



## **APPROVED MINUTES**

Carolina Achieve BOD Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026 | 05:00 PM EST

Virtual: [Carolina Achieve Public Meeting](#)

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

Absent: MaKayla Booker-Johnson

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 - John Oxaal motioned to approve the agenda; Thomas Nechyba seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Approve March Meeting Minutes - Thomas Nechyba motions to approve the minutes. Anjanette Miller seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) Construction Update (Next Phase) - Trip Cogburn reported that the playground is now complete and fully functional, with additional mulch added and benches repositioned. Regarding the soccer field, Trip Cogburn mentioned that while the area has been marked off, Hubrick Construction is expected to begin leveling and seeding with Bermuda grass soon, with the goal of making it suitable for middle school regulation games. Trip Cogburn also noted progress on the community garden, where cardboard and mulch have been applied to prepare the ground. Trip Cogburn reported no recent news on the completion of the model renderings despite expectations of drawings any day. Charles Lopez inquired about communication with Soccer.com and MYSA regarding the use of the soccer field, and Trip Cogburn shared that while he had previously contacted Soccer.com, MYSA had been unresponsive recently.
- 6) National School Lunch Program - John Oxaal explained issues with a company hired to administer the Program, which failed to provide promised reimbursements for meals for Title I children. After resolving the situation with help from the North Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools, the school now receives regular payments and is compliant with the program. Trip Cogburn praised the quality of meals provided by Orange County

Schools and highlighted the support from various staff members in managing the reimbursement process.

- 7) Recruitment, Admissions & Lottery Update: Trip Cogburn reported that Carolina Achieve has received 217 applications for next year, with 142 accepted and 103 registered, bringing enrollment projections close to their upside target of 300 students. Charles Lopez noted strong social media momentum in the community, particularly on the Mebane Community page, with many parents expressing interest in the charter school process. John Oxaal provided an update on the finance committee meeting, indicating that bank reconciliations were accurate and the budget projected a slight surplus for the year, which would help build a financial cushion for potential state payment delays.
- 8) Committee Updates -
  - a. **Finance & Development Committee** - John Oxaal reported a minor surplus for the first year and positive cash flows through the end of the year.
  - b. **Academics Committee** - Thomas and Trip reviewed academic performance data, noting that second-grade students are furthest behind in reading compared to math, with plans for additional reading support, including a summer reading camp.
  - c. **Nominating & Governance Committee:** Charles Lopez reported that he will meet with some experts in the field to discuss best practices in adding board members.
- 9) Calendar of Upcoming Events: Trip Cogburn noted that the Dogwood Festival is April 14th and 15th. Trip Cogburn also reported that May 1st is a Field Day. The Parent Teacher Association has scheduled the next fundraiser for May 9th at Buffalo Lanes.
- 10) Board Off-Site - John Oxaal noted that the Board Off-Site meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd, and will focus on entrepreneurial education and other issues. Alex Quigley will support the training session and will be on the agenda. with a 9:30 am start time.
- 11) Board Approval Required - Trip Cogburn reported to the Board that revisions are required to the policies below for the new school year.
  - i. Grievance Policy
  - ii. Employee Criminal History Policy
  - iii. Conflict of Interest and Nepotism Policy
  - b. A motion was made by Thomas Nechyba to approve the policies as stated, and seconded by John Oxaal. The motion passed unanimously.
- 12) Closed Session. A motion was made by Anjannette Miller and seconded by Thomas Nechyba to hold a closed meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Trip Cogburn presented job offers. Thomas Nechyba made a motion to approve the job offers, and John Oxaal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. After the closed session, the Board returned to the public forum for adjournment.
- 13) Quorum was present at the return from Closed Session. Charles Lopez reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on May 11th, 2026, at 5:00 PM.
- 14) Adjournment - John Oxaal made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Charles Lopez seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

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