



# The Anchor School

## Minutes

### Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda posted by: May 21

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#### **Date and Time**

Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM

#### **Location**

The Anchor School  
2460 Wesley Chapel Road  
Decatur, GA 30035

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#### **Directors Present**

A. Pressey, C. Humphrey, E. Desprez Isbell, J. Burton, N. LeBlanc, S. Birch, V. Thompson

#### **Directors Absent**

J. Whittington, S. Kollu

#### **Ex Officio Members Present**

J. Pinto Taylor

#### **Non Voting Members Present**

J. Pinto Taylor

#### **Guests Present**

M. Felts

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

E. Desprez Isbell called a meeting of the board of directors of The Anchor School to order on Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 7:07 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors Meeting on 04-23-25.

A. Pressey seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## II. Executive Director Report

### A. Executive Director Report

#### Operational Updates

- Fire Drill Schedule: To date, TAS continues to follow the drill schedule published in the school safety plan.
- Facility Update: • Contracted service providers have been selected to support our 8th grade expansion and summer maintenance plans. Ms. Griffith and I are leading the oversight of that project. We have received a 50% completion invoice with an anticipated total summer maintenance and renovation budget under \$25,000.
- Monitoring Update: The school provided a response to the SCSC's request for a Tier II performance improvement plan. This information was provided on time. No additional information was requested after their review of our Tier II performance improvement plan submission. Cross-Functional Monitoring is complete. We are waiting for their feedback based on our submissions.

#### Communications Updates

- Marketing Services: We are prepared to recommend a vendor for marketing services to support HS enrollment efforts.
- Collaborating with HIVE180: Collaborating with HIVE180 continues to yield positive outcomes for the school – and for my development. Most recently, in May we reviewed our latest allotment sheets and ensured that we feel good about assumptions in our FY26 budget.
- Upcoming Important Dates: June 4th is reserved as our spring showcase for 6th grade at Moving In The Spirit dance studio. June 5th is reserved as our spring showcase for 7th grade at Upstairs Atlanta. We are seeking community panelists

for their impact project pitches. We are grateful for Nicole, Jasmine, and Emily for volunteering their support.

### **Financial Updates**

- CSP Draw Down Status: To date, TAS has drawn down over 25% of the Year 1 goal of \$500,000. The sixth drawdown (valued at over \$85,000) is currently under review. A seventh drawdown (valued at over \$200,000 in encumbrances) is also prepared for review.
- Bank Balance End of Fiscal Year & Present: TAS ended the FY25 with 31 days cash-on-hand (unaudited) and currently has \$212,473.99 in the bank balance.

### **Academic Updates**

- Academic Dashboard Review See the attached documents for further review.  
Academic
- Assessment Calendar Review The academic assessment calendar is ready for final review. This meeting will allow us to vote if we are ready for SY25-26.
- Policy Development Policies have been approved for promotion criteria from grade-to-grade. Additional updates to all handbooks are currently underway.

### **HS Expansion Updates**

School staff continue to prepare for HS expansion, which is on track to begin in the fall of 2026. Activity this month includes a successful accreditation candidacy review, MYP planning and revisions, budget scenario planning, facility feasibility studies, curriculum planning, leadership recruitment, staffing model fine tuning, and stakeholder engagement. Future work includes continued stakeholder engagement, budget fine tuning, academic program evaluations, site visits to high performing 6-12 campuses (including Drew Charter School), accreditation review, and strategic facility planning for our next location. Some HS courses will be offered in the fall of 2025. Plans are underway and policies are approved for acceleration into these courses of study.

### **Enrollment Updates**

- Day 1 Attendance – 196
- Week 1 Total Attendance – 204
- Current Total Enrollment – 188
- Waitlist (G6) – 40
- Waitlist (G7) – 30

### **Enrollment Lottery**

- Enrollment data is provided in the dashboard, included.
- The spring lottery took place on Friday, February 14th.
- 95% of enrolled families have re-enrolled for next year.
- Seats were offered to all new families for Grades 6, 7, and 8.

- Our May count to the SCSC was 299.

### III. Academic Achievement

#### A. Academic Assessment Calendar 24-25

On track for assessment completion for SY24-25

On track for assessment completion for SY24-25

#### B. Item for Action (Vote) Academic Assessment Calendar 25-26

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to approve the Academic Assessment for SY25-26.

C. Humphrey seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### C. Item for Action (Vote): Promotion Policy

Only update was language was moved into the "Exceptions and Appeals" portion.

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to Promotion Policy SY25-26.

A. Pressey seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### D. Academic Data Review

- Enrollment update: 305 students enrolled for SY25-26
- MAP Data: Students grew in math and reading, and a greater percentage of 7th graders are proficient which indicates that as more students remain at TAS their growth and achievement are both increasing.
- 6 out of 10 students are experiencing high growth, high achievement, or both in MAP Reading.
- 5 out of 10 students are experiencing high growth, high achievement, or both in MAP Math.

### IV. Community Engagement Adhoc

#### A. Community Engagement Updates

##### • PTO:

- Bylaws finalized by June board meeting
- 501c3 - moving slowly but surely with the goal of having this in place by the next SY
- Review last items from end of April meeting (blue slides) - [TAS PTO Kick Off Slides\\_040325\\_Final](#)

##### • Parent Mixer (TBD) - sometime in June

- Draft materials created by Ms. Young for outreach and a draft survey provided to staff

- Waiting to see if other committee leads (sponsorship, communications, operations) have finalized on next steps for when and where the mixer will be
  - Initial brainstorming looked at targeting **Jasons Deli for the location and June 9/10** as the date (TBD) - waiting for parent leads to continue next steps on these
  - **TAS Ways to Get Involved (*Inspired by Ms. Wells and Dr. JPT*) - excited to start socializing**
1. The Village Council (PTO)
  2. Monthly TAS Board Meetings
  3. School Co-Design Meetings
  4. Quarterly Town Hall Meetings
- **End of year TAS Student showcases:**
  - **Teachers Appreciation Week:**
    - Staff got hand written letters from the board so thank you to everyone who helped make that possible!
    - Shout out to board members who sponsored meals for our staff!
    - This was the first week activating the PTO committees
  - **Phonathon:**
    - Successful phonathon with majority completion!
  - **Other things:**
    - Other upcoming end of year events:
      - **Grade 6:**
        - **June 4 6-8pm**
        - **Moving in the Spirit**
        - ***\*Nicole and Jaz as judges in addition to prospective board member and other local school leaders and community members!***
      - **Grade 7**
        - **June 5 6-8pm**
        - **Upstairs Atlanta**
        - **Emily and Shelby as judges in addition to prospective board member and other local school leaders and community members!**
      - ***Attend and spread the word*** (email from Dr. JPT called "*Invitation: Showcases!*" from 7 days ago to share with your networks)
      - **Awards Day - June 11**
      - **Field day - June 13**
    - Successful board retreat and official HS Readiness prep from May 4 (shoutout to 21Cobalt and see great [linkedin post](#))
    - Successful board mixer on May 8 (shoutout Amber!)

- Next steps/process for the new board members will be shared in the coming weeks (from governance committee)
- Continued board member recruitment
- Dr. JPT spent time with other school years in SF in early May through one of our grant partners' communities of practice (continuing to gain value from that community)
- LKES conference coming up for JPT in early June

## V. Finance

### A. Item for Information: Fiscal Policies

- No documentation to share, but the finance committee is in the process of reviewing current financial policies.
- Vote will take place in June for any updates to financial policies.

### B. April Financials

## VI. Governance

### A. Item for Action (Vote): Head of School Contract

Nicole worked with Christ (legal advisor) on the Head of School contract. The contract has been reviewed by the board via email and Dr. PT.

N. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the Head of School contract.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

#### **Two conditions:**

1. July 1, 2025 start date
2. Addendum to allow for Dr. PT to continue to work on writing his book (non-compete clause).

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### B. Item for Action (Vote): 25-26 Vendors

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to approve the First Student – new transportation contract for SY25-26.

N. LeBlanc seconded the motion.

- Received 6 different bids, scoring criteria
- Within budget

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to approve contract for the Donovan Group – new marketing contract for SY25-26.

A. Pressey seconded the motion.

- Telling our story and sharing with the community helps grow TAS community
- Marketing firm will help with this strategic work (value proposition), tell that story in a compelling way that supports high school growth
- Single year contract, monthly services, support, and check-ins
- CSP grant allowable

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to Approve Requested (contract renewal) for the following: (1) Technology Lab – contract renewal for SY25-26. (2) Pretty Darn Clean – contract renewal for SY25-26. (3) EdTec – contract renewal for SY25-26. (4) Bernard Hines – Strategic HS Finance – new contract for SY25-26. (5) Horizons – contract renewal for SY25-26. (6) Time to Sprout – contract renewal for SY25-26. (7) Stepping Stone – contract renewal for SY25-26.

S. Birch seconded the motion.

Future consideration to increase threshold for board approval needed for vendors

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Continued Services (multi-year contract):**

- School Gourmet – contract continued for SY25-26.
- PowerSchool – contract continued for SY25-26.
- Renaissance DnA – contract continued for SY25-26.

A vote is not needed since these are continued contracts.

**C. Item for Information: Adopt FY25 Board Calendar**

- Action Item:
  - Update Finance Committee Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm.
  - Add a 2nd meeting for the Finance Committee Meeting for the month of April

**D. Item for Information: Bylaws**

Discuss proposed changes to Board Bylaws for SY25:

- **Revisit term length:** After successfully completing one three-year term, members can complete one-year terms with board approval
- Add language to express that we're a **100% giving board**
- **Election of officers:** Make sure that terms of board officials are staggered

**Action Item:** Governance Committee to discuss guardrails and values as it relates to board term length

**E. FY25 Personnel Contracts**

- Update from Dr. Pinto-Taylor on hiring status for next school year.
- 34 positions for SY25-26, 29 signed contracts for SY25-26,
- 100% retention from this year staff to next year
- Remaining position are close to the finish line on offers

## VII. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
E. Desprez Isbell

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**The Anchor School** is a village of educators, families, and community members that partners with 6th through 12th-grade students\* who are developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to thrive in school and beyond. Through our commitment to excellent instruction, community partnerships, and holistic student development, we cultivate anchors that build a more just and equitable future.

*\*In August 2022, the SCSC authorized TAS as a GA Charter School with approval to enroll students who will be in the 6th grade in the fall of 2023.*