

Meeting Minutes

Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, June 19, 2025



Attendees

Board: Lina Amador, Camilo Amezcuita, Evelyn Angelle, Kimberly Barta, Tracy Beam, Juliet Breeze, Ryan Bucholtz, Sue Burnett, Bob Franklin, Jarin Hansen, Jonathan Haguewood, Richard Heo, Joe Kelly, Elizabeth Killinger, John Lionberger, Guillermo Martinez, Michele McNichol, Jeff Miers, Bruce Miller, Niloufar Molavi, Mark Odom, Jamie Pierce, Roland Sauermann, Laura Tibodeau, Greg Vesey, Carol Warley, Nathan Wiker,

Staff: Camila Aguiar, Courtney Azuiké, Joe Burke, Ne’Cole Caldwell, Becky Coulter, Jennifer Craig, Carla Crowe, Tania Daniel, Monica Espinosa, De Jones, Patty Lalonde, Cecily Messer, Tiffany Spates, Karen St. Fort

Guests: Frank Angelle, Jeanette Beltran, Hal Borland, Andrez Carberry, Liliana Cruz, Pete DeLongchamps, Nan Franklin, Daron Houston, Darryl Kenningham, Liz Townsend, and University of Houston Students: Neveah Macon, Abigail Phan, Kaitlyn Chung, Sophia Le, Heriberto Ferrer, and Maanasa Muralidharan

Chairwoman Niloufar Molavi called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She introduced Daryl Kenningham, President & CEO of Group 1 Automotive. Mr. Kenningham welcomed the attendees and provided an informative introduction to Group 1 Automotive’s work and its commitment to the community.

Niloufar opened the floor for questions or comments on the minutes from the February 27, 2025 meeting and the May 31, 2025 financials, which were sent in the pre-read email. There being no questions, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Vesey motioned to approve. Juliet Breeze seconded. Motion carried.

Niloufar opened the floor for questions or comments to the proposed changes to the bylaws. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve. Joe Kelly motioned to approve. Evelyn Angelle seconded. Motion carried.

Niloufar introduced Juliet Breeze to give the Nominations Report. Juliet reported six resignations.

- Damon Echevarria, Chevron
- Kola Fagbayi, BP
- Michael McMurray, LyondellBasell
- Curtis Null, Conroe ISD
- Sandra Oliver, EY
- Tony Saucedo, Bowles Womack & Co.

Juliet presented the committee’s recommendations for new board members.

- Andrez Carberry, Phillips 66
- Dan Castleberry, Regions Bank
- Charlie Geer, Halliburton
- Tracie Griffitt, Worley
- Jonathan Haguewood, Expand Energy
- Daron Houston, EY



- Laura Parkan, Air Liquide
- Liz Townsend, Austin Allen

Juliet called for a motion to approve. Tracey Beam motioned to approve the slate of nominees. Greg Vesey seconded. Motion carried.

Juliet shared nominations for officers and new members of the Executive Committee.

- Michele McNichol, Arion - Chair
- Mark Lashier, Phillips 66 - Vice-Chair
- Bob Franklin, Stellar Bank - New Member
- Jeff Miers, Amazon Web Services - New Member

Juliet called for a motion to approve. Greg Vesey motion to approve the members. Tracy Beam seconded. Motion carried.

Juliet presented a slate of Executive Committee member renewals:

Lina Amador	Elizabeth Killinger	Frank Steininger
Evelyn Angelle	Mark Lashier	Larry Stephens
Duke Austin	Bruce Macklin "Emeritus"	Bill Swanstrom
Juliet Breeze	Janette Marx	Bret VanderVoort
Ryan Bucholtz	Michele McNichol	Greg Vesey
Darin Carroll	Bruce Miller	Carol Warley
Greg Ebel	Niloufar Molavi	Melinda Yee
Joe Kelly		Deanna Young

Juliet called for a motion to approve. Sue Burnett motioned to approve the renewals. Greg Vesey seconded. Motion carried.

Juliet presented a slate of board members up for three-year renewals.

Tracy Beam	Keven Dunphy	Colin Obeirne	Bill Swanstrom
Danny Brown	Larry Franco	Kathy Pritchard	Kevin Syphard
Darin Carroll	Greg Garland - Emeritus	Lees Rodionov	Laura Tibodeau
Albert Chao	Mewael Ghebremichael	Kevin Syphard	Laura Whitley
Joe Connelly	Drew Horn	Frank Steininger	Clint Woods
Bradley Dodson	Joel Lambert	Larry Stephens	Melinda Yee
Adam Drutz	Guillermo Martinez	Dave Stover	

Juliet called for a motion to approve. Sue Burnett motioned to approve the renewals. Greg Vesey seconded. Motion carried.

Niloufar called on Joe Burke to present the 2025/2026 Budget. The proposed budget has been reviewed by the Executive Committee, who are recommending approval. Joe noted that there are some stretch revenue goals, but feels they are attainable. He also noted modest inflationary expenses adjustments. As we are not yet in the new facility, CBRE provided invaluable information for estimated operating expenses.

Niloufar called for a motion to approve. Bruce Macklin motioned to approve the 2025/2026 budget. Frank Steininger seconded. Motion carried.

Niloufar introduced Ne’Cole Caldwell to welcome the 3DE-University of Houston Bauer College of Business Panel. This year, JA partnered with UH on a consultancy project centered round the 3DE instructional model. The students shared their experiences and answered questions from board members. Students participating in the discussion were Neveah Macon, Abigail Phan, Kaitlyn Chung, Sophia Le, Heriberto Ferrer, and Maanasa Muralidharan.

Niloufar introduced Evelyn Angelle to provide an update on the Phillips 66 | JA Discovery Center. Evelyn reported the following:

- Funds raised to-date - \$23,021,740
- Expenses incurred to-date - \$9,693,447
- Project Milestones
 - 2/3/25 – construction commenced
 - 3/27/25 groundbreaking ceremony
 - 11/20//25 – anticipated substantial completion
 - 12/3/25 – anticipated move-in date
 - TBD – grand opening celebration

Niloufar introduced Jennifer Craig to provide an update on Discovery Center sponsorships to-date. Jennifer shared that of the 33 storefronts, there are 15 remaining to be sponsored. Conversations are ongoing with 8 companies for potential sponsorships. There are opportunities to diversify the industries present in the facility. She will send a list of industry opportunities to members.

Niloufar then introduced Courtney Azuik and Cecily Messer to share the annual board awards. These awards honor individuals who continue to provide substantial levels of leadership and support for the students JA serves.

Free Enterprise Society Awards - This award honors those who demonstrate an incredible to the JA mission. They have personally contributed \$10,000+ through the annual board campaign, the capital campaign, or a combination of both. Honorees were:

Lina Amador & Hal Borland	Gail & Greg Garland	Christine & Colin O’Beirne
Evelyn & Frank Angelle	Emilie & Richard Heo	Mary Ellen & Scott Prochazka
Sanette & Duke Austin	Michelle & Joe Kelly	Lees & Peter Rodionov
Juliet & Scott Breeze	Sarah & Joel Lambert	Karen & Frank Steininger

Kim & Danny Brown	Laurie & Mark Lashier	Kathleen & Dave Stover
Anne & Albert Chao	Mary Jane & Bruce Macklin	Janet & Bill Swanstrom
Terri & Greg Ebel	Janette & Jeff Marx	Karla & Greg Vesey
Valerie & Greg Engel	Michele McNichol	Carol & John Warley
Nan & Bob Franklin	Niloufar & Amir Molavi	Melinda Yee

Building Tomorrows Campaign Awards – This award recognizes board members who have graciously supported the Phillis 66 JA Discovery Center. Honorees were:

Lina Amador & Hal Borland	Terri & Greg Ebel	Laurie & Mark Lashier	Lees & Peter Rodionov
Evelyn & Frank Angelle	Valerie & Greg Engel	Lehne Family Foundation	Kristen & David Skinner
Juliet & Scott Breeze	Nan & Bob Franklin	John E. Lionberger	Karen & Frank Steininger
Kim & Danny Brown	Gail & Greg Garland	Mary Jane & Bruce Macklin	Larry Stephens
Emily & Deric Bryant	Kristi & Jarin Hansen	Janette & Jeff Marx	Kathleen & Dave Stover
Kim & Joe Burke	Georganne Hodges	Michele McNichol	Janet & Bill Swanstrom
Sue & Rusty Burnett	De & Ace Jones	Amy & Jeff Miers	Marc Vandermeer
Gretchen & Darin Carroll	Robbie & George Jones	Niloufar & Amir Molavi	Camille & Bret Vandervoort
Anne & Albert Chao	Michelle & Joe Kelly	Christine & Colin O’Beirne	Karla & Greg Vesey
Family of Joe Connelly	Elizabeth Killinger	Jamie Pierce	Carol & John Warley
Marie & Bradley Dodson	Holli & Shaheen Ladhani	Kathy L. Pritchard	Melinda Yee
Adam Drutz	Sarah & Joel Lambert	Mary Ellen & Scott Prochazka	Deanna Young & Stephen Luna

Board Leadership Awards – JA USA annually honors exemplary JA Area board members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the organization. Three JASET board members were recognized:

- Lina Amador – Bronze Award
- Camilo Amezcua – Bronze Award
- Niloufar Molavi – Gold Award

Niloufar then called on De Jones to introduce the Experiential Learning Center (ELC) Panel. ELC team members Monica Espinosa, Patty Lolonde, Tiffany Spates, and Karen St. Fort shared their experiences and those of the thousands of students who participate in BizTown and Finance Park each year. Each shared impactful stories of the students' experiences and expressed their optimism and excitement of the new facility.

Niloufar asked Joe to present a year-end summary and state of the organization. Joe shared several accomplishments for the year.

- Hosted a statewide conference of JA Area associates from Texas and Louisiana
- Raised an additional \$2M for the capital campaign – thanks to Evelyn, the campaign cabinet and the generosity of so many stakeholders
- Broke ground on the Phillips 66 | JA Discovery Center
- Piloted a revamped JA BizTown simulation
- Began redesigning JA Finance Park to include a career component
- Hosted a board strategy session with JA USA CEO, Jack Harris. The board provided input to the overall strategic direction for JA USA.
- Graduated our second class of 3DE students at Austin High School and first class at Waltrip High School.

Joe thanked members for their commitment to the mission. He then welcomed Niloufar to join him. He thanked her for her 2 years of service as board chair and her continued support. Niloufar was presented with a gift in appreciation for her service.

Niloufar shared her excitement for the future of the organization. She thanked board members and staff for the work to get the organization to where it is today. She will continue serving on the Houston board and bring back information from JAUSA to further the progress of the Southeast area. She then welcomed Michele McNichol to the front of the room. She acknowledged and thanked her for her service and officially “turned over the gavel”.

Michele shared her appreciation to the board for their confidence in her to lead the organization during this transformational time. She outlined her goals and expressed enthusiasm for the future.

Michele reminded everyone that the next board meeting will be Thursday, September 18th from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and will be held at the 2925 Briarpark Dr. location. Additionally, she reminded members of the Hall of Achievement to be held October 30th – encouraging members to sponsor, purchase tickets, and invite guests.

Prior to adjournment, a video presented along with The Beatles “Hello, Goodbye” was played to commemorate the 25 years of JA BizTown and launch the organization into the future.

Michele adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Recorded by: Jennifer Craig

Respectfully submitted: William Swanstrom, Secretary