

Launchpad Academy

June Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Date: June 8th, 2026

Location: Virtual

Attendees:

Randolph Robert - President/Chair

Jennifer Ramsey - Treasurer

Ashley Espinosa - Secretary

1. Opening & Governance

President Robert called the meeting to order.

The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the prior meeting minutes.

Motions:

- Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by Ramsey, seconded by Espinosa. Approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Moved by Espinosa, seconded by Ramsey. Approved unanimously.

President Robert offered an opening prayer.

Action Items: None.

2. Officer Reports - President

President Robert provided an operational and program update.

Open Gym Program Update:

- The Board discussed whether Open Gym should continue as an active Launchpad Academy program in its current form.
- Open Gym is expected to pause during the summer while the facility is unavailable.
- The Board discussed allowing interested families or community members to continue informal gatherings independently during or after the pause.
- Launchpad Academy will place greater organizational focus on Venture Labs and more structured educational programming.

Organizational Direction:

- The Board discussed shifting Venture Labs toward an online-first model to make the program

accessible to students regardless of location.

- A dedicated physical facility is not expected to be a near-term priority.
- Hands-on activities may be supported by mailing project kits or supplies directly to participating students.

Board Development:

- The Board discussed expanding Board membership and identifying additional individuals who could contribute technical, educational, or community experience.
- The Board agreed that future meetings should follow a more consistent schedule.

Action Items:

- Identify potential additional Board members.
- Establish a more consistent Board meeting schedule.
- Continue evaluating the long-term role of Open Gym within Launchpad Academy.

3. Venture Labs Program Development

The Board discussed making Venture Labs the primary program focus for Launchpad Academy and refining its educational structure.

Three-Phase Educational Model:

The Board discussed continuing development of a three-phase pathway:

1. Discovery

- Introduce students to emerging technologies, engineering, programming, entrepreneurship, and other technical subjects.
- Allow students to explore different areas through structured missions and projects.

2. Mastery

- Help students develop deeper technical and practical skills in areas of demonstrated interest.
- Provide increasingly challenging projects that build on earlier missions and experience.

3. Launch

- Help students apply their skills through real-world projects, entrepreneurship, mentorship, career exploration, or other practical pathways.

AI-First Curriculum:

- The Board discussed making artificial intelligence a central component of the initial Venture Labs curriculum.
- Potential early missions include brainstorming ideas with AI, building websites or simple software projects, introductory programming, and physical computing.

- Later missions may incorporate microcontrollers, sensors, electronics, and more advanced hardware and software projects.
- The program is intended to teach students to use AI as a practical tool while continuing to develop independent technical and problem-solving skills.

Online Learning Platform:

President Robert proposed developing an initial Venture Labs online platform. Potential features discussed include:

- Student accounts and dashboards.
- Weekly instructional videos.
- Structured missions and assignments.
- An AI-based learning mentor.
- Moderated student communication and collaboration.
- Project instructions and supporting resources.
- Use of external development tools for programming and hardware work rather than recreating those tools within the platform.
- Appropriate safeguards, supervision, and moderation for student-facing online and AI features.

Educational Kits:

- Physical kits may accompany selected Venture Labs missions.
- Initial hardware topics may include microcontrollers, sensors, electronics, and physical computing.
- Students would receive instructions through the Venture Labs platform and use appropriate external development tools to complete projects.

Comparable Programs:

- The Board discussed existing project-based STEM programs and educational kits as references for Venture Labs development.
- Venture Labs would seek to differentiate itself through community, mentorship, AI-assisted learning, and progressive technical missions.
- The Board agreed that existing educational resources should be evaluated before developing material that is already widely available.

Community & Student Recruitment:

Potential outreach channels discussed include:

- Homeschool communities.
- STEM clubs and community organizations.
- Existing educational groups.
- Partnerships with engineers, mentors, and technical professionals.

The Board discussed maintaining an accessible program model while developing a sustainable funding structure. No final pricing decision was made.

MVP Development:

- President Robert will develop an initial minimum viable version of the Venture Labs platform.
- Espinosa agreed to assist with testing the platform across available devices once an initial version is ready.

Action Items:

- Robert to develop the initial Venture Labs platform MVP.
- Espinosa to test the MVP and provide usability feedback.
- Develop the initial sequence of AI and technical missions.
- Define the first set of physical kits and required materials.
- Evaluate safeguards and moderation requirements for student accounts and AI tools.
- Identify potential community partners, mentors, and outreach channels.
- Continue evaluating comparable STEM education programs and resources.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ramsey presented the financial reports for April and May 2026.

April 2026 Summary

Beginning Balance: \$63.19

Incoming Funds: \$0.00

Expenses: \$8.99

- Google Workspace subscription

Ending Balance: \$54.20

May 2026 Summary

Beginning Balance: \$54.20

Incoming Funds: \$75.85

Expenses: \$108.99

- Facility expense related to the prior Open Gym period: \$100.00
- Google Workspace subscription: \$8.99

Ending Balance: \$21.06

Current Balance

- The Treasurer reported that the current account balance was approximately \$12.07 at the time of the meeting.
- The Board discussed maintaining sufficient funds to cover recurring organizational expenses while Venture Labs is developed.

Action Items:

- Continue monitoring organizational cash flow.
- Ensure sufficient funds are available for recurring expenses.
- Continue developing a sustainable funding model for Venture Labs.

5. Next Meeting

- The Board agreed that meetings should resume on a more consistent schedule.
- The next meeting date was not established during the meeting.
- The Board expects to review progress on the Venture Labs MVP, curriculum development, Board expansion, and program outreach at an upcoming meeting.

6. Closing

President Robert moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motions:

- Motion to adjourn. Moved by Robert, seconded by Ramsey. Approved unanimously.

President Robert offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ashley Espinosa

Secretary

Date: August 23, 2026 ET

Accepted by:

Randolph Robert

President/Chair

Date: August 22, 2026 ET