APPROVED

ATLANTA NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL
helping students learn to use their minds well

Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School

Minutes

Governing Board Monthly Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday August 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location
Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School - Admin Offices
423 Georgia Ave
Atlanta, GA 30312
(entrance on Cherokee Ave.)

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

Directors Present
Drew Waddell, Duanne Davis, Evan Saadat, Jen Hidinger-Kendrick, Jonna Martin, Kilamba Augusto, LaNiesha Cobb Sanders, Mark Boswell, Rebecca Wagner, Robin Hubier, Ruth Link-Gelles, Shannon Rutledge

Directors Absent
Emily Hansen

Guests Present
Alastair Pullen, Mark Sanders (remote), Nicole King (remote), Paige Teusink (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

Drew Waddell called a meeting of the board of directors of Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School to order on Thursday Aug 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

C. Public Comment

D. Approve Meeting Minutes from 6/18/2026

Rebecca Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Monthly Meeting on 06-18-26.
Evan Saadat seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. School Leadership Updates

A. Principals' Open Forum

- Nicole King (EC) presented on the first six weeks of school
  - Focus on guiding principles, one per week, with intentional community-building
  - Student community work underway: students sharing stories and backgrounds
  - Faculty community-building began during preplanning; Veleta and Nicole prioritizing culture and collaboration
  - Curriculum Night on August 26: two classroom sessions plus auditorium overview
  - Conference window shortened this year; new set schedule for teachers
  - Literacy professional development session coming in September
  - Big celebration: ANCS is first in the district to have all kindergarten immunization records submitted (credit to the school nurse)
  - Shoutout to principal partner Veleta Greer on a strong first two months together
- Mark Sanders (MC) presented on middle campus updates
  - Relationship-building underway in advisories; social-emotional learning and current events discussions
  - Ice cream social held last Friday; MAP testing this week (math Wednesday, reading Friday)
  - Student profile talks next Thursday and Friday: students discuss learning profiles with adults, connected to enrichment/extension work and the opportunity gap
  - Meet the School Family Night: Thursday, September 3 on the recess field; teachers create videos for the curricular piece, in-person event for face-to-face connection
  - Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations across advisory and morning meeting

- Picture day and ANCS Music Fest at end of September

B. Executive Director's Monthly Report

ED Report (Alastair Pullen)

- First board meeting of the new five-year charter term, noted as a momentous milestone
- Enrollment: fully enrolled and at capacity; expect to hit 628 students
  - One pending offer out for fourth grade
  - Grade 3 was briefly overenrolled by one (grade-skipped student)
  - Waitlist is healthy, consistent with prior years
- Retention: 98% retention rate, one of the highest in recent years
  - 15 students left (excluding eighth-grade graduates); most due to moving or change of circumstances; three were from one family
- Milestones math data just released (ELA still embargoed; expected October/November)
  - Math continues to be a focus area
  - Trend: increase in students scoring at level two from level one, but decrease from level three to level two
  - Changes this year: associate teacher added to every classroom at the MC
  - MAP data now being collected; will look for trends against spring results
- Enrichment and extension: ~150 students identified from last year’s work; second phase now executing differentiation plans under Ms. Zelsky
- AI working group to be assembled
  - Goal: develop not just policies and procedures, but a school philosophy on AI
  - Framed around ANCS’s constructivist and IB approach: value of critical thinking, community, and the art of asking questions
  - Aim to be a leader in this space in addition to what APS produces
  - No other charter schools (Kindezi, Wesley) have issued formal statements yet
- Aftercare tutoring added this year at the EC
  - Free for all students who qualify for free and reduced lunch
  - Staffed by employees and select teachers
  - Driven by end-of-year survey data showing tutoring access was disproportionately benefiting families who could pay for outside tutoring
  - No cost increase; working on introducing equivalent support at the MC
- PTCA: strong start to the year; affinity groups up and running with five groups
  - Black Dads group has 20+ members and growing
- Board feedback: language around “differentiated instruction for economically disadvantaged students” flagged as potentially conflating economic status with academic need; acknowledged and will be revised

III. Action Items

A. VOTE: Governing Committee Members for the 26-27 SY

Rebecca Wagner made a motion to approve slates for 26/27, with amendment to add Jen to the Finance Committee.
Jonna Martin seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Committee Updates

A. A. Educational Excellence Committee Monthly Report

- first meeting September 10 at 8:30 AM; draft agendas for all meetings will be shared with the full board so non-members can audit topics of interest

B. B. Finance & Operations Committee Monthly Report

all meetings on Mondays at noon; October 19 date moved to October 20

C. C. Advancement Committee Monthly Report

- in “advancement/foundation” mode; first Friday coffee on September 4; meetings Fridays at 8:30 AM; sponsorship spreadsheet being sent out to board members to identify business prospects

D. D. Governance Committee Monthly Report

committee formed with one community member; scheduling TBD; will work on board nominations task force, board limits, and board terms with Emily

V. 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 7:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Drew Waddell