

ELP BOARD MEETING NOTES

February 18, 2026

Call to Order: 8:34 am

Adjourned: 9:18 am

Attendance

x Adkins, Sarah	x Elliott, Jessica	Keese, Savanna	x Owens, Robin
Barber, Katie	Farris, Tina	x Lisk, David	x Pollock, Casey
Bentley, Daniel	x Faulkenberry, Tom	Mendoza, Dawn	x Taubenkimel, Cindy
x Bush, Niki	x Frothingham, Judy	Moore, Laura	x Taylor, Ashley
Close, Will	Green, Carolyn	Neelands, Angel	Thompson, James
Echols, Sylvia	Green, Courtney	Nichols, Erin	White, Jamie
Edwards, Martha	x Hubbard, Rachel	Owens, Erin	x Williams, Lisa-Anne

Minutes

Welcome

Presenter: Laura Moore

- Welcome
- Percentage of board members who've contributed some or all of their pledge: 85%
- Approval of January 2026 meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve – [Lisa-Anne Williams](#)
 - Second – [Casey Pollock](#)
 - January 2026 minutes unanimously approved

Financial Report

Presenter: Ashley Taylor

- Bank Balance as of 01/31/2026: \$27,925.98
- Schwab Balance as of 01/31/2026: \$161,486.50
- Total Cash: \$189,412.48
- Total Donations in January: \$11,909.46
 - EW Process: \$1,000
 - Lake Wylie/Clover Mayday: \$5,000
 - Morton & Gettys: \$1,000
 - Omega Communications: \$2,000
- Endowment Balance 01/31/2026: \$
- ROR
 - Credits Spent: \$1,752.65
 - ROR Credits Earned as Income: \$2,668.69
 - ROR Credits Remaining: \$21,224.26
- Net Income as of 01/31/2026: (\$11,608.38)

Programs Report

Presenter: Niki Bush

- Reach Out and Read: Tri-County asked about reporting and stats, so all is good for now

David Lisk: We have the Healthy Steps program in these offices; we can meet to strategize with management if needed

Rachel Hui-Hubbard: Isabel proposed a meeting with local administration about the ROR program; clearly they don't have all of the details

DL : We have 2 Healthy Steps specialists in those clinics that we can leverage – Haley Allen (Rock Hill location) and Emerson Shephard (York location). Emerson is a MSW student at Winthrop.

- Books for Baby Bumps: Adding this new mom booklet to the prenatal bags:
<https://www.charlieskids.org/booklet>
- Preschool Storytime with York County Library was cancelled due to inclement weather

Executive Director Report

Presenter: Rachel Hui-Hubbard

- New partnership with Palmetto Women's Center for Books For Baby Bumps
- City and County ATax grant – not a good fit at this time
- Race sponsorship meetings

Workgroup Reports

- Strategic Plan (Laura, Daniel, Lisa-Anne)

Lisa-Anne Williams: We have reviewed the previous strategic plan and outlined a new plan. We're incorporating new program outlets and continuing to have a variety of avenues to distribute books. We're hoping to have a draft ready by the April meeting for approval in May.

- Fundraising (Judy, Dawn, Erin)
 - Inclement weather stalled restaurant fundraising campaign
 - Ready, Set, Read: ELP's Derby Dash

Judy Frothingham: Derby Dash event set for May 2nd. Strictly Running is on board and will handle the race organization and mapping. There will be two race options:

- 5K
- 1.25 mile fun run (derby length)

Rachel is working with local 4H for a hobby horse run for kids. We are meeting with Hoppin' tomorrow to plan the reception– the race will start and finish there. We are working with local businesses to secure sponsors; we need about \$3500 more in sponsorship to cover the cost of the race. Erin is working on graphics and a sign-up website for the run.

We'll send everything to the board when ready so please look for that and pass it on accordingly. We will also need some volunteers on the day of the race

- In The Know (Lisa-Anne Williams)
 - How our local impact correlates to national trends in literacy

LAW: A significant number of students not on reading level; at-risk groups have the biggest gaps – students who are already struggling are falling farther behind. The latest national assessment shows that 69% of 4th graders are not on reading level. Students need support and preparation for kindergarten (that's where ELP comes in).

Local challenges: new programs (must be evidence based), lack of teacher training, inconsistent programming, teachers are generalized and are not subject matter experts

Long-term effects: Kids don't read for fun, reading positively affects mental wellbeing (so decline means worsening mental health), brain development and reading challenges – differences in brain development start showing at 18 mos., gap continues to widen as children approach school age

ELP is supporting skills that have declined over generations; fixing the problem is expensive for schools and communities – having resources that promote school readiness help.

Cindy Taubenkimmel: In 1997, Rob Reiner had a campaign called “I am Your Child” – what’s coming back around now is the brain research of children that have been exposed vs. kids who have not; that campaign did some good research.

JF: These statistics really resonate; people may know its declining, but do they know to what degree?

For Your Calendars:

- Next ELP board meeting will be via Zoom: Wednesday 3/18/26 at 8:30am