

DRAFT



The Anchor School

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting & Budget Hearing #2

Date and Time

Wednesday May 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Location

In-person for board members

The Anchor School
2460 Wesley Chapel Road
Decatur, GA 30035

Directors Present

J. Burton (remote), J. Jordan (remote), J. Whittington, K. Sargeant, N. LeBlanc, S. Kollu, S. Stewart, T. Winston, V. Thompson

Directors Absent

A. Pressey, C. Humphrey, E. Desprez Isbell, K. James

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

K. Sargeant

Ex Officio Members Present

J. Pinto Taylor

Non Voting Members Present

J. Pinto Taylor

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

N. LeBlanc called a meeting of the board of directors of The Anchor School to order on Wednesday May 27, 2026 at 7:06 PM.

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C. Approve Minutes

N. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors Meeting & Budget Hearing #1 on 04-22-26.

S. Kollu seconded the motion.

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

II. Budget Hearing #2

A. Budget Presentation

K. Sargeant arrived at 7:16 PM.

Presented projected budget for 2026-27, incorporating 9th grade expansion and enrollment growth beyond 250 scholars:

- January–June budget timeline (initial draft shared in April)
- Budget initiatives and focus areas
- Enrollment projections with met/missed expansion scenarios
- Revenue, expenses, and net income projections reflecting Federal grants, expiring grants, 9th grade costs, operational efficiencies, and potential fluctuations

B. Budget Public Comment

- **School closures impact?** — Being strategic with marketing to balance enrollment and cost; weighing macro trends against micro expansion goals. (*V. Thompson*)
- **Decrease in tech & professional services?** — Driven by expired grants. (*P. Taylor*)
- **Teacher retention incentives vs. other metro-Atlanta schools?** — State funds provide current incentives; exploring additional avenues and aligning salary

schedule with metro-Atlanta peers. (*V. Thompson*) Previously offered incentives for retention and teaching certifications. (*J. Pinto Taylor*)

III. Executive Director Report

A. Executive Director Report

- **Operations:** Focused on full staffing by end of summer; leadership team set; less than 10% of positions remain without applicants.
- **Academics:** Founding cohort grew from below national trend to on-trend with 1.3 years of reading growth annually; strongest math cohort to date. May GMAS scores will benchmark Science and Social Studies achievement.
- **Finance:** Current enrollment exceeds projections, reinforcing confidence in earlier revenue estimates.
- **HS Expansion:** New wing includes student commons and 3 classrooms; construction plans approved, awaiting county sign-off; on track for completion before the new school year.

IV. Academic Achievement

A. Academic Dashboard and Assessment Review

- *Reference Academic Update in the Executive Director Report above.*
- Scores are set to be released in June so the board will review this dashboard at the June meeting.

B. Item for Information: Family Handbook Review

- Internal review underway to refine language; board committees invited to comment on redlined draft. (*J. Pinto-Taylor*)
- Two handbooks planned — middle and high school — to address nuances in transcripts, grading, and uniforms. (*Dr. Winfield*)
- Current revisions include incidentals, uniforms, and additional updates.

C. Item for Action: High School Transcript Grade Reporting

- Developed collaboratively with Dr. Winfield, the policy translates TAS's standards-based (Marzano) grading into a format recognized by outside institutions. Student transcripts will reflect both letter grades and GPA (0.00–4.00) annually.

Action Items

- Educate families on interpreting the new grading system (*J. Pinto-Taylor*)

- Consider distinguishing mastery scores from official GPA calculations in the document (*J. Pinto-Taylor*)

N. LeBlanc made a motion to adopt standards based grading and conversion scale.

J. Whittington seconded the motion.

CONDITION: Add a section about how TAS calculates GPA separately

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

D. Item for Action: High School Course Plan

J. Pinto-Taylor explained that there are classes that are listed but they may not necessarily be offered but are open if there's staff/student interest.

Action Item:

- N. LeBlanc to make Course Plan an ongoing board item for Academic committee as the community advocates for additional courses.

V. Thompson made a motion to adopt the high school course plan.

S. Stewart seconded the motion.

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

V. Community Engagement & Advancement (Ad-hoc)

A. Community Updates

PTO (*C. Quetal*)

- PTO calendar to be integrated into school calendar
- One unified PTO for middle and high school
- Focus on scholar showcase nights

Board (*J. Burton*)

- Board thanks for supporting Teacher Appreciation Week
- Board Social Mixer successful; prospects now attending school events

School Events (*J. Pinto-Taylor*)

- 8th Grade Showcase — Thursday, May 28, 5pm at Privi Stonecrest
- 8th Grade Ceremony — Friday, June 6, 10am at Privi

VI. Finance

A. May 2026 Financial Summary

T. Winston walked through:

- budget progression and reallocation of supplies item
- maintaining *Days Cash on Hand*
- Charter School Program grant is for startup charter schools has expired and has been applied for (not received yet)
- SCSC Dashboard - anticipating a healthy score for Finance
- *Line of Credit* balance as of April 30th

B. Item for Action: Adopt Approved Auditor

J. Whittington made a motion to continue partnership with Bambo S. as TAS auditor (2025-26).

T. Winston seconded the motion.

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

C. Fiscal Policies

- T. Winston shared this update is to incorporate the Line of Credit as previously discussed.
- J. Pinto-Taylor allows directors team members to each manage a set of line items (to be overseen and approved by leadership to share responsibility). Policy updates include guiding principles and accountability.
- Review the policy. Votes for adoption in June board meeting.

VII. Governance

A. Item for Information: Review updates to the Staff Handbook

- N. LeBlanc shared this will be voted on in June meeting.
- J. Pinto-Taylor shared updates includes Alyssa's Law for handling button badges and more.

Action Item:

- Governance committee to review updates in the upcoming committee meeting
- J. Pinto-Taylor to share final draft by June 20th in time for June 27 board meeting

B. Item for Information: Updated Bylaws

- N. LeBlanc update to Board Governance documents to be voted on in June board meeting to go into effect during the 2026-27 school year
- N. LeBlanc highlighted the following updates:
 - Chair Succession Options
 - Officer Terms for continued leadership
 - Recognize Advisory Council as non-governing body
 - Virtual Board Meetings

- Director Compliance Attendance Vacancy - Establishing non discretionary vacancy mechanism with caveats

C. Item for Information: HOS Contract

N. LeBlanc shared the following updates:

- Reminder of board's vote on 3-year contract for J. Pinto-Taylor set to expire end of 2028 school year, so there is no need renew contract this year.
- Performance reviews are pending via LKES.
- J. Burton and S. Stewart are scheduled to be trained on evaluative processes.

D. Item for Information: Adopt FY26 Board Calendar

N. LeBlanc shared the following updates:

- Board will continue to meet on the last Wednesday of every month.
- Next year board meetings will be virtual meetings only.
- Committee meetings are also following the same cadence as 2025-26 years.

Action Item:

- V. Thompson mentioned Finance committee meetings typically last 75 - 90 minutes.
- N. LeBlanc to update calendar to reflect all virtual board meetings
- N. LeBlanc to update calendar to account for holidays.

E. Succession Planning: Candidate reach-outs & interviews

- N. LeBlanc asked the board to complete candidate interviews throughout the summer with candidates.
 - *Current board to vote on new board members in August meeting.*

Action Item:

- Board to share their availability to conduct interviews with candidates.

VIII. 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 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. LeBlanc

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.*