



Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025 – 6:00 pm

I. Call to Order – 6:11PM

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, (2/2026)	x		
2. Elizabeth Murphy	Trustee, (8/4/2026)	x		
3. Larry Patton	Trustee, (3/2026)	x		
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		
Shannon Wright	Part-Time Director of Operations/ Assistant SBA		x	
Hope Blackburn	Board Attorney	x		

IV. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the Agenda for the **August 14, 2025**, meeting.

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

V. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Motion for Achievers Early College Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from the **July 10, 2025** Regular Board meeting and the **July 22, 2025** Special Board meeting.

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

VI. Public Comment

VII. Committee Reports – Liz Murphy provided an update from the finance committee meeting, noting the school is close to being fully staffed; senior prom and student fundraisers are being planned.

VIII. Executive Director Report –

Ms. Coppin spoke about the leadership retreat, and the school's theme, Mission Possible 2.0. She mentioned a staff retention rate of 85% and recruitment efforts leading to being almost fully staffed.

Ms. Eley provided an update for the High School and welcomed the new Principal.

Ms. Miller provided an update for the Middle School and commended the excellent guest speaker at staff professional development orientation.

IX. Motions for Approval

1. Finance

- a. Bills List and Check Journal: To approve the bills list and check journal for the period July 11, 2025, to August 14, 2025.
- b. To approve FY26 IDEA Application:
 - i. Basic - \$142,195.00
- c. To approve the following payrolls:

July 15, 2025	\$55,201.20
July 31, 2025	\$90,320.21

- d. To approve the reimbursement to **Jennifer Miller** for Smore Educator Pro Subscription in the amount of \$179, as attached.

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

2. Contracts

- a. To approve the agreement with **Public Consulting Group LLC** for EDPlan Suite services for the 2025-2026 school year including: 504, Connect, EasyIEP, Progress Track & Translation, in the amount of \$18,816 plus additional fees/services when requested, as attached.
- b. To approve the agreement with **PowerSchool Group LLC** for Student Information Systems licensing and subscription services for the 2025-2026 school year, in the amount of \$9,245.96, as attached.

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

3. Buildings & Grounds

- a. To approve the quote from **Network Information Technologies** for the Middle School IT update including network switches, cabling & labor, in the amount of \$7,645 as attached.
- b. To approve the quote from **JMM Cleaning Services** for floor cleaning & waxing for all three buildings, in the amount if \$5,200, as attached.

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

4. Personnel

- a. 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
10 Month	Anna Tkatch	MS Social Studies Teacher	\$85,050	None	\$85,050	TBD
10 Month	Douglas Salata	HS History Teacher	\$65,600	None	\$65,600	TBD
10 Month	Carolyn Roberts	HS ELA Teacher	\$65,205	None	\$65,205	8/11/25
10 Month	Michael Mahone	HS Physical Education Teacher	\$85,050	None	\$85,050	TBD
10 Month	James Norton	HS Financial Literacy and CTE Support Teacher	\$65,050	None	\$65,050	TBD
10 Month	John Fenimore	MS ELA Teacher	\$65,050	None	\$65,050	TBD

- b. To approve the following re-hires for the 2025-2026 School Year, as attached:

Term	Employee Name	Job Title	FY26 Salary	FY26 Stipend(s)	Total Salary	Start Date
10 Month	Giovanni Adorno	MS Social Studies Teacher	\$65,600	None	\$65,600	8/15/25
10 Month	Robert Barone	Building Substitute	\$55,967.10	None	\$55,967.10	8/14/25

- c. To approve the following stipend change for the 2025 summer school program, previously approved at the June 12, 2025 Board Meeting:

Employee Name	Program	Previously Approved Stipend	New Stipend	Hourly Rate	Additional Amount to be Paid
Deborah Brandimarte	Extended School Year	\$1,785 (51 hours)	\$2,205 (63 hours)	\$35	\$420

- d. To approve the contract extension of **Shannon Wright** as Part-Time Operations Director from 8/1/25 through 8/31/25, \$69.71 per hour, NTE 30 hours/week.
- e. To approve the position change for **James Cox** from High School Physical Education teacher to Middle School Science Teacher, effective August 14, 2025, no change in salary, as attached.
- f. To approve the following disability/maternity leave of absence requests, as attached:

Name	Position	Leave Dates Requested	Job Protection Eligibility	Tentative Return Date
Eunice Bonnette	High School Math Teacher	7/21/25 – 10/20/25 (12 weeks)	NJFLA	10/21/25
Tiana Solis	High School Guidance Counselor	7/23/25 – 9/3/25 (6 weeks)	FMLA	9/4/25

- g. To approve the proposal from **Mathematics Institute of Wisconsin** for Illustrative Math Teacher Professional Development on August 18 & 19, 2025, in the amount of \$3,325.56, as attached.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

5. Curriculum/Special Education/Student Activities

- a. To approve the quote from **Renaissance** for 1-year student assessment software licensing, Inspect Premium and DnA, in the amount of \$12,465, as attached:
- b. To approve the quote for Achievers Senior Prom to be held at **Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton** on May 28, 2026, in the amount of \$5,530, funded by student fundraising, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **Student Transportation Inc.** for round-trip bus transportation to Kean University for a college visit on 11/6/25, in the amount of \$695, as attached.
- d. To approve the quote from **Sheppard Bus Service Inc.** for round-trip bus transportation to the following soccer games, grand total \$8,840, as attached.

Grade Level	Date	Game Location	Cost
High School	9/17/25	Penn Tech, Pennsauken NJ	\$520
High School	9/29/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
High School	10/16/25	Burlington Twp High School, Burlington NJ	\$520
High School	10/20/25	BCIT Westampton, Westampton Twp NJ	\$520

High School	10/22/25	Pennington Prep, Pennington NJ	\$520
Middle School	9/19/25	Mercer County Park, west Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
Middle School	9/24/25	Memorial Middle School, Willingsboro NJ	\$520
Middle School	9/25/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
Middle School	9/29/25	Riverside Middle School, Riverside NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/1/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/7/25	Wilbur Watts Intermediate, Burlington NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/8/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/14/25	Northern Burlington County, Columbus NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/16/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/20/25	Northern Burlington County, Columbus NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/22/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/27/25	Moorestown Friends, Moorestown NJ	\$520
Middle School	10/29/25	Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp NJ	\$520

- e. To approve the quote from **UPrinting** for school-wide custom banners & posters, in the amount of \$2,417.85, as attached.
- f. To approve the quote from **Custom Ink** for custom T-shirts for High School orientation, in the amount of \$1,871.50, as attached.
- g. To approve the quote from **GoGuardian** for 1-year Pear Assessment licensing and professional product training, in the amount of \$2,750, as attached.
- h. To approve the quotes from **CDW-G** for the following student Chromebooks, grand total \$47,034, as attached.

Grade Level	Number of Devices	Total
High School	25	\$7,839
Middle School	125	\$39,195

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

6. Policy/Misc.

- a. To appoint Dr. Michael Nicholson as the **Affirmative Action Officer** for 2025-2026 school year.
- b. To authorize the Affirmative Action Team to conduct the **Needs Assessment** and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan.
- c. The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the submission of the **Comprehensive Equity Plan** for School Years 2025-26 through 2027-28 to the Mercer County Office of Education, as attached.

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

X. 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										
7	92	93										
8	93	93										
9	91	98										
10	104	108										
11	81	88										
12	48	52										
Total	602	625										

XI. HIB Reports – NONE

XII. Public Comment - NONE

XIII. Adjourn Public Session and Begin Executive Session – 6:32PM

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	1	x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy	2	x				Meredith Pennotti					x

XIV. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session – 6:50PM

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

XV. Motion from Executive Session

To retain the firm of Schenck Price to act as an advisor for streamline tenure charges, rate \$220 per hour.

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

XVI. Reports / Look Ahead / Miscellaneous

1. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025

XVII. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting – 6:52 PM

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

