APPROVED

Academy of Collaborative Education

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM

Location
The Center for Children and Families, Inc.
622 Riverside Dr.
Monroe, LA 71201

Amy Marcus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: ACE Board Meeting
Time: This is a recurring meeting. Meet anytime
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Pursuant to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law - La. R.S. 42:19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Board of Directors of Academy of Collaborative Education and to the general public that the Board will hold a regular, special, or rescheduled meeting open to the public as specified below. To ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law, recipients of this message should not forward it to other Board members, and Board members should not reply to this message.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.2, this board meeting will be held virtually. Members of the public can access it through the link on the website. The anchor location for the meeting will be The Center for Children and Families, Inc., located at 622 Riverside Dr., Monroe, LA 71201.

Any individual who wishes to make a public comment on one or more items on the agenda, but cannot attend the meeting in person, must submit their comment to boardchair@aceforasd.org no less than 24 hours before the board meeting. The comment should include the individual's full name and the name of the agenda item on which they are commenting.

Once the Board President/Chair calls for public comment on a specific agenda item and recognizes the speaker, the individual wishing to make an in-person public comment on an agenda item should be prepared to speak for no longer than 3 minutes. Before commencing with their public comment, the individual must state their full name.

The names of all individuals submitting public comments shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Directors Present

Amy Marcus, Anna Grimmett, Davy Mize, Holly Allen (remote), Kara Maggiore (remote), Latner McDonald, Richard Cannon

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
Joellen Freeman

Guests Present
Diamond Melton (remote), Madison Bachhofer (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Amy Marcus called a meeting of the board of directors of Academy of Collaborative Education to order on Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 3:33 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Richard Cannon made a motion to approve minutes from Board Meeting on 04-16-25.
Latner McDonald seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approval of May Meeting Agenda

Anna Grimmett made a motion to approve May meeting agenda.
Kara Maggiore seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director Report

Presented by Joellen Freeman:

First Kindergarten Graduation. 16 students.
Awards Day Grades 3-5 on May 22, 2025.

Enrollment 2025-2026 - 120 students enrolled with 6 openings.
Need to hire 4 teachers for next school year.

2024-2025 Events:

- Daily Attendance Rate of 90%
- Family engagement increased throughout year. Working with Parent volunteer organization to target increased engagement with new officers
- Leap connect scores are in; 21 students took test and each grade level exhibited positive improvements.
- Dibbles statewide required testing completed and all students taking the test showed improvements when comparing mid-year scores to end-of-year scores.
- ACE students exceeded instructional minutes for current academic year. Will end academic year earlier than anticipated but school will remain open until originally scheduled last school day to accommodate those parents without child coverage

2025-2026 Events:

- Working to extend partnership with Monroe City S re: transportation and APE teachers.
- Two grant possibilities in pipeline.
    - 1 grant is an unrestricted 1 million dollars. Working with a grant writer to complete application.
    - 2nd grant is through the Governor's Office for $50,000 and restricted to safety.

ACE working on "cyber security." Governor's Office offers "crowd strike" that is a free program to shore up security in this area. ACE will implement.

B. Committee Reports

"Governance Committee" reported by Kara Maggiore and May Meeting discussion re:

- Board Retreat on June 14, 2025;
- Board Retreat draft agenda to be presented, discussed, approved later in the meeting;
- Discussion of Nepotism Policy and reasons for the same; and
- ED Evaluation process; use of Executive Session.

"Finance Committee" reported by Latner McDonald and May Meeting discussion re:

- Current and Future Budget;
- Deficit for current year less than anticipated;
- Working to finalize future budget;
- High cost services, i.e., Medicaid, continue to work with accounting of same;
- Consider increased line of credit with bank; and
- Presented with Physical Therapy contract.

"Facilities Committee" reported by Davy Mize and May Meeting discussion re:

- Expansion/addition of 6th grade classrooms; and
- Inspection by HVAC, electrical, etc. to identify potential issues and opportunities to address during renovation.

"Academic Excellence" reported by Amy Marcus and May Meeting discussion re:

- Working 2 provide parenting workshops.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of ED Support and Evaluation Process

Kara Maggiore made a motion to Approve ED Support and Evaluation Process.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Kara Maggiore	Aye
Amy Marcus	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Holly Allen	Aye
Richard Cannon	Aye
Davy Mize	Aye

B. Annual Board Retreat Agenda

Davy Mize made a motion to Approve Annual Board Retreat Agenda.
Anna Grimmett seconded the motion.
Approved
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. BCBA and OT contracts for the upcoming SY

Finance Committee voted to fund BCBA and OT contracts for upcoming school year. Board discussed the need for the Agreements. The proposed agreements will be presented in Governance Committee, then to Board for final approval of Agreements.

D. Nepotism Policy

Latner McDonald made a motion to Approve Nepotism Policy.
Davy Mize seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Davy Mize	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Holly Allen	Aye
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Kara Maggiore	Aye
Richard Cannon	Aye
Amy Marcus	Aye

E. Retroactive approval of the modification of the students' last day of required attendance

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Retroactive Approval of Modification of the Students Last Day of Required Attendance.
Kara Maggiore seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Holly Allen	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Kara Maggiore	Aye
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Davy Mize	Aye
Amy Marcus	Aye
Richard Cannon	Aye

IV. Other/Old Business

A. Upcoming: June Board Meeting/Annual Retreat

Board Retreat on June 14, 2025

- Budget will be presented during retreat

Board Meeting on June 18, 2025

- Budget will be voted on during this meeting

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Adjourn.
Latner McDonald seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Allen

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at a public meeting of Academy of Collaborative Education, please contact Joellen Freeman at jcfreeman@aceforasd.orgdescribing the assistance that is necessary.