across the organization for document review. He said that Harambee selected a fall review and on October 28th the Charter School Office will conduct an onsite renewal visit. In addition, the Charter School Office has requested to attend the October Board meeting. They will attend and observe the October BOD meeting and they may have questions relative to Harambees process. Greg said that they are excited for any opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency, love and support for their students and the community. He said that they have done two preliminary mock charter renewals and both show that they are in good standing. They anticipate a great site visit tomorrow and again in October.

AACSC Gala and Awards Ceremony

Greg reported that the African American Charter School coalition has their annual Gala and awards ceremony scheduled for September 24th. Harambee will be participating in the Gala with a table and Greg invited Board members that might be interested to attend. He thanked the members that participated last year and said that it a great opportunity to network and meet with other Charter school leaders. Dr. Baynard pointed out that the date conflicts with our next Board meeting on September 24th. He said that they would like to support the African American Charter School Gala and awards ceremony so the date for our next meeting could be moved to a week earlier or to the next day on Thursday September 25th instead of the 24th. He said that it can be discussed later in the meeting under new business. Greg concluded his report and opened the floor for questions. Greg turned the meeting over to Nakia for her report on Curriculum and Instruction.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Nakia Brown

Nakia opened by introducing the team from NeuroElite, a stem education tech company that fuses culture, neuro science and emerging technology to rewire how students think. She said that they hope to establish a partnership with them. She said that they are looking at how they can realign their program around their original mission and vision. She said that NeuroElite will discuss how to continue their stem mission and things that can be done in their school around stem.

Curriculum

Nakia reported that they had a really robust curriculum day where their instructional coaches inventoried all of the materials for their classrooms and distributed to teachers. They have updated their science curriculum in grades 7th and 8th with TCI which is a more hands on electronic data base that allows students to adjust to the new standards in science and covers all eligible content for 8th graders.

Instruction

Nakia reported that they are continuing to use project-based learning in social studies organized around essential questions of community. She said to look forward to more community-based project and hopefully with the help of Board member Jan and the students they will be able to get their food pantry up and running within the next month.

Summer Institute

Nakia reported that they had a number of robust professional development trainings that included IREADY for Reading and Math. A new program that they were trained on with teacher created TCI and data action planning. Nakia said that she and the instructional coaches will work on their student-centered data and they are really looking to partner with more companies around stem. She concluded and turned it over to Shirley Posey for her presentation on stem.

Shirley Posey, CEO and Founder of Neuro-Elite introduced herself and her team Dr. Quincy Burgess and Debbie Toney Moore. She shared her screen with slides that presented a strategic plan for collaboration with Harambee including the launch of the program, the development of an AI engineering tech lab, and the implementation of STEM service projects. Shirley also discussed the importance of STEM education and the need for black and brown voices in the field. She highlighted the strategic approach of China in STEM education and the need for a similar focus in the United States. She outlined the four strategies for driving the STEM-focused mission with Harambee, which consisted of professional development, curriculum development, project design, and community engagement. Shirley concluded her presentation and opened the floor to questions.

Board member Larry asked what would make things change as there is a large difference in the proposed cost by about 50K. She said that in year one they focus on what is currently in the lab and the price encompasses building a stem lab that is AI engineered so the equipment changes which increases the cost.

Board member Donna asked where in Philadelphia have they used the program. Shirley told members that she has used the program at Imhotep developing their stem program. She also worked with The National Coalition of 100 black women and the Global Water Alliance. Nakia turned the meeting back to Greg and he turned it to David for his report on Operations.

Operations, David Rosario**Summer Operations**

David gave an update on summer operations and reviewed a PowerPoint of his responsibilities.

Specialized Services, Dr. Archer

Dr. Archer

2025-2025 SY

- 96 students
- 1 GIEP
- 3 504
- 92 IEP

Compliance

- New Tier 3 MTSS K-2 Classroom
- New Social Worker/Behavior Specialist
- Counseling Intern (full-year)

Business, Finance & HR

Action Items:

Determine if the next Board meeting should be rescheduled to accommodate the African American Charter School Coalitions annual gala on September 24th