Perspectives Board Meeting
June 25, 2026, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
EY, 155 N. Wacker, #2000
Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84574273100

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent
Angelo Bufalino (In Person)	Ikram Goldman
Adrienne Irmer (In Person)	DeEtta Jones
Catrina Mitchell (In Person)	Kim Waller
Bill Mack (In Person)	George Wright
Debi Mitra (In Person)	
Andrew Moyer (In Person)	
Kathleen Murray (In Person)	
Maryah Phillips (In Person)	
Nina Robinson (In Person)	Staff:
Alex Silverberg (In Person)	Holly Copeland
Deborah Stevens (In Person)	Amy Gambrel
Rick Fezell (Via Zoom)	Leanna Lantz
Glori Bond (Via Zoom)	Amore Porter
Basia Brown (Via Zoom)	Stephen Todd
Vanessa Smith (Via Zoom)	Earnestine Williams
Karim Trice (Via Zoom)	
Andrew Ward (Via Zoom)	

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Rick Fezell.

The Umbrella Resolution was approved unanimously (10 In Person & 6 Via Zoom). There were no Conflicts of Interest noted. The Resolution to add Jonathan Love, Parent Board Member, as a new member of the Board of Directors and departure of Sheree Speakman were approved unanimously (10 In Person & 6 Via Zoom). The Minutes of the Board Meetings of April 30, 2026, were approved unanimously (10 In Person & 6 Via Zoom). The Ninth Amended & Restate Bylaws were also unanimously approved (10 in Person & 6 Via Zoom).

An opportunity for Public Comment was made available. No one was present on Zoom or in person to provide Public Comment.

Rick Fezell presented the final Strategic Plan draft, highlighting updates made after Board comments and discussion with Perspectives leaders and staff. Changes included:

- Added the phrase “Guided by A Disciplined Life” at the beginning of Goal #1 Academics and A Disciplined Life
- Added Objective 1.2 Teacher Quality and Development
  Continue our work to strengthen teacher effectiveness through consistent onboarding, coaching, instructional modeling, collaborative planning, and professional learning that support rigorous instruction, differentiation, and strong student outcomes.

Actions

- **Continue to emphasize a consistent teacher development model** that includes onboarding, coaching, instructional modeling, peer observation, collaborative planning, and opportunities to share effective practices across schools.
- **Continue to strengthen teacher capacity to deliver the ADL education model with flexible and personalized instruction** through differentiation, formative assessment, analysis of student work, and targeted support for writing, literacy, math, and student engagement.
- **Continue to strengthen instruction and student outcomes** by using classroom, achievement, staff, and student experience data to identify effective practices, target support, and monitor improvement.

- Objective 1.4 Post-Secondary and Experiential Opportunities
  - Add: expanding access to enrichment opportunities at all grade levels
- Objective 3.2 Empower the Stakeholders as Ambassadors
  - Develop a clear "Why Perspectives messaging strategy that highlights ADL, strong relationships, postsecondary preparation, student leadership, experiential opportunities, and school-level success stories to support enrollment, retention, and community awareness.
  - Align ambassador, advocacy, partnership, and fundraising efforts through shared messaging, coordinated engagement plans, and regular review of outcomes.

  Measurements:
  - 100% of board members have an individual engagement plan
  - 100% of board members are equipped with ambassador tools and messaging
  - Each board member participates in at least two mission-aligned engagements annually
  - Increased board confidence and participation in outreach efforts

The Board unanimously approved the Strategic Plan (10 in Person & 6 Via Zoom).

College & Career achievements for FY26 were presented including: $39.2 million in Scholarships, 2 $1 million Scholars, 2 Posse Scholars, 182 students earning college credit, 1381 college credits earned, 1 Associate's degree, 33 students recognized at CCC Milestone Ceremony, 12 Illinois Works Grant recipients, and 73 National Honor Society inductees.

REDI/Education Committee presented FY26 Performance versus Goals. Discussion topics included: Freshman on Track, Attendance & how to improve (Rang for next year), progress on lowering suspension rates, how to improve 5 Essentials, increase in teacher retention to 82% from 77%, and progress on MTSS screeners (1 grade level or more growth). Perspectives' Academic, ADL, and Experiential Opportunities were presented and discussed. Increasing the rigor of internal assessments to be more consistent with ACT was discussed and agreed as well as increasing students' complex cognitive engagement. Perspectives' AI strategy was a topic of discussion.

External Affairs Committee presented next year's 30th Anniversary celebration, Peace Summit, Pipeline, and key social media updates.

Finance Committee presented March Year to Date financial statements and discussed the improvement in Perspectives' finances over the last 30 years, including the strong balance sheet and income statement

performance. Perspectives is $2 million better than budget due primarily to the receipt of a net $1.6 million in ERC credits. Financial covenants, at DSR of 4.2x and Cash on Hand of 182 days significantly exceed required levels of 1.1x and 45 days.

Finance Committee also presented FY26 Forecast & proposed FY27 Budget. The Budget was approved unanimously (10 In Person & 6 Via Zoom) after discussion. Key initiatives included:

- Increase salaries for teachers 5% & other staff 3% on average
- Add intervention blocks for all students
- Add Electives
- Enhance school specific strategies
- Invest in Attendance Incentive Program (Rang)
- Continue investment in AI
- Enhance usage of High Quality Academic & SEL MTSS intervention software
- Invest in our strategy to improve ACT scores

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm after a unanimous vote to adjourn (10 In Person & 6 Via Zoom.)