



Retreat Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2026; 3:00 pm

I. Call to Order – 3:24 PM

II. Public Notice of Meeting/NJ Sunshine Law

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. In compliance with this Act and P.L. 2025, c. 72, notice of this meeting has been provided through the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School's website under "Public Notices." Formal action may be taken 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, (8/4/2029)	x		
3. Larry Patton	Trustee, (3/2029)	x		
4. Imebet Stewart	Trustee, President (3/2029)	x		
5. Meredith Pennotti	Trustee (4/2029)	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		
Hope Blackburn	Board Attorney	x		
Katheryne Ralph	Director, Human Resources	x		

IV. Retreat Topics

a. Board Compliance (Hope Blackburn)

- i. In-person board meeting requirements
- ii. AECP email address for Board members

-Hope Blackburn shared details about the new Charter School act amendments including in person meeting requirements, residency requirements for board members, and the importance of using school issued email addresses. -
-It was decided that trustees will rotate attendance at future board meetings; Larry and Meredith will attend the next meeting on Sept 10, and that at least 1 trustee should attend in-person at each future meeting.

-Alescia Teel asked if Liz N. will send out a group email with all trustee AECP email addresses for all to have.

b. Academic Update (Nava Coppin)

- i. Review of the current strategic plan and the action plan for the upcoming school year
- ii. Current status of CTE pathways
- iii. Charter renewal update

-Nava Coppin shared a presentation with a strategic plan review including 8 strategic priorities, goals/targets and CTE Pathways status.

-There was discussion around obtaining ESL waiver endorsement for teachers, given the large MLL student population.

c. Buildings and Grounds (Liz Neary & Nava Coppin)

- i. Building Hope update and concerns regarding the current lease
- Nava and Liz N. explained how Building Hope works with schools to secure and build facilities for schools looking to expand, then leases properties back to the school with an option to buy in the future.
- Potential RFP requirement to be investigated by Liz N; lease negotiation ideas with the church were also discussed.
- d. Human Resources (Kathy Ralph)
 - i. Updated organizational chart
 - ii. Current vacancies and hiring updates
- The meeting ended before Kathy Ralph could share an update.
- e. Trustee requested topics (All)
 - i. Policy approval process
 - ii. Leave of absence confidentiality
 - iii. Teacher Retention Incentive program

Trustees discussed the need to recruit two more board members, with the goal of including a parent, and someone with construction/facility planning experience.

V. Public Comment - NONE

VI. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting – 6:05PM

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