

City Swim Project/Buffalo Tide
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 15, 2026

Attendees: Mike Telesco, Mike Switalski, Charisse Freeman, Kristy Russell, Rick Marable, Rich Bleichfeld, Dennis Wilson, Jean Lalomia.

Absent: Nekia Davis, Yvonne DuBois, Barrett Erbe, Annetta Jackson.

The Executive Board Meeting of the City Swim Project/Buffalo Tide was called to order at 6:04 PM on Thursday, January 15, 2026 via Zoom conference, Buffalo, New York.

- 1) Call to Order. 6:04 PM.
- 2) Roll Call.
- 3) Approval of January 15, 2026 Agenda.
 - a) Motion: To approve. Rick M. Second: Rich B. Approved.
- 4) Approval of Minutes for November 20, 2025.
 - a) Motion: To approve the November Minutes: Rich B. Second: Kristy R. Approved.
- 5) Financial Report. Mike S.
 - a) \$169,415.80 Balance (01/10/2026).
 - b) Budget sheet shared with Board. Very helpful.
 - c) Submissions to the City of Buffalo being done early. Should aid the process.
 - d) The search for grants? Ongoing. New grants are being researched and pursued (6+). Grant websites used and criteria evaluated to select those for possible successful applications.
 - e) One grant is a concern. NYS red tape is holding up these monies.
- 6) Membership. Mike S.
 - a) Report. Mainly positive, however some potential concerns.
 - 1) Household income edging up.
 - 2) 82% down to 75% for our low-income families. Watching this.
 - 3) The diversity in the program is expanding. Asian, Hispanic/Latino, and Multi Racial numbers (populations) are increasing.
 - 4) African American numbers are essentially unchanged, thus yielding a drop in the percentage.
 - 5) 66 Active members. Comparing with last year, this is an increase.
 - 6) Challenge - delay in DESSA-mini notification to club by Chapin Hall (evaluates our academic component). As information/updates are needed weekly (Thursdays), Chapin Hall is working with us to supply us with what we need, when we need it. This will resolve the problem.
 - 7) Marketing? Juneteenth is important. It impacts our ability to serve our targeted population. We will be there this year.
- 7) Board Member Certifications Needed. Mike T.
 - b) Please update required certifications/trainings as necessary. Mike S will email for reminders.
- 8) Old Business. None.
- 9) New Business. Mike S.
 - a) Cullen evaluation. Excellent. Results provided.
 - b) Erie Community College. Mike S is to meet with an attorney/Board Member about their pool use. Hopeful.
 - c) New Mayor and Council Members. Meetings are planned to discuss pools and how numbers are presented in reports. Mike S is lobbying for precision and reality in their presentation. The hope is that the mechanics and the staffing issues will be prioritized.

- d) Trying to set a meeting with the BPS Superintendent.
 - e) Gala proposal to be prioritized.
 - f) Jocelyn G is able to return to the Board. Welcome back!
 - g) Motion: To go into closed session. Jean L. Second: Rick M. Approved.
Motion: To return from closed session: Rich B. Second: Rick M. Approved.
- 10) Adjournment.
Motion: Rich B. Second: Rick M. Approved. 6:40 PM

Next Meeting: To be decided.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted: Jean Lalomia