



APPROVED MINUTES

Carolina Achieve BOD Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025 | 05:00 PM EST
Virtual: [Carolina Achieve Public Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Charles Lopez, John Oxaal, Thomas Nechyba, Tiffany Alrefae, Anjanette Miller, MaKayla Booker-Johnson
Absent: Jeff Clark
Guests: Trip Cogburn, Head of School, Brandon Mitchell, Operations
A quorum was present.

NOTICE

Notice was provided. A waiver of notice is not included.

- 1) John Oxaal called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.
- 2) Charles Lopez read the Carolina Achieve Mission Statement: Carolina Achieve prepares K-12th-grade students to achieve their scholastic, personal, and professional goals through a learner-centered educational program focusing on a strong academic foundation, Habits of Success (entrepreneurial skills), well-being, and a Home-School partnership.
- 3) Approve Agenda - Thomas Nechyba made a motion to approve, Anjanette Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Approve August Meeting Minutes - John Oxaal made a motion to approve. Tiffany Alrefae seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) Approve September Special Meeting Minutes - John Oxaal made a motion to approve. Anjanette Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Construction & School Opening Update - Trip Cogburn began the discussion by stating that they had a great first day of school, especially the Kindergarten students. Trip Cogburn noted that they will continue to work on improving the pick-up line situation. It was noted that some hiccups were expected, but that they will continue to be worked on during the rest of the week. Thomas Nechyba asked Trip Cogburn about what makes a great pick-up line. Trip Cogburn replied with "Safety and Efficiency". Currently, Trip Cogburn acknowledges that we are safe but not efficient. However, it was overall a great first day of school.
Trip Cogburn added that Duke Energy was on-site working on the lights for nighttime. Thomas Nechyba asked Trip Cogburn about student enrollment as of today, to which Trip Cogburn replied that 111 were in attendance. Tiffany Alrefae added that we reached out to our Marketing team to continue promoting that we are still accepting applications.
- 7) NSLP Update - Trip Cogburn updated the Board by noting that there were 42 kids in breakfast this morning, the first day of school, and just over 50 for lunch. K&W delivered on time for lunch and will be providing breakfast tomorrow. Trip Cogburn added that

there has been slow communication between information systems. Charter School Success was a valuable support in recording who was eating today. Trip Cogburn was impressed with the substantial and well-presented food offering. John Oxaal added that there was a \$56,000 set-up fee for Vertex. John Oxaal noted that he was able to escalate the situation to a Vice President at Vertex, where they agreed to spread the fee over a couple of years instead of one payment.

- 8) Finance Update – John Oxaal noted that, going forward, we will hold an advisory committee meeting with Charter Success Partners an hour before the Board Meeting to ensure the committee is prepared. Adding that Charter Success Partners has a good process that we will follow with them as we get to identify where the spending is. This process will include bank reconciliation and also cash review. John Oxaal added that it is hard to put a budget together when we do not know the final ADM. John Oxaal noted that MaKayla Booker-Johnson, Anjannete Miller, John Oxaal, and Jefl Clark are on the Audit Committee. Thomas Nechyba asked a question about the other committees. Thomas Nechyba reminded the Board that the different committees are listed within the charter. John Oxaal noted that he will get that to the Board at the next meeting.
- 9) Calendar of Upcoming Events - Trip Cogburn mentioned that the first PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15th, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Additionally, Parent Partnership days are coming up. Math Growth testing is the week of September 22nd, 2025. Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony. More information will come as they are made available.
- 10) Charles Lopez reminded the board that the next Board Meeting date is October 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM
- 11) John Oxaal made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Anjanette Miller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m

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