APPROVED

The Academy of Alameda Charter School Board

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday October 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location
AoA, Room 203

Directors Present
A. Cooley, C. Robie, J. Laird, K. McCoy, R. Brown, R. Rentschler, W. Schaff

Directors Absent
A. Price

Guests Present
C. Chilcott, D. Espinosa, N. Stewart (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Laird called a meeting of the board of directors of The Academy of Alameda Charter School Board to order on Wednesday Oct 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. The Board Reviews The Academy of Alameda's Mission and Envisioned Future Statements

II. Open Session

A. Public Comment

J. Whatley commented that our social media post today hit more than 10k and that is giving us good recognition. She encouraged us to comment on the posts.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Draft Meeting Minutes

C. Robie made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 08-02-26.
W. Schaff seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Rentschler	Aye
W. Schaff	Aye
C. Robie	Aye
A. Price	Absent
J. Laird	Aye
K. McCoy	Aye
R. Brown	Aye
A. Cooley	Aye

B. Approve Draft Meeting Minutes

C. Robie made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 09-08-26.
W. Schaff seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Approve Draft Meeting Minutes

C. Robie made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 09-24-26.
W. Schaff seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approve Draft Meeting Minutes

C. Robie made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 10-11-26.
W. Schaff seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Vote on Check Registers

F.

Vote on Credit Card Statement

G. Vote on Consent Calendar

C. Robie made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
W. Schaff seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Board Communication

A. Financial Presentation and Discussion

N. Stewart presented AoA's financial presentation. She advised we currently have about $190k less than expected.

C. Chilcott presented 2 additional scenarios of how to reduce the deficits. J. Laird asked clarification of how many FTE cuts we would be doing this year and in the following years. She asked where we get our attendance assumptions from.
C. Robie asked what is our ADA? C. Chilcott advised we are averaging about 93.

A. Cooley asked if there was a way to see how the school can sustain itself with cutting staff. She wanted to state if doing so would also be detrimental to the quality of teaching we do. She asked what our options to try to reduce the deficit while not compromising the service our admin and our students can do. C. Robie advised we need to figure out what we make that makes us stand out. She stated she is also worried about us being under the 15% that Alameda requires.

R. Rentschler stated that it is important to worry about the natural staffing attrition of the school and if this will be helpful and/or if we need to do look at other ways. C. Chilcott stated that AoA cannot maintain the way it is but rather something needs to change but keep AoA special. R. Rentschler stated there is a sweet right spot but at the same time there may not be one.

R. Brown asked why can't we stop marketing all together for this year so that we can not have to cut an FTE. C. Chilcott advised that is what brings the students hence bringing the money. Both R. Brown and A. Cooley asked if they can get a copy of each line item for both marketing and the AUSD fees. They advised if they cannot reduce any of those so be it but it would be good to at least see line by line items. The board agreed on asking the district for some discount or cut down but also not give the idea that there is any financial issues at the school.

R. Rentschler advised that it has a lot to do with the right size of the school. C. Robie advised that it is important that whatever we do, we need to do it fast.

B.

Academic Presentation

A. McGeorge provided an academic presentation stating how the students are doing in the teaching level. She advised that teachers and staff are doing wonderful work.
J. Whatley advised that seeing this is just hard after the previous conversation. She stated she feels that this community needs us. She says she is happy to see how nice it is to see that our numbers are showing just how hard the teachers are actually working.

J. Laird stated it is great to be able to see the visual comparison of the state vs AoA. She asked if there is a way to see how we compare to AUSD district. C. Chilcott advised you have to look at each AUSD school's dashboard individually, but there isn't a way to compare AoA to the district as a whole.

V. Open Session

A. Report Out

No action taken in closed session.

B. Board Committee Reports

Nothing to report.

VI. Closing Items

A. Individual Board Member Reports

J. Laird commented that she just wanted to commend the professionalism of all the staff on a parent issue.

B. Executive Director Report

C. Upcoming Board Meetings

D. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Laird