

June 2025 Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee

Schedule

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:00 AM — 9:45 AM CDT



Organizer


Colton Cockrum



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1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Presented by Doug Edwards

2. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

For Approval

Presented by Colton Cockrum

3. Approval of March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes and Special Called Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2025

For Approval

Presented by Doug Edwards

University of Memphis Board of Trustees
Governmental Affairs & Public Policy
April 7, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Secretary Cockrum announced that the Board of Trustees meeting that was taking place was a special called meeting, also known as a meeting of necessity. The meeting was a meeting of necessity due to the agenda items that were being discussed that included the opening of a new school. These agenda items could not wait until the June 4th meeting. These meetings took place virtually over Microsoft Teams. Secretary Cockrum concluded his remarks and introduced Chairman Johnson.

Chairman Johnson thanked the Board members for attending and thanked the public for joining. He then turned the committee meeting over to the chair of the committee, Chairman Edwards.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Trustee Edwards called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Governmental Affairs & Public Policy meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Trustee Edwards requested a roll call. Secretary Cockrum called the roll. Trustee Edwards, Trustee McKinney, and Chairman Johnson were present virtually. Trustee Ellison was not present. Members of the committee who were present stated that they were present, could hear, and were alone. A quorum was declared. Secretary Cockrum also introduced the additional trustees that were in attendance virtually who were not on this specific committee. Those trustees that were present included Trustee North, Trustee Carter, Trustee Marchetta, and Trustee Khokhar. These trustees all stated that they could hear and were alone.

Agenda Item 3: New School Opening

Trustee Edwards stated that there was one agenda item. He stated that a local Independent School seeks a partner to take over their Kimball Avenue elementary school campus, and transition operation of the site as a public school beginning in the Fall 2025 school year. The campus is 1 mile West from UofM's South Campus and currently enrolls 132 students but has capacity for 228. The site is operational and is in very good condition, including a \$3 million facility upgrade that includes the addition of a new gymnasium. In partnership with local philanthropists, they have asked University Schools to take over the site as part of our Innovative School District. The opening of a new University School at this site is aligned with the 10-year Strategic Expansion plan for University Schools as it provides an immediate opportunity for expansion, in the most desired grades, with the least amount of investment required and in an area in close proximity to the University of Memphis. The new school site will be named "Campus School Kimball.

Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second to approve the opening of Campus School Kimball in the 2025/2026 school year. The motion was made by Trustee McKinney and seconded by Chairman Johnson. A roll call vote was made and the motion carried.

Agenda Item 4: Additional Business

Trustee Edwards asked for any additional business. No additional business was brought before the committee.

Agenda Item 5: Adjournment

Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second for adjournment. A motion and second was properly made and the meeting was adjourned.

**University of Memphis Board of Trustees
Governmental Affairs & Public Policy
March 5, 2025**

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Trustee Edwards called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Governmental Affairs & Public Policy meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Trustee Edwards requested a roll call. Secretary Cockrum called the roll. Trustees McKinney, Chairman Johnson, and Edwards were attendance in-person. Trustee Ellison was absent from the committee. Several trustees who were not on the committee were also in attendance and Secretary Cockrum recognized those trustees. Those trustees included Trustees Carter, Springfield, Marchetta, Khokhar. Trustee Roberts and North was in attendance virtually. Both stated they were alone and could hear. Secretary Cockrum declared a quorum.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2024.

Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second to approve the meeting minutes from December 4, 2024. Trustee McKinney provided the motion and a second was provided by Trustee Johnson. There was no discussion on the meeting minutes. Secretary Cockrum called a roll call vote, and the meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 4: Education Freedom Act

Trustee Edwards discussed the Education Freedom Act. Included in the Education Freedom Act is a one-time \$2,000 bonus to all K-12 educators. School boards are required to accept those bonuses prior to June 1st. Because the BOT will not meet prior to June 1st, Trustee Edwards called for a motion to approve the acceptance of a \$2,000 bonus for K-12 teachers. The motion was made by Chairman Johnson and seconded by Trustee McKinney. Secretary Cockrum called a roll call vote, and the motion carried.

Agenda Item 5: Additional Business

Trustee Edwards mentioned the governor proposed a generous research grant to the University of Memphis as part of his budget. He is hopeful that the legislature will approve that budget.

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second for adjournment. A motion and second was properly made and the meeting was adjourned.

4. Legislative Update

Report

Presented by Ken Moody

114th General Assembly Recap

Government Relations & Policy

June 4, 2025

University of Memphis - Lambuth

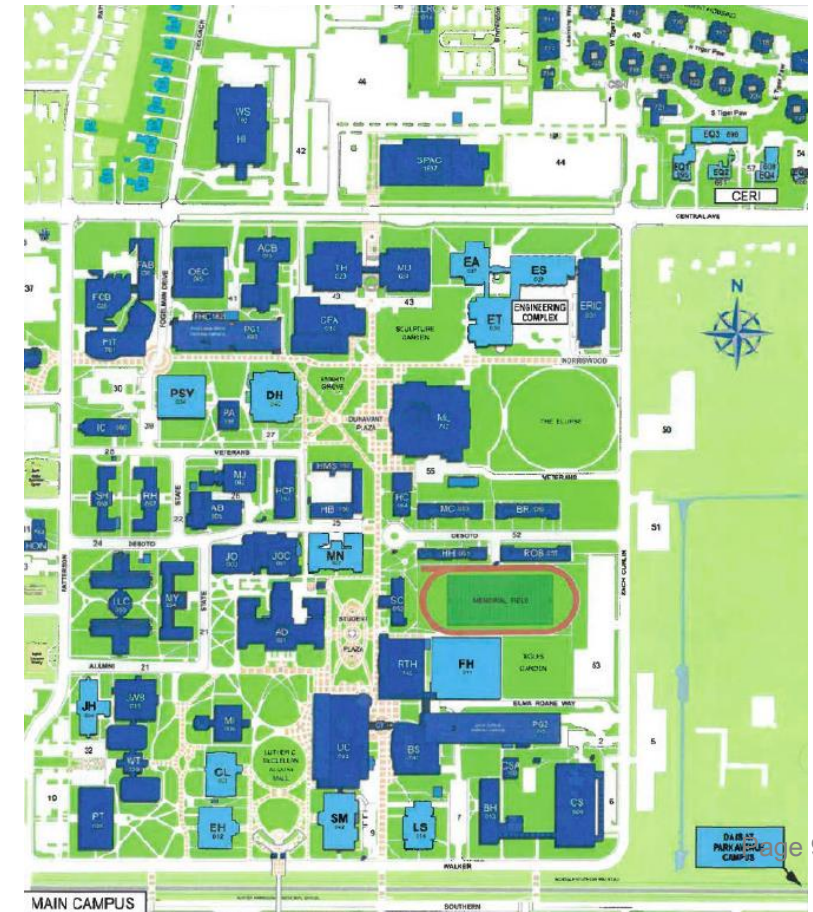


**Board of
Trustees**

Research Modernization - \$70.5 Million

Buildings in light blue are included in the scope of the Research Modernization project

- Between 2022 and 2024, the UofM tripled research award dollars from \$48M to \$101M
- This state investment will allow the UofM to continue its high-quality research growth by expanding, modernizing, and enhancing our research space on campus
- The project impacts 17 buildings across our campus and improves a total square footage of nearly 150,000 square feet



Safety and Security - \$5.4 Million

This investment will result in:

- Access Control Door System Upgrades
- Intelligent Camera Installations
- Bollards and Fire Access Gates
- Emergency Power

Proven results from previous investments:

- 36% reduction in crime 2023 to 2024
- Real time crime center and virtual escort
- Enhanced lighting and fencing
- K9 unit



Deferred Maintenance

- The University of Memphis received \$5.8M in maintenance funds
 - Deferred maintenance shares for each university governing board are determined annually by THEC using the Sherman Dergis Formula, an industry-standard facility reinvestment formula



5. University Schools 2025-2026 Policy Manual Adoption

For Approval

Presented by Sally Parish

University Schools Update

Governmental Affairs & Public Policy

Dr. Sally G. Parish
Vice Provost & Director of Schools



**Board of
Trustees**

University Schools Athletics

- **46** athletic teams in 24/25; **55** slated for 25/26
- **385** student athletes
- **40%** of our athletes are “multi-sport” athletes
- **65%** of our teams are coached by University of Memphis fac/staff



University Schools Athletics

University High School

- **Girls Basketball** District Champions - Regional Champion Runner-up - Sub State Tournament qualifier.
- **Cross Country** Girls and Boys Sectional Champions and State Championship qualifiers
- **Track & Field** 14 State Qualifiers (Girls 4x100 3rd in State, Girls 4x200 2nd in State)
- **Boys Golf** District Champions - second year in a row and hosted the District Championship.
- **Tennis** District Champions boys team, girls and boys individual and doubles district champions. Regional tournament qualifiers.





University Middle School

- **Tennis** State Champions
- **Track & Field** Boys Sectional Champions, Girls 3rd Place in Sectionals, Boys MYA Champions, 14 State Qualifiers (Ruthie Watson-State Champion Long Jumper)
- **Cross Country** State championship qualifier
- **Cheer** UCA Varsity 1st Place Small Division
- **Boys Basketball** Sectional Tournament qualifier
- **Volleyball** Undefeated regular season and Sectional Tournament qualifier
- **Boys Soccer** 2nd in Division & Sectional Qualifier

Campus School

- Record number of athletes (102)
- Six **Basketball** teams
- State championship qualifiers in **Cross Country**

University Schools Athletics

University Schools Athletics

Partnerships

- College of Health Sciences
- Campus Recreation
- Leftwich Tennis Center
- UofM Transportation Services
- UofM Police Services
- UofM Athletics
- UofM Procurement
- St. Luke's UMC

Challenges & Opportunities

- Access to athletic space
- Funding



Campus School Kimball Launch

- 132 students enrolled
- Private funding for launch year secured
- State Building Commission Approval Process
- District Offices



CAMPUS
SCHOOL
KIMBALL
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Campus School Kimball Leadership Team



Dr. Rebecca Scott
Executive Director,
Elementary Education



Mrs. Stacy Adams
Director



Ms. Ijiah Hargrove
Assistant Director



Mrs. Cornelia Robinson
Coordinator, Special
Populations



Ms. Diane Coleman



Mrs. Rachel Taylor
CSK Fellow



CAMPUS
SCHOOL
KIMBALL
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

University Schools 2025-2026 Policy Manual Adoption

Policy manual changes include immaterial changes to update language to reflect the addition of Campus School Kimball, renumbered policies, and updates to staff titles within the organizational structure. Material policy changes that require board approval include:

- **2.200 Annual Operating Budget**
- **2.400 Revenues**
- **2.500 Deposits**
- **2.702 Inventories**
- **2.804 Expenses and Reimbursements**
- **2.805 Purchasing**
- **2.8501 Purchase and Travel Cards**
- **5.300 Leave Policy**
- **6.312 Cell Phones**
- **6.505 Students in Foster Care**

University Schools Items for Approval

As a public school district in the state of Tennessee, University Schools is required to submit annual reporting documents to the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE). By law, and TDOE policy, these documents require board approval and include:

1. University Schools Textbook Adoption:

K-8: Accelerate Learning StemScope Science

9-12 adopts by course: Chemistry & Physics--Accelerate Learning StemScope; Physical Science & Human Anatomy and Physiology--McGraw-Hill; Biology & Environmental Science--Savvas

2. University Schools Artificial Intelligence Compliance report

3. University Schools Federal Programs Consolidation Application and Participation in Federal Programs

Related documents are included in your board materials. It is recommended that the Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee slate these three items for approval.

The University of Memphis Board of Trustees

Recommendation

University Schools Policy Manual Approval

Date: June 4, 2025

Committee: **Governmental Affairs & Public Policy**

Recommendation: University Schools 2025-2026 Policy Manual Adoption

Presented by: **Dr. Sally G. Parish, Vice Provost & Director of Schools**

Background:

Each academic year, University Schools Policy Review Committee convenes to identify policies that require updating either by law, or to better enhance the academic experience of our students, faculty, staff and families. This year's policy manual changes include immaterial changes to update language to reflect the addition of Campus School Kimball, renumbered policies to better group policies for more efficient use, and updates to staff titles within the organizational structure. Material policy changes that require board approval include:

- **2.200 Annual Operating Budget**

University Schools' annual budget serves as the district's operational plan in financial terms, developed by the Director of Schools to ensure balanced funding for programs, staffing, and facilities, and submitted in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-8-203 and State Board Rule 0520-01-02-.13. This budget is approved each year as part of the University Budget approval process.

- **2.400 Revenues**

University Schools requires all funds collected, whether from activities, fines, rentals, grants, or online payments, to be properly receipted, deposited, and reconciled under the supervision of the school director or Director of Schools, in compliance with internal controls, the Tennessee Internal School Funds Manual, T.C.A. § 37-10-101, 102, and T.C.A. § 49-2-110.

- **2.500 Deposit of Funds**

All funds payable to University Schools are managed in accordance with university policy and with T.C.A. § 8-11-104 with building-level collections processed through the school director's office and deposited within three business days following prescribed accounting procedures.

- **2.702 Inventories**

University Schools shall maintain accurate, up-to-date inventories of all real property consistent with University of Memphis procedures and federal requirements in 2 C.F.R. § 200.313(d) with

annual physical counts, centralized records, and detailed documentation for equipment purchased with federal funds.

- **2.804 Expenses and Reimbursements**

University Schools employees and board members shall be reimbursed for authorized, work-related travel expenses in accordance with University of Memphis procedures, with prior approval required and claims submitted within thirty days.

- **2.805 Purchasing**

University Schools shall conduct all purchasing, whether routine, special, emergency, cooperative, online, or with federal grant funds, in accordance with board policy, University of Memphis protocols, and applicable laws to ensure transparency, accountability, and the prudent use of public funds, with only authorized personnel permitted to make purchases.

- **2.8501 Purchase and Travel Cards**

University Schools' purchase and travel cards shall be securely maintained and used exclusively for approved district- or school-related purposes in accordance with University of Memphis protocols, with strict accountability, required documentation, and prohibition of personal or unauthorized use.

- **5.300 Leave Policy**

Establishes clear and consistent guidelines governing employee leave across University Schools. The policy outlines the types of leave available to eligible employees and the procedures for requesting, approving, and documenting leave in accordance with applicable laws.

- **6.312 Use of Personal Communication Devices and Electronic Devices**

Policy 6.312 has been revised in response to legal requirements from Tennessee Public Chapter 103 (2025) to prohibit student cell phone use during instructional time, allow exceptions for students with IEPs or 504 Plans, and ensure that University Schools retain the ability to communicate with families in emergency situations.

- **6.505: Students in Foster Care**

University Schools shall ensure that all students in foster care, including those awaiting placement, receive a free and appropriate public education in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. § 6311(g)(1)(E)), and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.).

The University Schools policy manual is publicly available at
<https://www.memphis.edu/universityschools/policy/index.php>

Motion to be Made:

The Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee recommends a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 University Schools Policy Manual.

6. University Schools Textbook Adoption, Artificial Intelligence Report, and Federal Programs Consolidation Application and Participation in Federal Programs Approval

For Approval

Presented by Doug Edwards

The University of Memphis Board of Trustees

Recommendation

University Schools Items for Approval

Date: June 4, 2025

Committee: **Governmental Affairs & Public Policy**

Recommendation: University Schools Items for Approval

Presented by: **Dr. Sally G. Parish, Vice Provost & Director of Schools**

Background:

As a public school district in the state of Tennessee, University Schools is required to submit annual reporting documents to the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE). By law, and TDOE policy, these documents require board approval and include:

- University Schools Textbook Adoption
- University Schools Artificial Intelligence Compliance report
- University Schools Federal Programs Consolidation Application and Participation in Federal Programs

Related documents are included in your board materials. It is recommended that the Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee slate these three items for approval.

Motion to be Made:

The Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee recommends a motion to approve the University Schools slated items including: University Schools textbook adoption, University Schools Artificial Intelligence Compliance report, and University Schools Federal Programs Consolidation Application and Participation in Federal Programs.

Slate item 1: University Schools Textbook Adoption

Based upon TDOE's schedule for textbook adoption, University Schools reviewed science textbooks for grades K-12. In accordance with our district policy, University Schools formed a committee of teachers and administrators who met with publishers of the approved textbooks at a recent textbook caravan with other local districts. After a careful review with all science teachers to consider the textbook's rigor, alignment to state academic standards, assessment, coherence and usability, the committee recommended the following for adoption:

K-8:

Accelerate Learning StemScope Science (new for K-5, 6-8 has been using)

9-12 adopts by course:

Chemistry & Physics--Accelerate Learning StemScope

Physical Science & Human Anatomy and Physiology--McGraw-Hill

Biology & Environmental Science--Savvas

Each of these titles are approved by the TN Department of Education and no waivers are required. This adoption will run for eight years. It is the Superintendent's recommendation that we accept the committee's guidance and adopt the textbooks as indicated.

Slate item 2: University Schools Artificial Intelligence Compliance report

Background

Tennessee state law requires public K–12 school districts to ensure that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) programs is in alignment with [Public Chapter 550](#) regarding use of AI. In alignment with this legal requirement, University Schools adopted **Policy 401: Use of Artificial Intelligence** in 2024 to establish internal controls over the procurement and usage of AI technologies. Districts are required to certify compliance with this law each year.

Compliance Certification

This report certifies that University Schools is in full compliance with Tennessee state law and Policy 401 regarding the use of AI in educational settings. The district has taken the following actions to ensure adherence:

1. **No Procurement of AI Programs**
University Schools has not purchased any AI-driven programs or software platforms.
2. **Blocking of Free AI Tools on Student Devices**
The district has implemented network-level restrictions to block all known free AI tools on student-issued devices. This restriction was implemented to protect student data from being accessed or tracked by third-party vendors.
3. **Data Privacy Commitment**
University Schools restricts access to AI tools due to serious concerns over the potential collection and misuse of student-identifiable information.
4. **No Anticipated AI Adoption in FY 2026**
The district does not anticipate procuring or implementing any AI-related programs in Fiscal Year 2026.

Enforcement Measures for 2025–2026 School Year

To meet state law requirements for enforcement, University Schools will implement the following:

1. Staff Training
 - a. All instructional and administrative staff will complete annual training on Policy 401 and the legal and ethical considerations of AI use in K–12 settings.
 - b. Student Code of Conduct Alignment
2. Policy 401 is referenced in the Student Code of Conduct. Unauthorized use of AI tools (e.g., for completing assignments or taking an examination) is classified as academic dishonesty.
3. Monitoring and Reporting
 - a. School leadership teams will report any violations or concerns related to AI use through established district channels.
 - b. A year-end summary of enforcement efforts and incidents (if any) will be compiled for inclusion in next year's state compliance report.

Requested Action

It is requested that the Board acknowledge and approve this compliance report, affirming that University Schools is in compliance with state requirements and Policy 401 regarding artificial intelligence use in K–12 settings.

Dr. Sally G. Parish, Director of Schools, University Schools

Doug Edwards, Board Chair

Slate item 3: University Schools Federal Programs Consolidation Application and Participation in Federal Programs

The Consolidated Federal Application is an annual submission to the Tennessee Department of Education that allows districts to apply for federal funds under programs such as Title I–IV and IDEA. These programs support low-income students, teacher quality, English learners, safe and well-rounded education, and special education services; the [application](#) requires board approval.

FY2026 Consolidated Application Approval for IDEA/ESEA School Year 2025 - 2026

LEA #	LEA Name (Legal Name of Agency):	
988	University Schools	
LEA Legal Mailing Address		
330 Fogelman Drive		
Street Address		
Memphis	TN	38152
City	State	Zip

Consolidated Project begins July 1, 2025, and ends June 30, 2026.

The facts, figures, and representations made in this application, including exhibits, attachments, and assurances herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

The Board of Education has reviewed and approved this project year application for filing.

This action is recorded in the official minutes of the Agency's Board meeting held on the date entered below:

June 4, 2025

Board Meeting Date

Director of Schools (Signature)	Board of Education Official (Signature)
Dr. Sally Parish	Doug Edwards
Director of Schools (Print Name)	Board of Education Official (Print Name)
Date Signed	Date Signed

7. Additional Business

Presented by Doug Edwards

8. Adjournment

Presented by Doug Edwards