



**Minutes of the
Alumni Council Meeting
Thursday, August 7, 2025
6:00pm – 7:30pm
In-person/virtual Meeting**

Attendees: Alumni Council					
Tyler Knight	X	Oliver Cuevas-Salinas	X	Daniela Garcia	X
Tien Nguyen		Olga Rojas Pacheco	X	Stevie St. Tulus	
Areli Sanjuan Lopez	X	Gabriela Caballero	X	Jhoanna Alarcon	X
Janet Del Valle		Lindsay Lydon	X		

Attendees: Staff / Board					
Denise Murphy	X	Danielle Viens-Payne	X	Dr. Eric Williams	X
Nicole Luque	X				

Welcome

Tyler opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees at 6:05 PM. The group participated in introductions, including both in-person and Zoom attendees. The new Volunteer Manager Nicole Luque was introduced; she shared a brief background and overview of her role.

Volunteer Update

Nicole shared volunteer opportunities available through the organization. Gabby asked whether volunteers were more often adults or students. Nicole clarified that most current needs are adult volunteers—such as visiting schools or serving on committees. **If you are interested in participating in the Classroom Grants Committee this year, please email Nicole Luque at NLuque@ChampionsForLearning.org** . This opportunity is mostly virtual and begins late August, ending in September.

President's Report

Dr. Williams introduced himself and gave updates from the organization. He shared inspirational stories from his first five weeks in the role. He provided a Finance Report, including a printed handout for review. Updates were given on the Golden Apple Program and Student Programs.

Board Update

Denise gave a recap of key items discussed at the last two board meetings. She also provided an overview of the current board committees and their work.

Council Objectives

Danielle reviewed the **three Alumni Council Pillars**: Service, Engagement, and Philanthropy.

1. Service:

- Recap of school counselor meetings and presentations.
- Gabby shared highlights of her participation.
- Council is awaiting back-to-school nights and orientation dates from Yuli (CCPS).

2. Engagement

- Reviewed the recent alumni social event:
 - ~30 RSVPs, ~20 attended
 - General feedback was very positive
 - Suggestion was made for the Council to provide all food and beverages for attendees next time
- Discussion on alumni outreach and engagement:
 - What worked, what didn't
 - Frequency of events suggested to be **twice a year** (June/July and December)
 - Danielle offered to take the lead in collecting event-planning information for the upcoming December social
 - The council will tentatively coordinate a sunset cruise event aboard the *Naples Princess* on either December 17, 18, 29, or 30.
 - Danielle will provide projected costs and available dates to the Council.
 - Brainstorm session initiated on how to develop the alumni network structure (purpose, communication, etc.). To be continued at the next meeting.

3. Philanthropy

- Tentative date discussed for a **Barnes & Noble fundraising event: Friday, September 12 from 2pm-5pm**. Danielle will provide confirmed information as soon as possible.

Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Tyler thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting concluded at approximately 7:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Denise Murphy and Danielle Viens-Payne