



Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 9, 2025 – 6:00 pm

I. Call to Order – 6:03 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, (2/2026)	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		
Michael Nicholson	Chief Operating Officer	x		
Hope Blackburn	Board Attorney	x		
Katheryne Ralph	Director, Human Resources	x		

This meeting was conducted in-person in Achievers' modular classroom building.

IV. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the Agenda for the **October 9, 2025**, 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 **September 11, 2025**, Regular Board 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			

VI. Public Comment - NONE

VII. Committee Reports

Liz Murphy gave an update on the finance committee meeting held the week prior, noting that the school's cash balance is up.

VIII. Executive Director Report

-Ms. Coppin presented details about the school's mission and strategic priorities. She noted the large number of current MLL & SPED students enrolled. Alescia Teel commented that this is close to 50% of the student body. Each month there will be PD for MLL teachers; Meredith Pennotti asked about observations & walk-throughs, commenting that it is an excellent model.

-Dr. Nicholson presented several points: CSP grant no-cost extension was submitted, IT team update provided, Achievers new website scheduled to launch Friday with ADA compliance & brighter view, building washed of algae, A/C working well now (Hope Blackburn asked about boilers).

-Ms. Ralph gave a staffing update including open/pending /closed positions. She noted a focus on hiring & bilingual teachers. Meredith Pennotti asked about a referral bonus program and terms. Larry Patton asked how many certified MLL teachers are on staff (2). Alescia Teel asked why MLL students are 3 grades behind even in their native language.

-Ms. Rolon-Cruz gave an update for the High School, noting that tutoring with MLL teachers is available to 10th & 11th grade students, not only 9th graders.

-Ms. Eley spoke about the 9th grade village and the ribbon cutting ceremony done by NHS member students. She noted it is a calm and focused area for students. Students are working on college essays and getting assistance with college applications and FASFA. She noted that the junior class student GAP is 3.4. Larry Patton made a comment that schools are not required to have MLL teachers for all languages.

-Ms. Miller gave updates for the middle school including: 115 students attended the school's tutoring program, iReady & IXL have been implemented to align with curriculum, soccer team has a winning record, Teach like a Champion is rigorous curriculum currently being used, and October 23 will be Hispanic Heritage night.

IX. Motions for Approval

1. Finance

- Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report: To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for September 2025, 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 September 2025, 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 September 12, 2025, to October 9, 2025.
- c. To approve reimbursement to Carl Berkley for athletic apparel, in the amount of \$164.29.
- d. To approve FY26 ESEA Application:
 - i. Title I-A - \$442,810.00
 - ii. Title II-A - \$40,683.00 Reallocated to Title I
 - iii. Title III - \$37,660.00
 - iv. Title III Immigrant - \$2,842.00
 - v. Title IV Part A - \$26,103.00 Reallocated to Title I
- e. To approve the following payrolls:

September 15, 2025	\$196,095.96
September 30, 2025	\$208,226.50

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

2. Contracts

- a. To approve the equipment lease agreement from **Martin Leasing Corporation dba PEAC Solutions** for a 48-month term copier lease, \$225/month, 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			

3. Buildings & Grounds

- a. To approve the quote from **JMM Cleaning Services** for Middle School painting and repairs, in the amount of \$4,265, as attached.
- b. To approve the quote from **Network Information Technologies** for indoor/outdoor Verkada cameras and installation for the modular classrooms, in the amount of \$11,734, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **Zeptive, Inc.** for additional vape detectors for the modular classrooms, in the amount of \$6,940, as attached.
- d. To approve the quote from **Network Information Technologies** for the purchase of two Brother printers and Verkada Workplace annual licenses, in the amount of \$3,020, as attached.
- e. To approve the quote from **Network Information Technologies** for the purchase & installation of racks, panels and wall ports for phones/printers, in the amount of \$4,074, 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		x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

4. Personnel

- a. To accept the resignation of **Kenjale Aparna**, Pre-Nursing & Health Science Instructor, effective 10/27/25, 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
10-Month	Michael Schoener	MS PE Teacher	\$67,019	None	\$67,019	TBD
10-Month	Evangeline Albert	HS Information Technology Teacher	\$65,050	\$2,500 STEAM Stipend	\$67,550	TBD

Motion To Amend Agenda

1. To include the following additional 2025-2026 Mentor/Mentee staff, fee, and stipend for approval:

Mentor Name	Position	Certification	Mentee	Amount	Earning/Deduction Schedule
Olivia Hackett	Mentor	CE	Sunil Laudari	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June

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			

- c. To approve the following 2025-2026 Mentor/Mentee staff, fees, and stipends, as attached:

Mentor Name	Position	Certification	Mentee	Amount	Earning/Deduction Schedule
Danial Aulisio	Mentor	CE	Obadiah Moore	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Christopher Carragher	Mentor	CE	John Fenimore	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Gretchen Stricker	Mentor	CE	James Norton	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Shelby Sumner	Mentor	CE	Carolyn Roberts	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Nicole Blair	Mentor	CE	James Cox	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Carron Ankiel	Mentor	CE	Giovanni Adorno	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Julianna Nini	Mentor	CEAS	May Oo	\$550	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Myra Bellamy	Mentor	CEAS	Danielle Lange	\$550	Equal pay periods Oct -June

- d. To approve the following employee leave of absence, as attached:

Name	Position	Timeframe	Job Protection Eligibility	Tentative Return Date
Shamima Nasreen	Middle School MLL Teacher	Intermittent 1 day/week 9/3/25 – 3/25/26	NJFLA	3/26/26

- e. To approve the following Athletic Coaching stipends for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Name	Coaching Position	FY26 Stipend	Pay Schedule
Elvia Maldonado	Head Coach, Cheerleading	\$4,500	Equal pay periods Oct -June
Abigail Bocicaut	Assistant Coach, Cheerleading	\$3,500	Equal pay periods Oct -June

- f. To approve the following stipends for attendance at the Student Recruitment Fair:

Staff Name	Role	Hours	Rate	Total Stipend
Gretchen Stricker	History Teacher	2	\$55/hour	\$110
Sully Mori	Parent Liaison	2	\$55/hour	\$110
Tianna Solis	Counselor	2	\$55/hour	\$110

- g. To approve payment for the following courses for previously approved CTE Alternate Route Program enrollment, as attached.

Staff Name	College	Course Name	Cost
James Cox	Rutgers	45 Hour Math, 45 Hour Literacy, & 60 Hour Year 2 Courses	\$1,320
Payton Kelly	Rutgers	Year 2 Courses	\$490

- h. To approve the quote from **Allegiance CPR & Training** for Heart Saver First Aid CPR & AED staff training, in the amount of \$1,090, as attached.
- i. To approve the quote from **Raptor Technologies** for Public School Works annual subscription services for public school staff & classroom safety training, in the amount of \$2,094.75, as attached.
- j. To approve the following Club stipends for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Name	Club	FY26 Stipend	Pay Date
Richard Lee	Audio Engineering Club (HS)	\$500	June 15, 2026
Obadiah Moore	Graphic Design Club (HS)	\$500	June 15, 2026

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	2	x				Meredith Pennotti	1	x			

Roll-Call Vote

5. Curriculum/Special Education/Student Activities

- a. To approve the following quotes from **Student Transportation of America, Inc.** for round-trip bus transportation for the following college visits, total \$2,315, as attached.

Date	College/Location	Cost
11/13/25	Mercer County Community College	\$375
11/17/25	Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair at John F. Kennedy Recreation Center, Willingboro, NJ	\$475

11/24/25	TCNJ, Ewing, NJ	\$375
12/4/25	Rider University, Lawrence Twp, NJ	\$295
12/8/25	William Patterson University, Wayne, NJ	\$795

- b. To approve the quote from **Curriculum Associates, LLC** for Ellevation platform subscription, implementation & in-person training for MLL educators, in the amount of \$13,975 to be funded by CSP grant, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **New Jersey State Museum** to hold Achievers High School Graduation ceremony on June 12, 2026, in the amount of \$1,500, as attached.
- d. To approve the quote from **Custom Ink** for Senior student T-shirts, in the amount of \$1,526.70, as attached.
- e. To approve the proposal from **LorCal Health Services** for Health Sciences Nurse Aide curriculum development, to be funded by the CSP Grant, NTE \$25,000, as attached.
- f. To approve/ratify the quote from **Sheppard Bus Service, Inc.** for round-trip bus transportation to Girard College on 10/6/25 for the Boys Soccer Team, in the amount of \$520, as attached.
- g. To approve the student fundraiser, **STEAM Snack Packs**, to support funding for STEAM activities including materials, technology, and resources for hands-on projects, competitions, and exhibitions, as attached.
- h. To approve the quote from **McGraw Hill** for World History curriculum in the amount \$2,110.21, as attached.
- i. To approve the quote from **Jerry's Enterprises** for student refreshments at the High School Harvest Dance, in the amount of \$569, as attached.

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

6. Policy/Misc.

- a. To approve the 2025-2026 AECF Athletic Handbook, as attached.
- b. To approve participation with following job boards for staff recruitment for the 2025-2026 school year, NTE \$12,000.

Job Board	Cost	Usage Terms
National Association of Multicultural Educators	\$250	Annual fee
Idealist	\$1,795	Per 20 job postings
School Spring	\$650	Per 3 job postings
Ed Surge	\$2,750	Up to 200 job postings + 4 ads
LinkedIn	\$1,500	Estimated budget based on candidate views
Indeed	\$1,800	\$70 per weekly unlimited posts, in addition to resumes received
K12 Job Spot	\$1,000	n/a
Education Jobs NJ	\$450	Per 10 job postings
Bilingual Jobs	\$1,000	Per 5 job postings

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			

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	93	92								
7	92	93	93	92								
8	93	93	93	93								
9	91	98	98	94								
10	104	108	108	112								
11	81	88	88	91								
12	48	52	52	57								
Total	602	625	625	631								

XI. HIB Reports

1. Motion to ***accept*** the HIB investigation report for October 2025, with the following findings:

Report	# of Cases	# Founded	# Unfounded
October 2025	2	1	1

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			

XII. Public Comment - NONE

XIII. Adjourn Public Session and Begin Executive Session -7:06 PM

The Board discussed personnel and legal matters.

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			

XIV. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session – 7:28 PM

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		x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

XV. Reports / Look Ahead / Miscellaneous

1. Next Regular Board Meeting: November 13, 2025

XVI. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting 7:31 PM

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			