



ATLANTA NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

helping students learn to use their minds well

Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School

Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday October 8, 2026 at 8:30 AM EDT

In accordance with Georgia's open meetings requirements, notice of this meeting has been posted at both campuses and on the ANCS website.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			8:30 AM
A. Record Attendance		LaNiesha Cobb Sanders	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		LaNiesha Cobb Sanders	1 m
C. Approve Minutes from September Meeting	Approve Minutes	LaNiesha Cobb Sanders	1 m
II. Educational Excellence			8:33 AM
A. Agenda	Discuss	Alastair Pullen	50 m
1. Student Enrollment			
2. Curricular Spotlight: Enrichment and Extension			
3. Charter Compliance Report			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
4. Staff Professional Development			
III. Other Business			
IV. Closing Items			9:23 AM
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote		1 m

Coversheet

Approve Minutes from September Meeting

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve Minutes from September Meeting
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material:
Minutes for Educational Excellence Committee Meeting on September 10, 2026

APPROVED



**ATLANTA NEIGHBORHOOD
CHARTER SCHOOL**

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Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School

Minutes

Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday September 10, 2026 at 8:30 AM

In accordance with Georgia's open meetings requirements, notice of this meeting has been posted at both campuses and on the ANCS website.

Committee Members Present

Duanne Davis (remote), Emily Hansen (remote), Kilamba Augusto (remote), LaNiesha Cobb Sanders, Lara Zelski, Mark Boswell (remote), Mark Sanders, Nicole King, Rhiannen Laurent

Committee Members Absent

Shannon Rutledge

Guests Present

Alastair Pullen

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

LaNiesha Cobb Sanders called a meeting of the Educational Excellence Committee of Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School to order on Thursday Sep 10, 2026 at 8:31 AM.

C. Approve Minutes from May Meeting

We will approve the May meeting minutes in the October monthly committee meeting.

II. Educational Excellence

A. Agenda

Survey Highlights from Spring 2026

- Survey sent annually: ~60 respondents in spring, ~100 in winter; response rate and satisfaction scores largely flat over 4+ years
- Core intent: identify trends in student and family experience at ANCS (inclusivity, academic challenge, safe relationships with adults)
- Committee feedback on current questions:
 - Communicate survey results back to parents explicitly (what was found, what changed)
 - Add student-to-student / peer relationship questions; current survey skews toward student-teacher and academic dimensions
 - Add school climate and social-emotional experience questions, especially post-COVID
 - Avoid a single “are you having a positive experience?” question; drill into the specific components instead
 - Shorter, more focused survey likely to drive higher completion
 - Consider NPS question with open ended option for participants to share rationale
- Separate from the state-mandated climate survey; over-surveying is a known risk
- Open comments historically the most useful data; worth preserving that option

Student Retention Data

- 15 students left last year out of ~530 (high retention rate overall)
 - 6 moved out of district, 5 out of state, 1 out of country, 3 to independent schools
- No exit interview process currently; data sourced from records requests only
- Committee consensus: number too small to warrant formal exit interviews now
 - Moving to zone school within APS would be the more telling signal of dissatisfaction
 - Preventative argument raised: starting now while numbers are low could surface trends early before a spike
 - Agreed to continue monitoring

Free and Reduced Lunch Progress

- Charter goal: 22.8% of new students qualifying for free and reduced lunch
- Overall school population now at 23%, the highest ever
 - Up from ~8% across both campuses in 2023, a significant 5-year gain

- New-student breakdown still pending from APS due to a backend system change; will be shared when available

MAP Data Overview

- Reading: median achievement at 80th percentile (above the 75th percentile “above average” threshold), stable over 3 years
- Math: dipped last year due to test changes (similar dip seen district-wide); recovered 1 point this fall
- Achievement gap between white and Black students narrowing significantly:
 - Math gap: 23 points (fall 2024) down to 18 points (fall 2026)
 - ELA gap: 24 points (fall 2024) down to 13 points (fall 2026), the lowest ever recorded
 - EC campus ELA gap now at just 6 points, attributed largely to a new reading program and intensive PD
 - 4th grade cohort: Black students were trailing in 3rd grade but are now outperforming white peers by 6 points
 - 6th grade math: Black students trailed by 28 points last fall; gap closed to 7 points this fall
- ESS students rank top in the district in ELA proficiency (district-based schools only; charter data not yet in)
- Black elementary students predicted proficient or above in ELA: up from 31% (fall 2025) to 49% (fall 2026)
- MAP proficiency predictors vs. district (ELA, 2nd–8th grade):
 - ANCS overall: 47% predicted proficient and above vs. 40% district-wide
 - Black students: 47% ANCS vs. 25% district
 - ESS students: 28% ANCS vs. 12–13% district
- ANCS typically outperforms MAP predictions in aggregate; individual-level predictions less reliable
- Next MAP administration: November; results expected December/January

School-Wide Goal

- Goal: by end of year, at least 85% of teachers demonstrate increased efficacy integrating math standards outside dedicated math classes
- Rationale: math has historically shown a larger performance gap than ELA; ELA curriculum changes were prioritized in recent years; math now in focus
 - Staff watched “Count It Out” as a shared foundation; generated genuine buy-in and excitement
- Middle campus implementation:
 - “Math borrowing”: content-area teachers intentionally adopt math standards and vocabulary
 - Examples: visual arts using x/y axis and grid language for proportions; performing arts (sock puppet project) incorporating budgeting and

- parameters; individuals and society using data analysis and graphing aligned to 8th grade math
 - Every subject area has had a roll-off day with the instructional coach and IB coordinator to plan this work
- Elementary campus implementation:
 - Teachers reviewing curriculum maps to identify where math integration can be added or shifted
 - Constructivist foundation already supports cross-subject integration; next step is a formal crosswalk of math standards with other content-area standards
 - Teacher clarity framework (started last year) continues, giving teachers language to articulate learning goals and success criteria
- Measurement: Georgia teacher evaluation rubric and classroom observations; student outcome data as the downstream indicator
 - Goal framed around teacher practice (leading measure) rather than test scores to avoid teaching-to-the-test pressure
- Next MAP data in November will serve as a progress checkpoint

Charter Compliance Report

- New reporting format aligned to the new charter term (now 2 months in)
- Much of the data still TBD: ELA and CCRPI data expected October/November, possibly December or later
- CCRPI data for this year technically reflects the previous charter term; will serve as a baseline, not a primary renewal metric
- Report will also be shared at the upcoming board meeting

III. Other Business

A. Next Steps

Next Steps

- **Share full survey question list and solicit committee input via email**
(Alastair) Committee members invited to review and email suggested additions or removals before the January send.

- **Explore pulling kindergarten-excluded math MAP data for apples-to-apples gap comparison** (Rhiannen)Kindergartners take math MAP but not ELA MAP; removing them from math may clarify whether the gap difference is real or an artifact.
- **Share new-student free and reduced lunch percentage once APS data is available** (Alastair) Delayed due to APS backend system change; overall figure already at 23%.
- **Follow up with Alastair offline on tracking progress toward the school-wide math goal** (LaNiesha)Agree on a cadence for updates, bright spots, and challenges over the coming months.
- **Email LaNiesha with any amendments to the rest-of-year meeting scope and sequence** (Committee Members) Slide deck shared in today's meeting; no changes assumed unless heard otherwise.
- Minutes from May and September will both be approved at the next meeting (May minutes were not linked today)

IV. 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 9:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaNiesha Cobb Sanders