

Launchpad Academy

August Meeting

Sunday, August 23, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Date: August 23, 2026

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Randy Robert - President/Chair

Jennifer Ramsey - Treasurer

Ashley Espinosa - Secretary

1. Opening & Governance

President Robert called the meeting to order. With all three board members present, quorum was confirmed. Robert offered an opening prayer, asking for guidance to keep pushing forward and to give students access to new tools and ways of thinking. The agenda was presented, with the primary focus identified as the Launchpad online platform, testing it ahead of launch, and standing up this year's curriculum.

Motions:

- Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Moved by Espinosa, seconded by Ramsey. Approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve the prior (June) meeting minutes. Moved by Robert, seconded by Espinosa. Approved unanimously. (Ramsey noted she had not yet reviewed them but was comfortable approving; July was not held.)

Action Items: None.

2. Officer Reports - President

President Robert provided an operational update:

Launchpad Platform

- Robert reported he had built the MVP of a new AI-first Launchpad Academy platform, described as a major milestone and the foundation of the organization's online-first direction.
- Students can build projects using AI models (Claude and OpenAI), generate pictures and other media, and use text-to-speech (ElevenLabs) with selectable voices, all in one place.
- The platform supports automated texts and emails, class feeds, human help, and the ability to launch weekly meetings and classes with assigned roles.
- The platform includes monitoring and content safeguards that flag or block inappropriate input.
- Members were shown how to log ideas (light bulb icon) and report bugs (bug icon with screenshot), which the AI screens for validity before work begins.

Curriculum / Launch Readiness

- The curriculum is essentially ready to begin at any time; September is the likely start.
- Robert noted AI capability has advanced such that the Arduino IDE step (writing C/C++ to program microprocessors) is no longer required, as Claude can program a connected microprocessor directly; the lesson's future treatment is [to confirm].

Recruiting / Students

- The primary current constraint is enrolling students and testers. Robert asked members to test the platform and recruit additional testers.

Board Operations

- The board is streamlining operations, moving meeting notifications, reminders, agendas, minutes, and signatures into the board portal to reduce overhead.
- Robert noted the need to grow the board with additional directors.

Action Items:

- All board members: test the new platform over the next two weeks and submit tickets via the idea and bug icons.
- Board: identify and propose candidates for additional board seats.
- Board: continue the Open Gym / in-person programming direction discussion.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ramsey presented the June and July financial reports:

June Summary

- Beginning Balance: \$21.06
- Incoming Funds: \$94.56 (donations)
- Expenses: \$85.90
 - o OpenAI, ElevenLabs, and Anthropic (platform/website services)
- Ending Balance (reported): \$27.72

July Summary

- Beginning Balance: \$27.72
- Incoming Funds: \$0 (no donations)
- Expenses: \$38.40 plus a \$3.00 service charge
- Ending Balance (reported): -\$13.68

Notes

- Expenses reflected the same recurring website and Zoom services.
- Robert made a donation the prior day to return the account to a positive balance.
- Robert noted he had signed up for TechSoup, which offers nonprofit discounts.
- The board discussed whether to publish financials publicly; the consensus was to hold off for now and revisit later.

- Robert recommended linking Ramsey's official Launchpad email/account to keep organizational and personal matters separate; Ramsey agreed to link the Launchpad account.

Action Items:

- Ramsey: link her Launchpad account/email as discussed.

4. New Business

Board Recruitment

- Robert noted a strong desire to recruit an independent board member.
- Prior outreach to a community center operator did not yield strong interest; members agreed to keep potential candidates in mind, ideally individuals with strong operational input, fundraising experience, or grant knowledge.

Venture Labs / Curriculum

- Robert proposed preparing the platform for dry runs, potentially coordinating a beta cohort with Espinosa's and Ramsey's families over the coming weeks.
- The envisioned model is scheduled online sessions (e.g., a weekly time) led by an instructor.
- Interested families were noted, including one parent seeking a curriculum-focused program for five children.

In-Person Programming (Open Gym)

- The board discussed whether to drop or restructure Open Gym, noting it is no longer serving its intended purpose, attendance has narrowed to the same few children, and equipment has been outgrown.
- Contributing factors included the prior year's shortfall in donations, which limited equipment upgrades, and broader economic pressure on local businesses.
- Options discussed included shifting to an after-school time to reach traditionally schooled children, and focusing fundraising on grants and businesses seeking tax advantages.
- Espinosa shared observations from a Virginia homeschool co-op that grew from two founders to twenty-eight members, operating twice monthly with parent-led classes, a \$75 family fee plus background checks, and \$20 per student over age three, as a possible model for low-cost, sustainable growth.

Action Items:

- Espinosa: gather additional information from the co-op on their operating and funding model.
- Board: continue discussion on the future of Open Gym and the in-person component.

5. Next Meeting

Next board meeting to be scheduled before the platform goes live; date and time [to confirm], to be coordinated offline.

6. Closing

Robert asked whether members had additional items; none were raised.

Motions:

- Motion to end the meeting. Moved by Espinosa, seconded by Ramsey. Approved.

Robert offered a closing prayer, giving thanks for the opportunity to build something impactful for the children's future and asking for wisdom and alignment with God's will. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ashley Espinosa

Ashley Espinosa, Secretary

Date: August 26, 2026 ET

Accepted by:

Randy Robert

Randy Robert, President/Chair

Date: August 24, 2026 ET