APPROVED

Academy of Collaborative Education

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday October 29, 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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According 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 Meetings Law, recipients of this message should not forward it to other Board members, and Board members should not reply to this message.

Members of the public can access the board meeting through the link on the website or attend in person. The meeting's anchor location 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 agenda items but cannot attend the meeting must submit their comment to boardchair@aceforasd.org at least 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.

Any individual interested in providing a public comment on one or more agenda items who can attend the meeting in person may submit their comments to boardchair@aceforasd.org at least 24 hours prior to the board meeting. Alternatively, they may arrive at the meeting, complete the ACE Board Meeting Public Comment Request Form in writing, and submit it to the board chair.

During the board meeting, 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 in person and via email shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

It is the practice of the board to hear public comments but not respond instantly. The board will confer with the ED, and, depending on the issue, either the Board Chair or ED will respond to you within 24 hours.

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

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
Allison Dickens (remote), joellen freeman

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 Oct 29, 2025 at 3:33 PM.
Richard Cannon made a motion to Call to order.
Anna Grimmett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Approve Minutes from 9.17.25 and 10.22.25 (Special)

Richard Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 09-17-25.
Anna Grimmett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Latner McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 10-22-25.
Seth Hall seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approval of Agenda

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Approve agenda.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Reports

A.

Executive Director Report

Joellen updated the board on the organization's performance, strategic progress, financial health, and any significant risks or opportunities. Currently have 114 students with 36 students on the waitlist, and 37 students obtaining waitlist status. Over 100 people on the interest list with contact being made. Staffing update: teachers fully staffed with 1 teacher obtaining masters in December. Currently have 7 teachers with sped certification, 8 will have SPED certification in December. We are looking to hire 2 paras and possibly 2 line techs, but definitely 1 line tech for now. Monday, a new cafeteria worker will be hired, and the current cafeteria worker is becoming a para. We are also looking for full-time speech therapist because the need is so great. Staff and School highlights: kids went to special olympics on 10/24/25; Dawn Stanfield was contacted to spearhead the event as event had started to die out in our area; ACE's 5th and 6th grades participated with Franklin Parish schools; MedCamps was avengers cabin on 10.25.25; Dawn Stanfield awarded Angel award recipient by the Blue Foundation, and she chose ACE Friends of as her non-profit organization to receive $30,000; Dawn is speaking at autism conference in Lake Charles on 10.29.25

Updated financials will be talked about more in financial committee meeting. MFP forward funding was realized in October. Sherah working with LDOE to understand why the numbers are not reflecting forward funding for 18 students.

Stipend allocation approved by board at 10.22.25 special meeting for staff. The first round of allocations fr FY 25 distributed on 10.24.25 and the next round will be distributed 11.24.25.

Medicaid Revenue: first test payment received last week for test claim that was sent in. Progress will be updated in November Finance meeting

Charitable contributions: $30,000 contribution from Angel Awards. Still awaiting numbers from ACE Golf Tournament and River Rat.

Audit process: Decision made to have Sherah at Ed-OPs to work for both years. Nothing to report at this time.

Waiting to hear back from updated lease from Gene Hasting. A board and governance meeting will need to be had to approve lease. Holly will look at it once Mr. Hastings sends back.

Provision has items on order. Currently waiting on Zack Woods plan to be approved by fire marshal. Library is ready but requires some professional cleaning. The church is ready to move out.

Upcoming events: Thanksgiving lunch, Parent Resource Meeting and PVO meeting on 11.08.25, Thanksgiving and winter breaks. PVO is planning Coke fundraiser, Scholastic Bookfair, and a Holiday Store.

Goals: On target with board recruitment. There are some candidates on the radar for potential board members. Governance is trying to get a system on BOT to review policies and recommend to be presented to board. Working with Sherah and moving some goals to have more transparency and accessibility to finance options like RAMP and Paylocity.

Resolutions to withdraw funds and close Cross Keys Bank account which went dormant. Joellen and Latner will go close the account and move funds to Progressive Bank. The other resolution is to change signatories.

Adoption of State Police background checks.

Differentiated Compensation Plan is a stipend to encourage SPED certified teachers to remain at ACE and encourage other teachers to become SPED certified.

B. Committee Reports

Governance has covered the change to schedules. Finance and facilities have approved changes. Other committee and board changes have to go through Governance to approve. Once changes have been made, updates have to be sent to Charter authorization and LDOE and ACE website will need updating. Governance will move to November 11th due to Thanksgiving break.

Finance: the biggest things that have been done would be the bank processes and working with ED-OPs. Sherah is taking care of any grants and redlines almost immediately and Joellen receives constant updates.

AE: Off target on increasing volunteer engagement, but everybody is working on that. New faces were at the Halloween event. Latner was impressed with the enthusiasm and interest of parents regarding the long term goals of ACE. Would ACE move more towards vocational or college prep? Benchmark testing and pupil progression plan information was provided by Karen and Joellen stated that Shantel Reynard stopped by ACE.

Facility- main focus is Grace Lease. There was discussion of HVAC issues and the attic stairs were replaced.

C. Board Chair Report: Proposed Committee Schedule Changes

Governance move from 26th to 11th of November due to Thanksgiving break.

Proposed AE meeting will move to quarterly with next meeting starting Dec 3.

Finance and facilities will go to every other month if approved, but the November meeting will proceed as scheduled.

Board meetings and governance will need to be discussed to move to every other month.

III. Action Items

A. Vote on Cross Keys Resolution

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Withdraw funds and close account at Cross Keys Bank.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

B. Vote on Progressive Resolution

Latner McDonald made a motion to Adopt the resolution to remove Amy as signatory and add Latner and Anna as signatories.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

C. Vote on State Police Background Check Policy

Richard Cannon made a motion to Adopt LSP background check policy for Academy of Collaborative Education.
Anna Grimmett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Vote on Wood Electronics Proposal

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Adopt Wood Electronics fire safety proposal for the Grace site.
Seth Hall seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Davy Mize	Absent
Seth Hall	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Holly Allen	Absent
Amy Marcus	Aye
Kara Maggiore	Absent

E. Vote on Differentiated Compensation Plan (Stipend)

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Approve the Differentiated Compensation Plan for certified SPED teachers.
Latner McDonald seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Vote to approve SPED Strategies Contract

Seth Hall made a motion to Approve SPED Strategies contract.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. November Governance meeting change due to Thanksgiving Break

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Approve calendar change to move Governance meeting to November 11,2025, due to Thanksgiving Break.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Vote to approve the Academic Excellence Committee calendar changes

Latner McDonald made a motion to Approve calendar change to quarterly on December 3, March 2, and May 6.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Vote to approve changes to the Finance Committee Calendar

Latner McDonald made a motion to Approve finance calendar change to every other month after the November meeting.

Anna Grimmett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Kara Maggiore	Aye
Davy Mize	No
Seth Hall	Aye
Amy Marcus	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Richard Cannon	Aye
Holly Allen	No
Anna Grimmett	Aye

J. Vote to approve changes to the Facilities Committee Calendar

Anna Grimmett made a motion to Approve facilities calendar change to every other month after the November meeting.
Seth Hall seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Seth Hall	Aye
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Amy Marcus	Aye
Richard Cannon	Aye

K. Nomination of Kara Maggiore to the ACE Board of directors

Amy Marcus made a motion to Nominate and approve Kara Maggiore as a board member for the Academy of Collaborative Education.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Holly Allen	Absent
Richard Cannon	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Amy Marcus	Aye
Seth Hall	Aye
Davy Mize	Absent

L. Nominate Kara Maggiore for Interim Board Chair for the Academy of Collaborative Education

Richard Cannon made a motion to approve Kara Maggiore for Interim Board Chair through June 2026.
Amy Marcus seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call	
Seth Hall	Aye
Latner McDonald	Aye
Davy Mize	Absent
Anna Grimmett	Aye
Holly Allen	Absent
Amy Marcus	Aye
Richard Cannon	Aye

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Richard Cannon made a motion to Adjourn meeting.
Amy Marcus 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 4:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Dickens

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.