



Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Rocketship Public Schools National Board of Directors Meeting (2024-25 Q4)

Meeting Time: 2pm

Public Comment: Members of the public can make comment on off-agenda items at the start of the meeting, and on agenda items immediately preceding the board's discussion of each item. You will be recognized once the public comment time begins, and be permitted to make comment for a duration of up to 3 minutes.

Meeting Location: 2001 Gateway Place, Suite 230E San Jose, CA 95110

Teleconference locations:

198 W Alma Ave. San Jose, CA 95110
2960 Story Rd San Jose, CA 95116
1700 Cavallo Road, Antioch, CA 94509
370 Wooster Ave. San Jose, CA 95116
70 S. Jackson Ave. San Jose, CA 95116
2351 Olivera Rd, Concord, CA 94520
331 S. 34th St. San Jose, CA 95116
788 Locust St., San Jose, CA 95110
950 Owsley Ave, San Jose, CA 95122
1440 Connecticut Drive, Redwood City, CA 94061
3173 Senter Road San Jose, 95111
2249 Dobern Ave. San Jose, CA 95116
683 Sylvandale Ave San Jose, CA 95111
311 Plus Park Blvd Suite 130, Nashville, TN 37217
185 Spur Ridge Court, Healdsburg CA 95448
1202 Pine St, Calistoga, CA 94515
2013 Ovation Parkway, Franklin, TN 37067
16620 Lower Valley Ridge Dr, Brookfield, Wi 53005
1221 Oriental Gardens Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207
515 15th Street, NW, Washington DC 20004
2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111
228 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto CA 94301
1670 Las Plumas Ave, San Jose, CA 95133
9112 Vendome Dr, Bethesda MD 20817
42803 Roullier Road, Ronan MT 59864
326 Leslie Way, Los Angeles, CA 90042
2066 Cowden Ave, Memphis TN 38104
2477 Cottle Ave, San Jose. 95125

1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

B. Public comment on off-agenda items

2. Consent Items

A. Approve minutes from the March 5, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors

3. Action Items: Resolutions - Review and Approval

A. Resolution #2025-02 - Approval of Participation in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 (TN)

4. Closed Session

A. Conference regarding Real Property Negotiations pursuant to California Government Code Section § 54956.8. Property Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Non-CA matter, National CMO matter only), Negotiators: Benjamin Carson, Preston Smith. Negotiating Parties: To Be Determined. Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

B. Conference with Legal Counsel — Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Code § 54956.9 - Two Cases - Knox vs RSED, Case No. 24-CIV-00327 and V.R. et. al. vs RSED, Case No. C23-02008.

5. Action Items: Report Out

A. Public report on actions taken in closed session

6. Adjournment

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND TIMINGS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice, provided that the Board takes action to effectuate such change.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY: Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting may request assistance by contacting us at compliance@rsed.org.

SPANISH & VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION: If you need Spanish or Vietnamese audio translation in order to access the Rocketship Board meeting, please send a request to compliance@rsed.org at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting. If you would like to make a public comment in Spanish or Vietnamese and would like us to translate to English for the Board, please send a request to compliance@rsed.org at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

Si necesita traducción de audio al español para acceder a la reunión de la Mesa Directiva de Rocketship, envíe una solicitud a compliance@rsed.org por lo menos 24 horas antes del inicio de la reunión.

Si desea hacer un comentario público en español y desea que lo traduzcamos al inglés para la Mesa Directiva, envíe una solicitud a compliance@rsed.org por lo menos 24 horas antes del inicio de la reunión.

Rocketship Public Schools National Board of Directors Meeting (2024-25 Q3) (Wednesday, March 5, 2025)

Generated by Cristina Vasquez on Friday, March 14, 2025

1. Opening Items

A. Call to order

At 12:30pm, Mr. Jordan took roll call. Without a quorum of board members present, Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order.

Present: Alex Terman, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Hugo Castaneda, Julie Miller, Louis Jordan

Absent: April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Daniel Velasco, Deb McGriff, Joey Slotter, Malka Borrego, Michelle Mercado, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano

B. Public comment on off-agenda items

At 12:31pm, Mr. Jordan called for public comment on off-agenda items. No members of the public provided comment.

2. Information Items

A. Administrative Training for Board Members re: National Strategy

At 12:32pm, information item 2(A) was presented. No action was taken.

At 12:41pm, Yolanda Bernal Samano joined the meeting.

3. Break

At 2:33pm, the board took a break.

4. Re-opening Meeting

A. Call to order

At 3:04pm, Mr. Jordan took roll call. With a quorum of board members present, Mr. Jordan re-opened the meeting.

Present: Alex Terman, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

Absent: April Taylor, Daniel Velasco, Deb McGriff, Hugo Castaneda, Michelle Mercado, Ray Raven

B. Public comment on off-agenda items

At 3:06pm, Mr. Jordan called for public comment on off-agenda items. No members of the public provided comment.

At 3:07pm, April Taylor and Ray Raven joined the meeting.

5. Consent Items

A. Approve minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors

B. Approve Revised Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures

C. Reappoint Brian Kilb to the Rocketship Board of Directors for a term of 2 years through March 2027

D. Ratify the appointment of Camilla Jensen and Ashanti Herndon to the Rocketship DC Board of Trustees and to the DC Business Committee for a two-year term through March 2027

E. Appoint Camilla Jensen as an advisor to the Rocketship Business Committee for a two-year term through March 2027

F. Ratify the appointment of Jennifer Lopez to the Rocketship Wisconsin Board of Trustees and Wisconsin Achievement Committee for a two-year term through January 2027

G. Appoint Tamara Peterson to the Rocketship Board of Directors and the Rocketship CA Board Committee for a two-year term through March 2027

At 3:07pm, Mr. Terman made a motion to approve the consent items. This motion was seconded by Mr. Stanger, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

6. Information Items

A. Mission Moment

At 3:11pm, information item 6(A) was presented. No action was taken.

B. Board Updates

At 3:15pm, information item 6(B) was presented. No action was taken.

7. Action Items: Finance - Review and Approval

A. Approve 2024-25 Budget Education Protection Account fund spending plans for Rocketship Mateo Sheedy, Rocketship Si Se Puede, Rocketship Los Suenos, Rocketship Mosaic, Rocketship Discovery Prep, Rocketship Brilliant Minds, Rocketship Alma, Rocketship Spark, Rocketship Fuerza, Rocketship Rising Stars, Rocketship Redwood City, Rocketship Futuro, and Rocketship Delta Prep

B. Acknowledge and approve the Second Interim Reports for all California Rocketship schools: Rocketship Mateo Sheedy, Rocketship Si Se Puede, Rocketship Los Suenos, Rocketship Mosaic, Rocketship Discovery Prep, Rocketship Brilliant Minds, Rocketship Alma, Rocketship Spark, Rocketship Fuerza, Rocketship Rising Stars, Rocketship Redwood City Prep, Rocketship Futuro, and Rocketship Delta Prep

C. Approve CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) as auditor for the fiscal year 2024-25 consolidated audit of Rocketship Education and its affiliated entities, as recommended by the Rocketship Audit Committee

D. Approve Resolution #2025-01 to delegate authority to the Rocketship Audit Committee to approve the IRS Form 990 for year ending 6/30/24

At 3:58pm, the board discussed action items 7(A-B).

At 4:00pm, Mr. Sisnett made a motion to approve the action items 7(A-B). This motion was seconded by Mr. Sanchez, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

At 4:02pm, the board discussed action items 7(C-D).

At 4:06pm, Mr. Terman made a motion to approve the action items 7(C-D). This motion was seconded by Mr. Sanchez, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

8. Action Items: Tennessee Operations - Review and Approval

A. Approve 2025 Amended Charter Agreement for Rocketship Dream Community Prep

B. Approve 2025 Amended Charter Agreement for Rocketship Nashville Northeast Elementary

C. Approve the Renewed Charter School Agreement for Rocketship United Academy

At 4:07pm, the board discussed action items 8(A-C).

At 4:08pm, Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the action items 8(A-C). This motion was seconded by Ms. Detweiler, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

9. Action Items: California Operations - Review and Approval

A. Approve Rocketship Brilliant Minds Memorandum of Understanding and addendum with Santa Clara County Office of Education

B. Approve Rocketship Alma Academy Memorandum of Understanding and addendum with Santa Clara County Office of Education

C. Approve Rocketship Si Se Puede Memorandum of Understanding and addendum with Santa Clara County Office of Education

At 4:08pm, the board discussed action items 9(A-C).

At 4:09pm, Mr. Sisnett made a motion to approve the action items 9(A-C). This motion was seconded by Ms. Detweiler, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

10. Action Items: Human Resources - Review and Approval

A. Approve the Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (CA)

At 4:10pm, the board discussed action item 10(A).

At 4:11pm, Mr. Sanchez made a motion to approve the action item 10(A). This motion was seconded by Ms. Miller, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

11. Action Items: Operations - Review and Approval

A. Approve 2025 School Safety Plan for all Rocketship schools

At 4:12pm, the board discussed action item 11(A).

At 4:14pm, Ms. Detweiler made a motion to approve the action item 11(A). This motion was seconded by Mr. Sanchez, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

12. Information Items

A. 2024-25 Mid-Year NWEA Data and Response

At 4:15pm, the board discussed information item 12(A). No action was taken.

13. Break

At 4:34pm, the board took a break.

14. Information Items

A. Staff Satisfaction Survey Results Update & Response

At 4:47pm, the board discussed information item 14(A). No action was taken.

B. Tennessee Four Greenlighting - Consideration and Possible Approval of the Opening of a Fourth School in Tennessee in 2027-2027

At 5:15pm, the board discussed information item 14(B).

At 6:05pm, Mr. Jordan called for a motion to:

1.

Greenlight the opening of Tennessee Four in the summer of 2026 provided the Tennessee Four charter petition is authorized;

2.

Authorize Tennessee Regional and National NeST leadership and staff to expend resources according to Rocketship fiscal guidelines to effect the opening of Tennessee Four;

3.

Authorize both Tennessee Regional and National NeST leadership and staff to take all necessary and appropriate steps to support the timely and successful opening of Tennessee Four.

At 6:06pm, Mr. Sisnett made a motion to approve item 14(B). This motion was seconded by Ms. Detweiler, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

15. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel -- Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.9. Number of cases: 1

At 6:07pm, Ms. Miller made a motion to move to Closed Session. This motion was seconded by Ms. Detweiler, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, April Taylor, Brian Kilb, Charmaine Detweiler, Dan Sanchez, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Joey Slotter, Julie Miller, Malka Borrego, Mike Fox, Rajen Sheth, Ray Raven, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

At 6:22pm, Ms. Taylor left the meeting.

16. Agenda Items: Report Out

A. Public report on actions taken in closed session

At 6:24pm, Mr. Jordan called the open session back to order and reported that no reportable actions were taken on item 15(A) during the closed session.

17. Break

At 6:24pm, the board took a break.

At 6:24pm, Mr. Fox, Ms. Slotter, Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Sheth, and Mr. Kilb left the meeting.

18. Information Items

A. Group Discussion with Bay Area Parent Advisory Board and Parent Leaders

At 6:46pm, the board discussed information item 18(A). No action was taken.

At 7:13pm, Ms. Borrego left the meeting.

19. Adjourn

At 7:37pm, Mr. Sisnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Detweiler, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Y: Alex Terman, Charmaine Detweiler, Derwin Sisnett, Greg Stanger, Julie Miller, Yolanda Bernal Samano, Louis Jordan

N: --

Abstain: --

ROCKETSHIP

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Executive Summary
Rocketship Education
Board of Directors
April 2, 2025

Agenda Item: 3(A) Subject: Resolution #2025-02 - Approval of Participation in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025	X	OPEN/ACTION
		INFORMATION
		CONSENT

Recommendation(s):

Staff members recommend that the Rocketship Education Board of Directors (“RSED-Board”) approve Resolution 2025-02 Approval of Participation In Section 4 of The Education Freedom Act of 2025 (“Resolution”).

The Resolution will allow for the allocation of a one-time, fully state-funded bonus of at least \$2,000 per eligible teacher employed at Rocketship Public Schools in Tennessee for the 2024-2025 school year. Participation in this program is in the best interest of Rocketship, as it provides financial support to teachers and aligns with state funding opportunities.

Background:

In January 2025, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Education Freedom Act of 2025 (the “Act”). Section 4 of this act provides a one-time bonus of no less than \$2,000 to eligible K-12 public school teachers in Tennessee, excluding members of the General Assembly. These bonuses shall be fully state-funded and shall not be considered part of salary payments, but will be included as earnable compensation for retirement purposes.

As per the Act, public charter schools must submit a resolution affirming their intent to participate in Section 4 to the Tennessee Department of Education by June 1, 2025, to receive the bonus funding. Rocketship Education Tennessee (“RSED-TN”) has reviewed Section 4 and determined that participating in the program is beneficial for both the teachers and the organization. The RSED-TN Board approved the resolution on February 25, 2025 and RSED-TN now asks the RSED-Board to approve.

The Resolution authorizes Rocketship United Academy, Rocketship Nashville Northeast Elementary, and Rocketship Dream Community Prep to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025.

Summary of Previous Board Action by Board:

The Rocketship Education Tennessee Board of Trustees (“RSED-TN Board”) approved Resolution 2025-01 Approval of Participation In Section 4 of The Education Freedom Act Of 2025 at their meeting on February 25, 2025.

Fiscal Impact: Additional funding for eligible staff in an amount to be determined.

Submitted by: Eric Dailey, Executive Director, Ben Carson, Chief Financial Officer and Abbie Gifford, Senior Legal Counsel

RESOLUTION #2025-02 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF ROCKETSHIP EDUCATION

APPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION IN SECTION 4 OF THE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT OF 2025

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Education Freedom Act of 2025 during the special session in January 2025;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 provides a one-time bonus in an amount that is no less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to each eligible teacher, as defined in T.C.A. § 49-3-104, employed in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school in Tennessee for the 2024-2025 school year, with the exception of any teacher who is a member of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, the bonus awarded is fully state-funded, is not part of the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (“TISA”) formula as defined in T.C.A. § 49-3-104, and shall not be considered salary payments or supplements for purposes of T.C.A. § 49-3-306;

WHEREAS, the bonus must be included as earnable compensation, as defined in T.C.A. § 8-34-101(14), for retirement purposes, but is not intended to increase a member’s retirement benefit or induce retirement;

WHEREAS, public charter schools must adopt a resolution affirming their intent to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 and submit it to the Tennessee Department of Education by June 1, 2025, to receive the bonus funding;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Rocketship Education Tennessee (“RSED-TN Board”), previously reviewed Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025, determined that participating in the program is in the best interests of Rocketship Education Tennessee, and adopted Resolution #2025-01 of the RSED-TN Board Approving of Participation in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 at a duly called and noticed meeting on February 25, 2025 at which a quorum of Trustees were present;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Rocketship Education (“RSED-Board”) remains the governing board of Rocketship Education Tennessee until July 1, 2025, working in close partnership with the RSED-TN Board;

WHEREAS, the RSED-Board has also reviewed Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025, a copy of which is included with this resolution under Exhibit A, and the RSED-Board has

considered this section and agrees that participating in the program is in the best interest of Rocketship Public Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the RSED-Board hereby approves and authorizes this resolution to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025;

RESOLVED, that this resolution approves and authorizes the participation of Rocketship United Academy, Rocketship Nashville Northeast Elementary, and Rocketship Dream Community Prep;

RESOLVED, that this resolution is limited to Section 4 and does not constitute approval, endorsement, or commentary on any other provisions of the Education Freedom Act of 2025;

GENERAL AUTHORIZATION

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any of RSED's officers may execute, verify, and file any and all documents, and may take any and all such actions, as are proper and necessary to effectuate the purposes of these resolutions.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution #2025-02 *Approval Of Participation In Section 4 Of The Education Freedom Act Of 2025* that was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of RSED, at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed and held on April 2, 2025, and at which meeting a quorum of the Board was present, and that this resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

WITNESS my hand this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Secretary
Rocketship Education

Exhibit A

2025 Tennessee House Bill No. 6004, Tennessee One Hundred
Fourteenth General Assembly - First Extraordinary Session
“Education Freedom Act of 2025”

2025 Tennessee House Bill No. 6004, Tennessee One Hundred Fourteenth General Assembly - First Extraordinary Session

TENNESSEE BILL TEXT

TITLE: Education - As introduced, enacts the "Education Freedom Act of 2025." - Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 49; Title 8 and Title 49.

VERSION: Adopted

February 12, 2025

Lamberth



[Image 1 within document in PDF format.](#)

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 49; Title 8 and Title 49, relative to the Education Freedom Act of 2025.

TEXT:

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 7

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

By Representatives Lamberth, White, Cepicky, Slater, Tim Hicks, Maberry, Todd, Reeves, McCalmon, Sparks

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1

By Senators Johnson, White, Stevens, Reeves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 49; Title 8 and Title 49, relative to the Education Freedom Act of 2025.

WHEREAS, publicly supported educational freedom has a long history in Tennessee, with the Hope Scholarship providing funding that follows students to the public or private institution of their choice; and

WHEREAS, parents should be free to choose the school that best fits the educational needs of their specific child; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has worked to expand choice through the successful education savings account pilot program that is now helping primarily underserved, minority students in three of the State's largest school districts with 99% parent satisfaction with the program; and

WHEREAS, over the past six years, Tennessee has invested a record \$2 billion annually in additional state dollars for public education; and

WHEREAS, high-quality educational facilities and high-performing teachers are vital ingredients for a child's success; and

WHEREAS, the "Education Freedom Scholarship Act" will empower parents with the freedom to choose the right education for their child and provide parents a say in where their taxpayer dollars are spent; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Education Freedom Act of 2025."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

49-6-3501. Short title.

This part is known and may be cited as the "Education Freedom Scholarship Act."

49-6-3502. Part definitions.

As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Department" means the department of education;
- (2) "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is entitled to attend a public school, except for a student enrolled in a home school, as defined in § 49-6-3050, or in a church-related school, as defined in § 49-50-801, with which the student's parent is associated, registered, or is participating as a parent-teacher for purposes of § 49-6-3050(a)(2) or (a)(3);
- (3) "Parent" means the parent, guardian, person who has custody of the child, or individual who has caregiving authority for the child under § 49-6-3001;
- (4) "Private school" means a school that is:
 - (A) Located in this state; and
 - (B) A private school, as defined in § 49-6-3001(c)(3)(A), that is a category I, II, or III school approved by the commissioner of education in accordance with rules promulgated by the state board of education;
- (5) "Program" means the education freedom scholarship program created by this part;
- (6) "Public school" means a public charter school, a school operated by an LEA, or a school operated by this state with public funds that serves students in any of the grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12);
- (7) "Recipient" means an eligible student who enrolls in a private school and receives a scholarship for a given school year; and
- (8) "Scholarship" means an education freedom scholarship provided pursuant to this part.

49-6-3503. Creation.

- (a) There is created an education freedom scholarship program to be administered by the department.
- (b) Subject to appropriations and other available funds, the program must provide a scholarship to an eligible student who applies for the 2025-2026 school year or any subsequent school year, subject to the limitations of this part.
- (c) The state treasurer shall invest appropriations for the program and other available program funds pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6. The state treasurer shall account for such funds in one (1) or more separate accounts in accordance with this section or other applicable law. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the account must be returned to the account and remain part of the account. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal

year must not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section. The money deposited in the account and the interest accruing on the deposited money must be used to provide scholarships to eligible students.

49-6-3504. Scholarship availability - prioritization of awards.

(a) For the 2025-2026 school year, the department shall award a maximum of twenty thousand (20,000) scholarships, to be awarded as follows, in the order in which the department receives completed scholarship applications:

(1) Ten thousand (10,000) scholarships are available for eligible students who meet one (1) of the following criteria:

(A) The student's annual household income does not exceed three hundred percent (300%) of the amount required for the student to qualify for free or reduced price lunch, as provided in the income eligibility guidelines published by the United States department of agriculture's food and nutrition service; or

(B) The student is an eligible student as defined in § 49-6-2602 or § 49-10-1402; and

(2) Ten thousand (10,000) scholarships are available for eligible students, regardless of whether the eligible student meets one (1) of the criteria listed in subdivision (a)(1).

(b) Subject to the funds appropriated for scholarships together with any available funds returned to the state treasurer pursuant to § 49-6-3506, if the number of applications received by the department during a program application period:

(1) Exceeds seventy-five percent (75%) of the total number of scholarships available for the respective school year, then the department may increase the maximum number of scholarships available for the next school year by no more than five thousand (5,000) additional scholarships; or

(2) Does not exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the total number of scholarships available for the respective school year, then the maximum number of scholarships available for the next school year must remain the same as the maximum number of scholarships available for the prior school year.

(c) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, if the number of applications received by the department exceeds the number of scholarships available for the respective school year, then the department shall award scholarships in the following order:

(1) An eligible student who received a scholarship in the immediately preceding school year;

(2) An eligible student whose annual household income does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the amount required for the student to qualify for free or reduced price lunch, as provided in the income eligibility guidelines published by the United States department of agriculture's food and nutrition service, or an eligible student who is an eligible student as defined in § 49-6-2602 or § 49-10-1402, in the order in which the department receives completed scholarship applications;

(3) An eligible student whose annual household income does not exceed three hundred percent (300%) of the amount required for the student to qualify for free or reduced price lunch, as provided in the income eligibility guidelines published by the United States department of agriculture's food and nutrition service, in the order in which the department receives completed scholarship applications;

(4) An eligible student who, at the time of submitting a completed application, is currently enrolled in a public school, or who is eligible to enroll in kindergarten in a public school for the respective school year, in the order in which the department receives completed scholarship applications; and

(5) An eligible student, in the order in which the department receives completed scholarship applications.

(d) In order to receive a scholarship under this part, an eligible student, or the eligible student's parent, must:

(1) Submit a completed scholarship application to the department;

(2) Ensure the provision of an education for the eligible student that satisfies the compulsory school attendance requirement provided in § 49-6-3001(c)(1) through enrollment in a private school; and

(3) Not enroll the eligible student in a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school in any school year for which the eligible student receives a scholarship.

(e) The department may award a scholarship to an eligible student in an order that does not comply with the order prescribed in subsection (a) or subsection (c), as applicable, if awarding the scholarship out of order is consistent with the outcome of an administrative appeal adjudicating the denial of the student's scholarship application.

49-6-3505. Scholarship amounts - allowable uses.

(a) A scholarship equals the base funding amount, as defined in § 49-3-104(2), and is solely state funded.

(b) Scholarship funds must first be used to pay the recipient's tuition and fees, as described in subdivision (c)(1). Any outstanding scholarship funds available to the recipient after payment of tuition and fees may be used for one (1) or more of the educational expenses described in subdivisions (c)(2) - (c)(8).

(c) Scholarship funds may only be used for the following educational expenses:

(1) Tuition and fees required by the private school in which the recipient is enrolled;

(2) Textbooks, curricula, instructional materials, and uniforms required by the private school in which the recipient is enrolled;

(3) Tutoring services provided by a tutor or tutoring facility that meets the requirements established by the department;

(4) Fees for transportation to and from the private school in which the recipient is enrolled, paid to a fee-for-service transportation provider that meets the requirements established by the department;

(5) Computer hardware, technological devices, and other technology fees that meet the requirements established by the department and that are used for the recipient's educational needs;

(6) Tuition, fees, textbooks, curricula, and instructional materials for summer academic programs and specialized afterschool academic programs that meet the requirements established by the department. This subdivision (c)(6) does not include afterschool childcare;

(7) Fees for early postsecondary opportunity courses or examinations, entrance examinations required for postsecondary admission, and industry credentials as approved by the department; and

(8) Educational therapy services provided by therapists who meet the requirements established by the department.

49-6-3506. Unspent funds - account closure.

(a) A recipient's scholarship account remains open, and all available scholarship funds remain in the recipient's scholarship account, from one (1) school year to another unless one (1) of the events described in subsection (b) occurs.

(b) A recipient's scholarship account must be closed, and all remaining scholarship funds returned to the state treasurer to be used to award scholarships to eligible students in future years pursuant to this part, upon the earlier of:

(1) The recipient's graduation from high school or obtainment of a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education;

(2) The recipient's enrollment in a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school;

(3) The recipient's completion of thirteen (13) school years as a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) student;

(4) The recipient's voluntary withdrawal from the scholarship program; or

(5) The department disqualifying the recipient from participating in the program due to the recipient's noncompliance with program requirements.

49-6-3507. Administration of assessments for recipients.

(a)

(1) As a condition of receiving a scholarship pursuant to this part, recipients in grades three through eleven (3-11) must be annually administered:

(A) A nationally standardized achievement test that is aligned to the respective private school's instructional plan, as determined by rules promulgated by the state board of education; or

(B) The Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests for math and English language arts.

(2) Each private school that enrolls recipients shall annually administer the test or tests required in subdivision (a)(1) to recipients enrolled in the school. Each private school shall provide the results of the test or tests administered to recipients pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) to the recipient's parents.

(b)

(1) In order to assess academic performance, the department shall annually select a statistical sample of recipients enrolled in private schools in any of the grades three through eight (3-8) who were administered TCAP tests for the prior school year.

(2) The state board of education shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, to effectuate this subsection (b).

(c) By June 30, 2026, and by each June 30 thereafter, each private school shall provide the results of the tests administered to recipients pursuant to this section to the office of research and education accountability in the office of the comptroller of the treasury. A private school may provide the test results required pursuant to this section using aggregated, deidentified data; provided, that the data must be provided on a form developed by the office of research and education accountability and in a manner that allows the office of research and education accountability to group and analyze the results by recipient grade level, household income level, sex, and race. The office of research and education accountability shall submit an annual report to the

education committee of the senate and to the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over elementary and secondary education detailing the results of the tests administered to recipients pursuant to this section.

49-6-3508. Autonomy of schools that have recipients enrolled.

- (a) A private school that enrolls recipients is autonomous and not an agent of this state.
- (b) The creation of the education freedom scholarship program does not expand the regulatory authority of this state, the officers of this state, or the authority of any LEA to impose any additional rules, regulations, or requirements on private schools that enroll recipients beyond the rules narrowly tailored to enforce the requirements of the program.
- (c) Private schools that enroll recipients must have the maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of recipients without governmental control. A private school that enrolls recipients is not required to alter its creed, practices, admission policies, hiring policies, or curriculum in order to accept recipients.

49-6-3509. Limitations on participation - connection to other education programs.

- (a) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, the department shall deny a scholarship to an eligible student for the same school year in which the student is participating in the Tennessee education savings account pilot program, compiled in part 26 of this chapter, or the individualized education account program, compiled in chapter 10, part 14 of this title.
- (b) A recipient does not retain the right to receive special education and related services from the LEA in which the recipient resides, through an individualized education program. Recipients have the same rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1414) to receive equitable services through an individualized service plan as all other students enrolled in non-public schools.

49-6-3510. Payment - state or local public benefit.

- (a) A scholarship awarded under this part:
 - (1) Shall not be paid directly to a recipient or recipient's parent; and
 - (2) Is a state or local public benefit under § 4-58-102.
- (b) Funds received pursuant to this part do not constitute income taxable to the parent of the recipient or to the recipient under title 67, chapter 2.

49-6-3511. Denial of scholarship application.

Notwithstanding § 49-6-3504, the department shall deny the scholarship application of an eligible student who cannot establish the eligible student's lawful presence in the United States.

49-6-3512. Promulgation of rules.

The state board of education shall promulgate rules to effectuate this part. The rules must include an administrative appeal procedure for the denial of scholarship applications. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 3. [Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-3-108](#), is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(i)

(1) Beginning with TISA allocations for the 2026-2027 school year, and except when subdivision (i)(2) applies, if an LEA's TISA allocation for the current school year is less than the LEA's TISA allocation for the immediately preceding school year, and if the LEA experienced disenrollment, then the department shall allocate additional funds to the LEA such that the LEA's TISA allocation for the current school year combined with the amount of any additional funds received by the LEA pursuant to this subdivision (i)(1) is equal to the LEA's TISA allocation for the immediately preceding school year.

(2) Beginning with TISA allocations for the 2027-2028 school year, if an LEA has ever received additional funds under this subsection (i), and if an LEA's TISA allocation for the current school year is less than the sum total of the LEA's TISA allocation for the immediately preceding school year and the amount of any additional funds received by the LEA pursuant to this subsection (i) for the immediately preceding school year, then the department shall allocate additional funds to the LEA such that the LEA's TISA allocation for the current school year is equal to the sum total of the LEA's TISA allocation for the immediately preceding school year and the amount of any additional funds received by the LEA pursuant to this subsection (i) for the immediately preceding school year.

(3) Any additional funds provided to an LEA pursuant to this subsection (i) must be solely state funded. If an LEA is eligible for additional funds under this subsection (i) and subsection (b) or subsection (c), then the department shall only award additional funds to the LEA pursuant to this subsection (i) and shall not award any additional funds to the LEA pursuant to subsection (b) or subsection (c).

(4) As used in this subsection (i), "disenrollment" means that the LEA's non-virtual average daily membership for the current school year is lower than the LEA's non-virtual average daily membership for the immediately preceding school year.

SECTION 4.

(a) Subject to appropriation and subsection (b), the department of education shall award a one-time bonus in an amount that is no less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to each teacher employed in a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school in this state for the 2024-2025 school year.

(b)

(1) In order to receive funds from the department for purposes of awarding the teacher bonuses described in subsection (a):

(A) The local board of education for the LEA must first adopt a resolution affirming that the LEA would like to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025; or

(B) The governing body of the public charter school must first adopt a resolution affirming that the public charter school would like to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025. If the public charter school is authorized by an LEA, and the local board of education for the LEA has adopted the resolution required in subdivision (b)(1)(A), then the governing body of the public charter school is not required to adopt a separate resolution under this subdivision (b)(1)(B).

(2) Each local board of education and public charter school governing body that wishes to receive funding from the department for purposes of this section must submit its resolution to the department by June 1, 2025.

(3) The department shall award a one-time bonus pursuant to this section to each teacher employed in a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) state special school managed and controlled by the department.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), a teacher who was employed in a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school in this state for the 2024-2025 school year and who is a member of the general assembly on the effective date of this act is ineligible for the one-time bonus provided pursuant to this section.

(d)

(1) A bonus awarded pursuant to this section is solely state funded.

(2) Bonuses paid to teachers pursuant to this section are not part of the TISA, as defined in § 49-3-104, and must not be considered salary payments or supplements for purposes of § 49-3-306.

(e) The bonus must be included as earnable compensation, as defined in § 8-34-101(14), for retirement purposes, but is not made for the purpose of increasing a member's retirement benefit or inducing a member to retire.

(f) For purposes of this section, "teacher" has the same meaning as "existing educator," as that term is defined in § 49-3-104.

SECTION 5. [Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-49-104](#), is amended by deleting subdivision (e)(1) and substituting:

(1)

(A) Except as provided in subsection (f), eighty percent (80%) of the privilege tax collected under this section must be distributed by the council to the state treasurer for deposit into an account, to be known as the disbursement account, which is administered by the state treasurer for use by local education agencies (LEAs), as defined in § 49-1-103, for the construction and maintenance of public school buildings.

(B) Subject to the availability of funds in the disbursement account, and upon the LEA's submission of a completed application:

(i) The state treasurer shall disburse, in the order in which the state treasurer receives completed applications, funds to an LEA in an amount equal to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each student enrolled in the LEA, if the LEA is:

(a) Located in a county that is designated as an economically distressed or at-risk county by the department of economic and community development;

(b) An LEA in which fifty percent (50%) or more of the public schools operated or authorized by the LEA received an "A" letter grade pursuant to § 49-1-228 for the 2023-2024 school year or any subsequent school year; or

(c) An LEA that is eligible for a fast-growth stipend pursuant to § 49-3-107(b);

(ii) To the extent any funds remain in the disbursement account after the state treasurer makes the disbursements required in subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i), if one (1) or more LEAs have sustained significant damage to an existing public school building or facility due to the occurrence of an emergency or natural disaster, then the state treasurer shall disburse, in the order in which the state treasurer receives completed applications, funds to such LEAs. The state treasurer shall disburse no less than fifteen percent (15%) of any funds remaining in the disbursement account after disbursements have been made pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i), to qualifying LEAs pursuant to this subdivision (e)(1)(B)(ii), if applicable; and

(iii) To the extent any funds remain in the disbursement account after the state treasurer disburses funds pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(B)(ii), the state treasurer may disburse funds, in the order in which the state treasurer receives completed applications,

to an LEA that identifies a demonstrated need for funds for the construction and maintenance of public school buildings that differs from the criteria in subdivisions (e)(1)(B)(i) and (ii).

(C) The state treasurer shall establish the application period within which an LEA must apply for a disbursement of funds pursuant to this subdivision (e)(1). The state treasurer may establish more than one (1) application period in a fiscal year.

(D) Within each application period established by the state treasurer, an LEA that meets one (1) or more of the criteria described in subdivision (e)(1)(B) may apply for a disbursement of funds for the construction and maintenance of public school buildings by submitting a completed application, as prescribed by the state treasurer. Each application submitted to the state treasurer must include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) A plan detailing how the LEA will expend the funds, including, but not limited to:

(a) A description of the construction and maintenance project the LEA will implement using the funds;

(b) The timeline for completion of the project, including project milestones;

(c) The amount of money needed for completion of the entire project and for each of the project milestones;

(d) The LEA's ability to monitor the usage of the funds for the intended purpose of the disbursed funds, as provided in, or pursuant to, this subdivision (e)(1); and

(e) Any other information or documentation requested by the state treasurer; and

(ii) A budget and financial statement for the LEA, which must include, but is not limited to, each of the LEA's funding sources.

(E)

(i) Except as provided in, and subject to, subdivision (e)(1)(B), the state treasurer shall determine the maximum amount of funds that may be allocated to an LEA pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(B)(ii) or (e)(1)(B)(iii) from the disbursement account for purposes of this subdivision (e)(1). When determining the maximum amount of funds that may be allocated to an LEA pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(B)(ii) or (e)(1)(B)(iii), the state treasurer may consider one (1) or more of the following:

(a) The severity of the damage caused by an emergency or natural disaster;

(b) The severity or criticality of the demonstrated need identified by the LEA pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i);

(c) The duration of the LEA's construction and maintenance project; or

(d) The amount of funds requested by the LEA, as compared to the funds available for disbursement.

(ii) Notwithstanding title 4, chapter 5, or another law the contrary, the state treasurer is not required to promulgate rules to effectuate the requirements of this subdivision (e)(1)(E).

(F) The state treasurer may disburse funds to LEAs in whole or in part, based on project milestones. If the state treasurer elects to disburse funds in whole or in part, and the receiving LEA does not complete a project milestone or abandons the project altogether, then the LEA shall return any unused funds disbursed to the LEA from the disbursement account to the state treasurer.

(G) The state treasurer may request periodic reports from each LEA that receives a disbursement of funds pursuant to this subdivision (e)(1) regarding the use of such funds and the completion of the LEA's construction and maintenance project. If an LEA fails to comply with the state treasurer's request for periodic reporting regarding an ongoing construction and maintenance project, then the state treasurer may withhold the LEA's next disbursement.

(H) The state treasurer may facilitate procurements and enter into contracts or agreements to effectuate a disbursement of funds pursuant to this subdivision (e)(1) for financial consultants; auditors, accountants, and attorneys; third-party administrators; and other contractors, as the state treasurer deems necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities for establishing, implementing, and administering disbursements pursuant to this subdivision (e)(1). Payment for such services must come from the disbursement account established under this subdivision (e)(1).

(I) The disbursement account administered by the state treasurer must be invested by the state treasurer pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6. The state treasurer shall account for such funds in one (1) or more separate accounts in accordance with this section or other applicable law. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the account must be returned to the account and remain part of the account. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year must not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this subdivision (e)(1). The money deposited in the account pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(A) and the interest accruing on the deposited money must be used by the state treasurer to disburse funds to LEAs in accordance with this subdivision (e)(1).

(J) In addition to the charge deducted from an account established pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6 to defray the costs of administering the fund, the state treasurer may charge and deduct from the disbursement account an administrative fee to effectuate the purposes of this subdivision (e)(1) and to pay all reasonable expenses for legal services, accounting services, auditing services, consulting services, and other necessary services as determined by the state treasurer.

(K) The state treasurer may promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this subdivision (e)(1). The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 6. [Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-49-104](#), is amended by adding the following new subsection (f):

(f) In any year, if the net lottery proceeds deposited into the lottery for education account established by § 4-51-111(b), exclusive of the amount in the general shortfall reserve subaccount created pursuant to § 4-51-111(b)(3), are not sufficient to meet the amount appropriated for educational programs and purposes pursuant to § 4-51-111(c), then the funds allocated pursuant to subdivision (e)(1) must be reduced by the amount of the deficiency and such amount must be deposited into the lottery for education account.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end, the provisions of this act are severable.

SECTION 8. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 9. Sections 5 and 6 of this act take effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it. All other sections of this act take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

PASSED: January 30, 2025

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12th day of February 2025

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

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Q4 Rocketship Public Schools Board of Directors Meeting

April 2, 2025



Agenda

1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

B. Public comment on off-agenda items

2. Consent Items

A. Approve minutes from the March 5, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors

3. Action Items: Resolutions - Review and Approval

A. Resolution #2025-02 - Approval of Participation in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 (TN)

4. Closed Session

A. Conference regarding Real Property Negotiations pursuant to California Government Code Section § 54956.8. Property Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Non-CA matter, National CMO matter only), Negotiators: Benjamin Carson, Preston Smith. Negotiating Parties: To Be Determined. Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

B. Conference with Legal Counsel — Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Code § 54956.9 - Two Cases - Knox vs RSED, Case No. 24-CIV-00327 and V.R. et. al. vs RSED, Case No. C23-02008.

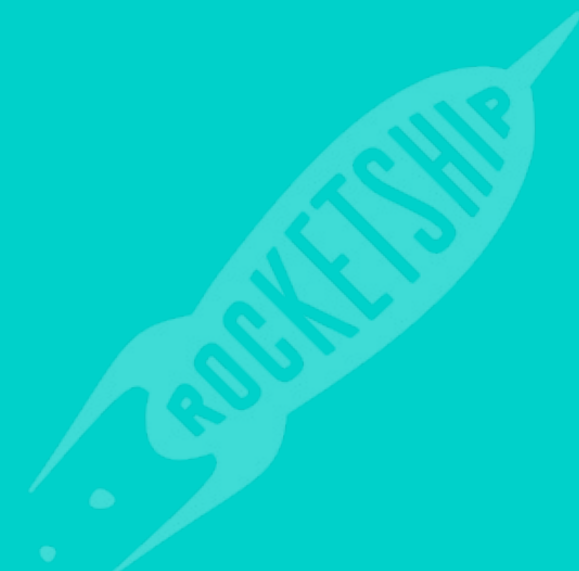
5. Action Items: Report Out

A. Public report on actions taken in closed session

6. Adjournment



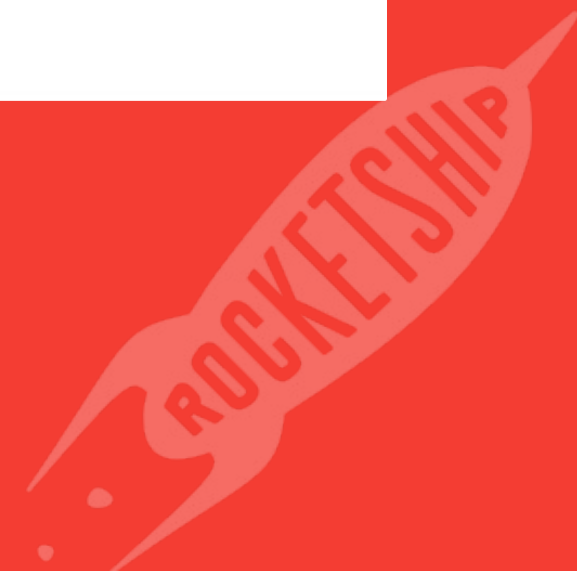
Public Comment



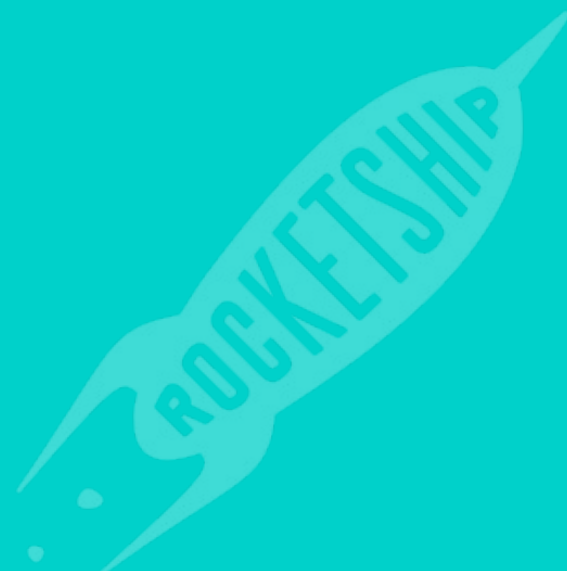
Action Agenda

3. Action Items: Resolutions - Review and Approval

A. Resolution #2025-02 - Approval of Participation in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 (TN)



Closed Session



The Board is in Closed Session.

Rocketship Board of Directors Meeting

April 2, 2025



Action Items: Report Out



Adjourn

