

Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
January 8, 2026

Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the Paul R. Brown Building located at 1360 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Elizabethtown, NC.

CALL TO ORDER — The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Minnie Price, President at 6:01pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — All board members and others present recited the pledge.

WELCOME — President Minnie Price greeted board members and visitors.

BOARD VALUES — Board members repeated the PRBLA BOD values.

PRBLA MISSION STATEMENT — The PRBLA mission statement was read together by board members.

ROLL CALL/QUORUM — The roll was called by Secretary Beverly Randolph. The members present were as follows: Madame Chair Minnie Price, Mr. Quenten Stewart, Mr. Walter Drummond, Dr. Michael Wells and Mrs. Beverly Randolph. Dr. Aaron Cox was absent. Mr. Scott Johnson was excused. The PRBLA regular monthly meeting preceded with a quorum. Others in attendance: Dr. Jason Wray, Dr. Jacqueline Wray, Col. Carl T. Lloyd, Mrs. Theresa Lloyd, Mrs. Lovella Cromartie, Mrs. Jeanal McDowell, Nia and Mia.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA — A motion was made by Mr. Walter Drummond and seconded by Mr. Quenten Stewart to adopt the agenda. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — A motion was made by Mr. Quenten Stewart and seconded by Dr. Michael Wells to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2025. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT- Dr. Jason Wray shared and discussed the Superintendent's report with board members. Enrollment at PRBLA stands at 263. We are expecting 40 new cadets this month. We have all high school classrooms in the high school building. That's 4 classes representing the high school grade levels. Dr. Wray shared that the next Collective Efficacy Book presentation would be on February 25<sup>th</sup> on Chapter 4, Enhancing Collective Efficacy Through Professional Learning.

The cadets participated in multiple community service activities, including the Fayetteville Christmas Parade and Cape Fear Lodge 300 Christmas Dinner.

**BUILDING IMPROVEMENT** — We met with Mr. Roland McKoy about the cement for the new building. The cost is approximately \$6,713.70, which leaves about \$22K for the building and accessories.

The new bleachers for the gym are scheduled to be installed in January. Once this is complete, this will complete the transformation and remodeling of the gym.

#### **EPIC CENTER TASK UPDATE-**

Transportation Grant was due on 31 December 2025. That grant application was submitted on 16 December 2025.

We have 3 pending Epic Center Tasks

1. Grievance Policy due 30 April 2026
2. Board Member Residency 30 April 2026
3. EL LIE-P Service 30 May 2026

**STAFF** — We have one (1) new staff in Maintenance, Mr. Brodie

**VEHICLE UPDATE** — Dr. Jason Wray shared the vehicle report with the board members. In December 2025, we have upgraded to 25 vehicles. They have moved to the smaller, lighter fleet. There has been no change in vehicle status. We did purchase 5 new buses and we will continue to build our fleet as much as the budget will allow. The older buses are starting to cost us on repairs, only to break down again after a few days or weeks. A replacement bus costs between \$8k and \$10k. So it will be more cost-effective to invest in newer buses instead of spending \$3k to get an older bus fixed once or twice a month.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION REPORT** – Dr. Jason Wray informed the board of the testing going on schedule: First Semester will end on 18 December 2025. We completed our NC Math 1 and English 2 End of Course Exams. For the next 10 days or so, our students will be remediating for the End of Course Retest. We have until 26 January 2026 to finish the retest

**FINANCIAL REPORT** — Dr. Jacqueline Wray shared and discussed the December 2025 financial report with the board members. A motion was made by Mr. Walter Drummond and seconded by Mr. Quentin Stewart to approve the financial report for December 2025. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S REPORT** – Mrs. Jeanal McDowell shared the EC report with the board members. Currently, we have 60 students in our EC program. This includes 17 middle school students and 43 High School Students. PRBLA continues to actively review and monitor student records for the 2025-2026 school year to determine eligibility for special education services. This ongoing process includes the implementation of Child Find to identify, locate, and evaluate all children and youth (ages 3-21) who are suspected of having a disability and may require special education and/or related services.

## Occupational Course of Study Internships

This semester, our sophomore and junior Occupational Course of Study (OCS) students will begin community-based internships, providing them with meaningful, hands-on work experiences. In addition, we have one senior who will be completing a paid internship this semester.

### Community-Based Internships List

Bladen Helping Hands, Elizabethtown, NC

Growing Footprints Daycare, Elizabethtown, NC

Lewis Automotive, Dublin, NC

Log Cabin Restaurant, Tar Heel, NC

Kidz N Motion, Elizabethtown, NC

### Paid Internship

Paul R Brown Leadership Academy - Transportation Department

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) conducts an annual Exceptional Children (EC) child count to identify and track students with disabilities in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The purpose of the EC child count is to report the number of eligible students with disabilities to the federal government and to support funding and program compliance. At this time, we have no reporting or certification requirements due to NCDPI.

NUTRITION REPORT — Mrs. Lovella Cromartie shared the child nutrition report. In December 2025, meals were served for 13 days, which is 9 days short of the regular 22-day full month of serving due to the Christmas Break. PRBLA served 3,399 student meals in December. This included breakfast and lunch. The PRBLA averaged 261 meals per day. The PRBLA is now authorized to file for reimbursements.

OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

OLD BUSINESS — Old business items were discussed in the Superintendent's report.

NEW BUSINESS – Bladen Community College CTE Classes will be available next year for students that dropped out during the year. Board Self-Evaluations will be discussed at the February meeting.

CLOSED SESSION — A motion was made by Mrs. Beverly Randolph and seconded by Mr. Walter Drummond to go into closed session per NCGS143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

The motion was made by Mrs. Beverly Randolph and seconded by Dr. Michael Wells to come out of closed session. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion was made by Mr. Walter Drummond, seconded by Dr. Michael Wells, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

Recorded by,

Beverly Randolph, Secretary