



PRE-APPROVED MINUTES

Carolina Achieve BOD Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2026 | 06:00 PM EST

Virtual: [Carolina Achieve Public Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Charles Lopez, John Oxaal, Anjanette Miller, MaKayla Booker-Johnson, Jeff Clark, Tiffany Alrefae, Thomas Nechyba

Absent: None, all were present

Guests: Trip Cogburn, Head of School

A quorum was present.

NOTICE

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

- 1) John Oxaal called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 the agenda, and Jeff Clark seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Approve February Meeting Minutes - Jeff Clark made a motion to approve, and Thomas Nechyba seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) Construction Update (Next Phase) - Trip Cogburn reported that the fence contractor returned to install additional fencing as part of the ongoing site improvements. John Oxaal stated that Hubrich Construction intends to begin the next phase of the building project on schedule. John Oxaal further reported that he met with the project architect to discuss plans to accommodate six classes of approximately 100 students each and to construct a separate gymnasium. John Oxaal noted that the architect will provide a design and model of the next building within the next few weeks. Jeff Clark stated that financial projections indicate the school could support facilities serving up to sixth grade with approximately 100 students per grade within two years. Jeff Clark explained that this plan would include a three-module structure for the younger grades, an additional structure to support expansion through sixth grade, and a gymnasium. Jeff Clark added that the gymnasium could potentially be funded through donations and a municipal bond. John Oxaal noted that adding a gymnasium would benefit marketing and student recruitment efforts. Trip Cogburn concluded by recognizing Steve Hubrich of Hubrich Construction for providing the educational team the opportunity to meet with both Hubrich Construction representatives and the project architect to discuss the facility plans.

- 6) Recruitment, Admissions & Lottery Update: Trip Cogburn reported that the school has experienced strong enrollment interest, with 178 applications currently received for the upcoming school year, including 114 families who have accepted offered enrollment spots. Trip Cogburn noted that, at the same time last year, 90 students had accepted enrollment offers. Thomas Nechyba asked whether the accepted spots represented new or returning students. Trip Cogburn clarified that the acceptances reflect new student enrollments. Trip Cogburn further reported that responses to the Intent to Return process have been very positive, with only one family indicating plans to move out of the area. Trip Cogburn expressed confidence that the school will retain a high percentage of current students. Trip Cogburn also noted that recent social media advertisements through Media Integrations, along with a billboard along the interstate, have increased community awareness and interest in the school. Trip Cogburn added that additional on-site school signage will be installed soon to further support enrollment efforts.
- 7) Test Platform - This agenda item was discussed in the Academics Committee report below.
- 8) Committee Updates -
 - a. **Finance & Development Committee** - Jeff Clark reported that the Finance and Development Committee met prior to the Board meeting to review the school's current financial status and budget. Jeff Clark stated that the school is projecting a modest positive balance through June 30 and maintains a healthy cash position. Jeff Clark also reported that the school is awaiting reimbursement funds from both county and federal programs, including approximately \$300,000 owed by Orange County. Jeff Clark noted that Alamance County has been timely in its payments, while Orange County payments have been delayed. Jeff Clark further informed the Board that several grants were awarded in amounts exceeding the state-approved funding limit. Jeff Clark also reported that the Development team is currently supporting smaller initiatives, such as establishing a school garden, while continuing to focus on longer-term development priorities, including planning and funding for a future gymnasium.
 - b. **Academics Committee** - Thomas Nechyba reported that the testing report will be available in April, as the school is transitioning to a different testing platform. Thomas Nechyba noted that teachers preferred the new platform because it offers more frequent assessment opportunities and is available at no cost. Thomas Nechyba also stated that one limitation of the platform is that it requires additional time for teachers' administration. Trip Cogburn added that teachers recently presented a phonics-focused, science-of-reading instructional platform as a proven approach to strengthening early literacy instruction. John Oxaal expressed appreciation that teachers can make instructional recommendations and that those recommendations can be effectively reviewed by the administrative team and the Board.
 - c. **Nominating & Governance Committee:** John Oxaal reported that the school does not need an additional board member at this time.

9) Board Approval Required: Academic Calendar 2026-2027

- a. Trip Cogburn presented the proposed academic calendar for the 2026–2027 school year to the Board, noting that it closely aligns with the structure of the previous year’s calendar. Trip Cogburn reported that the first day of school is proposed for August 19, 2026, and the last day of school is proposed for June 4, 2027. Trip Cogburn further noted that North Carolina law requires 1,025 hours of instructional time. The proposed calendar includes 107 instructional days and a total of 1,044 instructional hours, along with three flex days and five remote learning days. Trip Cogburn added that the calendar was developed with input from both the educational team and parents.
- b. Thomas Nechyba made a motion to approve the Academic Calendar for 2026-2027 as presented. John Oxaal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10) Calendar of Upcoming Events: Trip Cogburn provided an update on upcoming school events. Trip Cogburn reported that the Scholastic Book Fair was held as part of the school’s Literacy Week activities. Trip Cogburn also noted that a Literacy Night was scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, with Cono Ice expected to be on site to support the event. Trip Cogburn further reported that Clarence Henderson is scheduled to speak at the school on March 11. Trip Cogburn noted that students are currently researching Clarence Henderson’s life and accomplishments in preparation for his visit. Trip Cogburn concluded by sharing that the school’s focus will transition to preparations for the Entrepreneurial Fair during the week of March 26.

11) Closed Session. A motion was made by John Oxaal and seconded by Jeff Clark to hold a closed meeting to discuss a personnel matter. After the closed session, the Board returned to the public forum for adjournment.

12) Quorum was present at the return from Closed Session. Charles Lopez reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on April 13th, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

13) Adjournment - Jeff Clark made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Anjannette Miller seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

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