



**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 12, 2026; 6:00 pm**

**I. Call to Order – 6:05 PM**

**II. Public Notice of Meeting/NJ Sunshine Law**

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on in accordance with N.J.S.A 10:4-6 et seq.

On the rules of this act, Achievers Early College Prep Charter School has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time, and place, of the regularly scheduled meeting in the Public Notice Section of the Star Ledger and Trenton Times and Posted at the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School located at 544 Chestnut Ave, Trenton NJ 08611. Formal action will take place at this meeting.

**III. Roll Call**

| Trustees             | Role (Term Expires)         | Present | Absent | LA/ED     |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| 1. Alescia Teel      | Trustee, (2/2029)           | x       |        |           |
| 2. Elizabeth Murphy  | Trustee, (8/4/2026)         | x       |        |           |
| 3. Larry Patton      | Trustee, (3/2026)           | x       |        | LA 6:16pm |
| 4. Imebet Stewart    | Trustee, President (3/2026) |         | x      |           |
| 5. Meredith Pennotti | Trustee (4/2026)            | x       |        |           |

**Also Present**

| Non-Voting        | Role  | Present | Absent | LA/ED     |
|-------------------|---|---------|--------|-----------|
| Nava Coppin       | Executive Director                              | x       |        |           |
| Joshua Solow      | SBA, School Business Office                     |         | x      |           |
| Elizabeth Neary   | Board Secretary, School Business Office         | x       |        |           |
| Michael Nicholson | Chief Operating Officer                         |         | x      |           |
| Hope Blackburn    | Board Attorney                                  | x       |        |           |
| Katheryne Ralph   | Director, Human Resources                       | x       |        |           |
| Yereilis Martinez | Student Representative to the Board of Trustees | x       |        | LA 6:30pm |

**IV. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda**

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the Agenda for the **February 12, 2026**, meeting.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 1      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        |     |    |         | x      |
| Elizabeth Murphy |        | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti | 2      | x   |    |         |        |

**V. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

Motion for Achievers Early College Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from the **January 8, 2026**, Regular Board meeting.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 2      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        |     |    |         | x      |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**VI. Trustee Reappointment**

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to reappoint **Imebet Stewart & Larry Patton** for an additional 3-year term, effective 3/1/2026 - 2/28/2029.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 1      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        |     |    |         | x      |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 2      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**VII. Public Comment - NONE**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

Liz Murphy gave an update from the finance committee meeting, referencing the school policies for approval, and noted that Josh provided an excellent and concise finance update. Meredith Pennotti gave Kudos to the business office, Josh and Liz, for the A+ audit report with zero findings.

**IX. Executive Director Report**

- Ms. Coppin mentioned that student MAP scores fell a bit, and the instructional response includes after school tutoring, leadership visits, and MLL professional development (Swirl) was held on Jan 20. She noted there are now ESL programs in both HS & MS and the school can hold a bilingual waiver for having a thriving ESL program.
- Meredith Pennotti asked about Chris Perpich and Ms. Coppin explained that he is an approved independent consultant not working though Brick.
- Ms. Ralph spoke about ongoing recruiting efforts. She also noted that five TCNJ teaching students have been on-site to observe with interest in becoming future teachers. She also shared details about the Achievers cheerleading team and a recent competition in south Jersey.
- Meredith Pennotti asked if the TCNJ students were doing formal observation hours, and Ms. Ralph explained that they are not allowed to do any teaching at all yet.
- Ms Miller gave an update for the MS, noting IXL increases and 2 students awarded for moving forward. She explained several upcoming events including Steam Tank Challenge with opportunities to meet with industry professionals, a Steam Fair on March 4, and a coffee chat for parents on February 26.
- Ms. Eley gave a update for the HS, noting that over 100 college acceptances have come in, among 25 students, and over \$4 million in scholarship money has been awarded.

**X. Motions for Approval**

**1. Finance**

- a. Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Report: To approve the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for January 2026, as per the attached. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(a), the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the secretary’s certification, and after review of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of January 2026, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the school’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- b. Bills List and Check Journal: To approve the bills list and check journal for the period January 9, 2026, to February 12, 2026.
- c. To approve reimbursement to Anna Tkatch for social studies poster competition supplies & shipping, in the amount of \$67.14, as attached.
- d. Amended FY26 Budget: To ratify the Amended FY26 Budget and its submission to the NJDOE.
- e. FY25 ACFR and AMR: To accept the FY25 ACFR and AMR with no findings or recommendations and their submission to the NJDOE.
- f. SEMI:  
 WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a charter school may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the school’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the **2026-2027** school year; and  
 WHEREAS, the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School Board of Trustees desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students in the **2026-2027** school year, and  
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Head of School to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Mercer an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the **2026-2027** school year.
- g. To approve the following payrolls:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| January 15, 2026 | \$191,225.67 |
| January 31, 2026 | \$198,176.88 |

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      | 2      | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy |        | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti | 1      | x   |    |         |        |

**2. Contracts**

- a. To approve/ratify the contract with **Peter B. Fallon, Esq.** for legal services, hourly rate \$210, NTE \$5,500, as attached.

-Hope Blackburn briefly explained this is related to an ongoing investigation.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 2      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**3. Building & Grounds**

- a. To approve the quote from **Network Information Technologies** for Meraki Subscription Licensing for a 1-year term, in the amount of \$4,550, as attached.
- b. To approve the quote from **Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co.** for purchase & installation of the Keri Access System (key fobs) for the rear door at 520 Chestnut St, in the amount of \$3,895, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **Network Information Technologies** for the purchase and installation of Visiplex speakers in the modular classroom building, amount \$3,710, as attached.
- d. To approve the quote from **BDP Construction** for purchase and replacement of damaged fire/exit door hardware around campus, total amount of \$3,465, as attached.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 1      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      | 2      | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy |        | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**4. Personnel**

- a. To approve/ratify the rehire of **LeShannon Wright** as Part-Time Interim Chief Operations Officer, term date 1/26/26 through 6/30/26, hourly rate \$67.71, NTE 30 hours per week, as attached.
- b. To approve the following new hires for the 2025-2026 School Year, as attached:

| Term      | Employee Name  | Job Title            | FY26 Salary | FY26 Stipend(s) | Total Salary | Start Date |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Part-time | Christina Dunn | Part-Time Lunch Aide | \$18.90/hr. | None            | \$18.90/hr.  | 2/23/26    |
| 10-Month  | Ryan Lewis     | HS Dean of Students  | \$74,100    | None            | \$74,100     | TBD        |

- c. To approve/ratify the following employee participation in the Alternate Route Program via Achiever’s *Agreement for Substitute Teachers to Obtain Teaching Certification via Alternate Route Program*, fully funded by Achievers, up to a maximum of \$5,000, as attached.

| Staff Name        | College Name                | Program Start Date |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Laura Springsteen | Brookdale Community College | January 2026       |
| Evangeline Albert | Brookdale Community College | January 2026       |

- d. To approve payment for the following Alternate Route Program courses, as attached:

| Staff Name        | College                     | Course Code     | Course Dates      | Cost     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Richard Lee       | Brookdale Community College | XCTPP-006-JAP02 | 1/24/26 – 3/28/26 | \$715    |
| Laura Springsteen | Brookdale Community College | XCART-001-FEP01 | 2/14/26 – 4/11/26 | \$325    |
| Evangeline Albert | Brookdale Community College | XCTPP-001-JAP01 | 1/24/26 – 3/21/26 | \$396    |
| Obadiah Moore     | Brookdale Community College | XCTPP-003-JAP02 | 1/31/26 – 4/18/26 | \$768.50 |

- e. To approve/ratify the following disability leave of absence:

| Name      | Position                  | Leave Start Date | Job Protection Eligibility FMLA/NJFLA | Tentative Return Date |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| EE# xA046 | MS Social Studies Teacher | 1/12/26          | None                                  | 3/2/26                |

Alecia Teel requested that employee name be removed and employee number used instead.

- f. To appoint the following staff positions for the remaining 2025-2026 school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

| Position/Appointment        | Name            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| High School Principal       | Nava Coppin     |
| Title IX Compliance Officer | Katheryne Ralph |

- g. To approve the quote from **DAANJ - Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey** for Carl Berkley to attend the 2026 DAANJ Middle School Outreach program, in the amount of \$175, as attached.
- h. To approve the quote from **NJSchoolJobs.com** for staff attendance at virtual job fairs in February & April 2026, total amount \$1,078.20, as attached.

ROLL CALL vote

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 2      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy |        | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti | 1      | x   |    |         |        |

## 5. Curriculum/Special Education/Student Activities

- a. To approve the quote from **Imagine Learning** for Imagine EdgeEX with Edgenuity 6-12 Comprehensive Site License, one-year term, in the amount of \$19,290, as attached.
- b. To approve the quote from **Great Minds PBC** for Eureka Math Squared Grade 7 workbooks, in the amount of \$121.50, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **A Magical Event** for Middle School graduation stage & chair rentals, in the amount of \$ 2,882.65, as attached.
- d. To approve the quote from **SpoonyVision Studios, LLC** for Middle School graduation videography services on 6/11/26, in the amount of \$ 3,500, as attached.
- e. To approve the following student field trips, including round-trip bus transportation from **Sheppard Bus Service, Inc**, as attached:

| Date    | School                    | Trip Location                                  | Ticket Cost         | Transportation Cost | Total Trip Cost       |
|---------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 4/28/26 | MS, 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade | The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA       | \$1,280             | \$1,200             | <b><u>\$2,480</u></b> |
| 6/1/26  | MS, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade | Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, Allentown, PA | None (student paid) | \$2,270             | <b><u>\$2,270</u></b> |

- f. To approve the quote from **Student Transportation of America** for round-trip bus transportation for the following college visit, as attached:

| Date    | Location                              | Cost  |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 4/16/26 | Walnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA | \$672 |

- g. To approve student attendance at the **2026 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival** on 5/8/26 at Mercer County Community College, total cost \$1,688 including the following quotes/costs, as attached:

| Date   | Cost    |
|--|---------|
| Mercer County Teen Arts - registration fee                             | \$500   |
| Student Transportation of America, Inc – round trip bus transportation | \$1,188 |

- h. To approve/ratify the quotes for student refreshments at the following student events, as attached:

| Date    | Student Event                      | Vendor              | Cost    |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| 2/4/26  | High School Honor Roll Breakfast   | Ben’s Deli          | \$2,234 |
| 2/12/26 | Middle School Honor Roll Breakfast | Ben’s Deli          | \$1,914 |
| 2/12/26 | High School Valentines Dance       | Jerry’s Enterprises | \$569   |
| 2/27/26 | High School Black History Bazaar   | Essence’s Kitchen   | \$1,520 |

- i. To approve the quote from **Amazon** for Health Sciences curriculum supplies, in the amount of \$4,435.26, with requested reimbursement through the CSP grant, as attached.

-Alecia Teel applauded the rich variety of experiences for students and requested to participate in the Franklin Institute trip.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescía Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti | 2      | x   |    |         |        |

**6. Policy/Misc.**

- a. To approve renaming of the Curriculum/Special Education Committee to **Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support Committee**, and appoint the following members for the remaining 2025-2026 school year:

| Name              | Position    |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Larry Patton      | Chairperson |
| Meredith Pennotti | Member      |

- b. To approve the second and final reading of the following policies and regulations, as attached:

| Policy/Regulation # | Policy/Regulation Title | New/Revised                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Policy #2530        | Resource Materials      | Revised                             |
| Regulation #2530    | Resource Materials      | New                                 |
| Policy #2535        | Library Material        | New                                 |
| Regulation #2535    | Library Material        | New                                 |
| Policy #9130        | Public Complaints       | Revised                             |
| Regulation #9130    | Public Complaints       | New                                 |
| Policy #5339.01     | Student Sun Protection  | Revised for 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading |

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti | 2      | x   |    |         |        |

**XI. Enrollment Report**

| Grade        | Jul 2025   | Aug 2025   | Sep 2025   | Oct 2025   | Nov 2025   | Dec 2025   | Jan 2026   | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 6            | 93         | 93         | 93         | 92         | 91         | 91         | 91         |          |          |          |          |          |
| 7            | 92         | 93         | 93         | 92         | 92         | 92         | 90         |          |          |          |          |          |
| 8            | 93         | 93         | 93         | 93         | 93         | 93         | 93         |          |          |          |          |          |
| 9            | 91         | 98         | 98         | 94         | 94         | 94         | 94         |          |          |          |          |          |
| 10           | 104        | 108        | 108        | 112        | 111        | 107        | 107        |          |          |          |          |          |
| 11           | 81         | 88         | 88         | 91         | 90         | 91         | 92         |          |          |          |          |          |
| 12           | 48         | 52         | 52         | 57         | 57         | 56         | 57         |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>602</b> | <b>625</b> | <b>625</b> | <b>631</b> | <b>628</b> | <b>624</b> | <b>624</b> |          |          |          |          |          |

**XII. HIB Reports**

1. Motion to **approve** the previously accepted HIB investigation report for January 2026, with the following findings:

| Report       | # of Cases | # Founded | # Unfounded |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| January 2026 | 1          | 1         | 0           |

Liz Neary noted there were no new reports.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      | 2      | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**XIII. Public Comment - NONE**

**XIV. Executive Session Adjourn Public Session and Begin Executive Session – 6:49PM**

The Board discussed a personnel matter.

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      | 1      | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 2      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**XV. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session – 7:05PM**

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     | 1      | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 2      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**XVI. Motion from Executive Session**

Resolved, that the AECPC Board of Trustees approves the continuation of the suspension with pay of employee #A044.

ROLL CALL vote

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      | 2      | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti |        | x   |    |         |        |

**XVII. Reports / Look Ahead / Miscellaneous**

1. Next Regular Board Meeting: March 12, 2026 at 6:00PM

Liz Neary gave a Governance training update, noting that Meredith Pennotti needs to completed Governance III and Larry Patton, Imebet Stweart, and Alecia Teele will receive email instructions to complete Governance IV.

**XVIII. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting – 7:08PM**

| Voting Members   | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members    | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Alescia Teel     |        | x   |    |         |        |                   |        |     |    |         |        |
| Imebet Stewart   |        |     |    |         | x      | Larry Patton      |        | x   |    |         |        |
| Elizabeth Murphy | 1      | x   |    |         |        | Meredith Pennotti | 2      | x   |    |         |        |