APPROVED

# Brevard Academy

# Minutes

## Monthly Board Meeting

**Date and Time**
Wednesday January 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM

**Mission:**
The Mission of Brevard Academy is to prepare its students to achieve academic excellence through the Core Knowledge Sequence. Through a partnership involving students, teachers, and parents the school strives to create citizens with strong moral character and active intellectual inquiry.
**Vision:**
Brevard Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy (BA-CFA) a K-8 public charter school develops and encourages motivated, intellectually curious students who are skilled in critical thinking, individual expression, and problem-solving. From their diverse backgrounds, students accept our challenge to pursue personal and academic excellence. Through this pursuit, they become confident members of their community who lead by serving others.

**Strategic Goals:**

1. Ensure Academic Success for Every Student
2. Actively Engage Stakeholders to Strengthen and Enrich Our Communities
3. Recruit, Hire and Retain Highly Effective Personnel
4. Use Resources Effectively and Be Fiscally Responsible
5. Provide Effective and Innovative Learning Environments

**Directors Present**
Abe Pallas, Brandon Smith, Jamie Atkinson, Mark Franklin, Paul Cooper

**Directors Absent**
Jennifer Silva, Tyree Griffin

**Ex Officio Members Present**
Ted Duncan

**Guests Present**
Ali Liubenov

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## I. Work Session/Closed Session

### A. Work Session/Closed Session

Paul Cooper made a motion to move into closed session.
Brandon Smith seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Paul Cooper made a motion to move out of closed.
Mark Franklin seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There was board discussion on the effectiveness of committees and what should we be focused on.

## II. Opening Items

### A. Call the Meeting to Order

Jamie Atkinson called a meeting of the board of directors of Brevard Academy to order on Wednesday Jan 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

### B. Record Attendance

### C. Pledge of Allegiance

Students from Amazing Shake Competition led the Pledge

### D. Approve Meeting Agenda

Abe Pallas made a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
Paul Cooper seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### E.

### Approve Minutes

Brandon Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting on 12-17-25.
Abe Pallas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## III. Regular Meeting Business

### A. Good News

Student Accomplishments

- 12 of our students traveled to The Seaside School in FL to compete in the Amazing Shake
- Our SGA/Impact Club won the Festival of Lights Cabin Competition at Deerwoode Reserve

Staff Accomplishments

- Ali Liubenov won the Golden Leaf

School News

- Enrollment is open!
- We had a great Winter Concert at Biltmore Church Brevard
- Our Middle School Winter Dance was a success

Community Relations/Professional Presentations

- Megan Monk presented to the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club about our mentoring program
- Jen Iden will present to the Rosman National Honor Society Students about AI
- Our Bread of Life Food Drive is underway. We brought in 350 pounds of donations in the first week
- School Choice Week kicks off next week

### B. Student Highlight

Amazing Shake Recap - we took 12 students to FL to participate in the Amazing Shake. It was a 2 day event with 220 students and 80 volunteers. The event is focused on discussion with peers and other adults, good strong handshake and eye contact, different interview style questions on the spot, and stations to see how quickly and confidently students can answer/offer opinions/be respectful/act/be interviewed/etc.

3 of our students made it into the top 30, and were interviewed individually. (Hadley George, Lillie Oliver, and Leo Koppel)

2 of our students made top 15 and participated in a debate and brunch interviews (Hadley George & Leo Koppel)
Hadley and Leo made the top 6! Had to participate in a 3 minute interview.

We are going to host an Amazing Shake Brevard Academy in the Spring for our Middle School students. We need 67 volunteers!

### C. Staff Highlight

PTO Presentation - Heidi Philyaw (President)

- Back to School Breakfast - trying to get parents involved and connected
- Meet and Greet in the Fall
- Staff/Teacher Appreciation once a month/every month starting in September
- Fundraisers - Pisgah Coffee Roasters, VIP Parking Raffle, Read A Thon with Scholastic Book Fair
- Gingerbread House Competition
- Middle School Dances - Winter/Spring
- Glow Dance for (K-5 students) introducing this year
- PTO Golden Leaf - Staff to Staff peer recognition award
- PTO Newsletter
- Volunteers are amazing and continuing the goal of keeping parents connected and involved

### D. Opportunity for Public Comment

Cara Varney - has applied to be on the Board. Professional Fundraiser - being a part of a group like this community. She has worked at Eagles Nest Outdoor Academy for 10 years. Has signed her child up for the Kindergarten lottery. Also, on the Board for the Pisgah Collective, and other community boards. Would love to be involved in the board that so many of the community are in and where she wants her children in school.

## IV. Committee Reports

### A. Facilities

FEMA Projects

- Parking Lot
- Outdoor Education Class is working to move rocks etc in the front of the school to make it look more presentable

Misc. Projects

Building Repairs

- Plumbing

- HVAC - making sure the pressure in the building making doors unable to close - now fixed

Action Item

- Planting one shrub and tree in the front of the building

Paul Cooper made a motion to plant a shrub and tree from a local business in the front of the school.
Mark Franklin seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## B. Finance

- Monthly Budget
- Cash Board
- Encumbered Funds - in the process of developing a policy about this being information and how it is accessed

Tentative Closing Date of February 19 for the Arts/STEM Building - money has been allocated/ projected time to complete (9mo)/ 6 bids and a lot of interest/RYSE Construction was the lowest bid

Action Items

- We need to make a journal entry from our Unencumbered Funds into our budget - increase Fund Balance Allocation by $55,348.25 to cover Arts/STEM building costs and FEMA project overages
- Add a full-time Speech Teacher - as we have grown so have our EC needs, make Sara Smith full-time instead of part-time

We are waiting for NC to release information/budget
Mark Franklin made a motion to Increase Fund Balance Allocation by $55,348.25 to cover Arts/STEM building costs and FEMA project overages.
Paul Cooper seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Mark Franklin made a motion to Add a full-time Speech Teacher.
Abe Pallas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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|---|---|
| Tyree Griffin | Absent |
| Jennifer Silva | Absent |
| Jamie Atkinson | Aye |
| Brandon Smith | Abstain |
| Mark Franklin | Aye |
| Paul Cooper | Aye |

**Roll Call**

Abe Pallas Aye

### C. Governance and Policy

Amendment to Policy 7390--Personal Time Off

- Remove: However, the state of North Carolina does not allow such leave to count toward an employee's years of service at retirement.
- Replace with: Accumulated leave is reported to the state at retirement.

Abe Pallas made a motion to make the amendment to Policy 7390.
Brandon Smith seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### D. Long-Range Planning

- Board and CEO Action Calendar - please look forward to end of January and February
- New Board Member Applications
- New Development Plan - ways individuals on the board have been contributing to new development
- Board Training
- CEO Support

Action Items

- Motion to approve the applicants : Trish Andrews and Hannah Camenzind

Brandon Smith made a motion to Motion to approve the applicants for Board : Trish Andrews and Hannah Camenzind.
Paul Cooper seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### E. CEO Support and Evaluation

## V. Director Report

### A. Director Report

- Director Report
- Discipline Report
- Enrollment Report - 97 applicants so far in just a week! We did not meet this until February last year
- Staff and Student Attendance - goal of 95%
- Staff Intent to Return - no one is leaving disgruntled, both will return as subs when available

- TCS School Lunch Program on Fridays in February - offering a lower cost than our current provider - we could be reimbursed for our students that are free/reduced lunch with a grant

## VI. Other Business

### A. Announcement of Next Meeting

next meeting is February 18

## VII. 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 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Franklin

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- Amazing Shake - Seaside .pptx
- December Budget.pdf
- Brevard Academy Feasability Study 8.25.2025.pdf
- December Cash Brevard.pdf
- December 2025 Referrals.pdf
- In School Suspensions December 2025.pdf
- Positive Merits December 2025.pdf
- Director Report January 2026.pdf
- Brevard Academy Staff Professional Developement 25-26.pdf

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*This meeting is a public meeting of the BA-CFA Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be time for public participation as indicated on the agenda.*