APPROVED

Academy of Collaborative Education

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday August 19, 2026 at 3:30 PM

Location
Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85114287278?pwd=e1cEPf8dXRU5njacNAc8R0wcVwEz0o.1

Meeting ID: 851 1428 7278
Passcode: 916947

Pursuant to 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 re-scheduled 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.

Directors Present
Anna Grimmett, Curtis Eberts, Davy Mize (remote), Hannah Nguyen, Holly Allen (remote), Matthew Fowlkes, Richard Cannon, Seth Hall

Directors Absent
Latner McDonald

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

Davy Mize

Ex Officio Members Present
Joellen Freeman

Guests Present
Melissa Grand (remote), jmartin@ed-ops.com (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

Davy Mize arrived.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Anna Grimmett called a meeting of the board of directors of Academy of Collaborative Education to order on Wednesday Aug 19, 2026 at 3:32 PM.

C. Approve Minutes from previous meeting

Seth Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from Annual Meeting + Board Retreat on 06-27-26.
Matthew Fowlkes seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approval of Agenda

Amend to amend agenda to include financial information. In all other respects Agenda approved

Anna Grimmett made motion
Hannah Nguyen seconded motion.
Anna Grimmett made a motion to Approve Agenda as Amended.
Hannah Nguyen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Executive Director Report

Joellen Freeman:

1. Staffing:

- 55 staff members total

- 4 paraprofessionals down
- 2 teachers down
- Actively recruiting for a Speech Therapist and a CODA
- Down 1 Nurse. Ours resigned due to job offer with Ouachita Parish. Working through process with an applicant for position
- Working to bettter understand job qualifications of Principal position prior to seeking

2. Students:

- 135/160 students
- 55 students on waitlist
- 50 students with interest

3. Events:

- Visit by St. Tammany Parish - August 31, 2026
- River Rat Paddle Challenge - Sept 19, 2026
- Fall Break - October 12-16, 2026
- Med Camps Annual Boo Bash - October 31, 2026

B. Governance Report

Curtis Eberts:

- Transportation discussion
- New Business -
  - policy/procedure to have leave time documented
  - pathway of moving para's to certified teachers
  - offering employees cafeteria plan as part of their available benefits

C. Finance Report

Joe Martin:

- End 2025/26 SY - 472K loss
- FY 26/27 Budget is tight
  - Budgets are negatively impacted by cut in MFP funding, delayed Medicaid funding and lack of compensation for high-cost services.
  - Budgets looking ahead are more positive due to Medicaid funding and increased student enrollment.
  - Primary issue is that ACE serves a high needs population not covered by MFP funding which results in the need to aggressively pursue additional funding.

D.

Academic Excellence Report

Will meet next month and report will be given at following meeting.

E. Facilities Report

F. SY2026-27 Academic Report

III. Executive Session

A. Legal Advice

Richard Cannon made a motion to Move to Executive Session.
Matthew Fowlkes seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Joellen Freeman and Melissa Grand (counsel):

- Served with due process complaint brought by parent. Disagreement with proposed accommodation for student. Working to come to resolution. Currently scheduled for mediation in September 2026.

Holly Allen made a motion to Move out of Executive Session.
Anna Grimmett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Discussion of New Business

A. Financial Discussion

Anna Grimmet:

- 13th Check - consider in finance committee what that would look like to pay out a stipend

B. ACE Educator Residency Program

Discussion of program generally.
Curtis Eberts made a motion to Approve ACE Educator Residency Program.
Richard Cannon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. CEO PTO policy

Discussion of issue generally.

Seth Hall made a motion to Approve CEO PTO Policy.
Matthew Fowlkes seconded the motion.

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

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Matthew Fowlkes made a motion to Adjourn.
Curtis Eberts 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 5:10 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.