Achievement House
CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL

Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees

Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and concluded at approximately 7:09 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
   A. Marilou Strangarity called the public meeting to order at 7:11 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call
   Mrs. Marilou Strangarity (President) – Present
   Mr. Bob Worn (Vice President) – Present
   Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary) – Present
   Ms. Chris Hakes (Treasurer) – Absent
   Mrs. Maryanne Cullen (Member) – Present
   Ms. Bari Buiso (Member) – Absent

III. Notification of Recording
   A. M. Strangarity announced that the Public Session would be recorded on an audio device.

IV. Executive Session Statement
   A. M. Strangarity announced that the Board held an Executive Session this evening to discuss personnel matters, financial matters, and legal issues.

V. Approval of the Minutes
   A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2026, Board meeting.
      1. Motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2026, Board meeting was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion: Academic Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Academic Video Report.
   B. Paul Dubin reported that he had no additional updates for the Board.
   C. B. Worn commented that he appreciated P. Dubin's positive perspective on Act 20, noting that it offers teachers another way to connect with students.

VII. Discussion: Special Education Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Special Education Video Report and there were none.
   B. Trina Knauff reported that she had no additional updates for the Board.

VIII. Discussion: Curriculum Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Curriculum Video Report and there were none.
   B. Jodi Byrne reported that she had no additional updates for the Board.

IX. Discussion: COO Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the COO Video Report.
   B. Victoria Nesti reported that she had no additional updates for the Board but shared that, at M. Strangarity's suggestion, she had highlighted two staff members in her report to give the Board an opportunity to see some of the school's "superstars" at work. She recognized Bridget Sykes and Kevin Smochko for their excellent work.
   C. B. Worn asked how she had chosen the two staff members. V. Nesti replied that staff from multiple departments had repeatedly spoken highly of both employees, and that her own interactions with them also contributed to her selections. Moving forward, she had asked the leadership team to provide nominations, which she would consider along with her own observations and interactions when selecting staff members to highlight.

X. Discussion: Family & Student Experience Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Family & Student Experience Video Report.
   B. Tunisia Garnett reported that she had no additional updates for the Board.
   C. B. Worn commented that the numbers were strong and congratulated T. Garnett and her team.

XI. Discussion: Enrollment & Student Services Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Enrollment & Student Services Video Report.
   B. Jason Schmucker reported that he had no additional updates for the Board.
   C. M. Strangarity commented on the report, noting that it was very encouraging that, for the first time in four years, enrollment increased from August to September. She also noted that approximately 7% of the school's students are identified as homeless and acknowledged how difficult that must be for them. She thanked everyone for touching their lives and infusing hope into them.

XII. Discussion: HR Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the HR Video Report.
   B. Stefani Frank provided an update to her report and noted that Jennifer Falcone will not be returning to her position as Engagement and Design Coordinator. She stated that they are considering next steps for the role and what would be best for the school and students, and that the position will likely be posted within the next several weeks. S. Frank also noted that, with Katie Bonesteel's departure, they will be evaluating the Music teacher position as well.
   C. M. Strangarity asked whether all of K. Bonesteel's music classes were being covered. P. Dubin replied that, as soon as they received notice of her departure, they were able to cover all of her classes and are currently exploring long-term options.

XIII. Discussion: Guidance Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Guidance Video Report and there were none.
   B. Kris Botes reported that she had no additional updates for the Board.

XIV. Finance/Business Report
   A. Ryan Schumm presented the monthly Treasurer's Report, providing an overview of the school's financial position and highlighting key items for discussion. He emphasized Achievement House's commitment to financial transparency, noting that all revenues and expenditures are clearly documented and available for review.
   B. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report.
      1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report was made by B. Worn and seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XV. Discussion: CEO Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the CEO Video Report.
   B. Ana Meyers reported that September was an exceptionally busy month for everyone. She noted that staff worked through the new requirements of Act 20 and began implementing them, describing the effort as "all hands on deck." A. Meyers also noted that the transition of Don Asplen into his consulting role at the beginning of October went smoothly. She acknowledged that her transition into the CEO position has brought a lot of change and additional work for staff and commended everyone for the great job they have done.
   C. A. Meyers shared that she continues to prioritize the leadership transition to ensure it is as steady as possible for staff and the families the school supports and serves. She also continues to prioritize the school's compliance work and, with Act 20 still in its early stages, assured everyone that they can handle the new requirements.
   D. A. Meyers provided an update on the legislative relationships she is rebuilding. She noted that she and the school's lobbyist have a plan in place and will continue to spend time at the Capitol advocating for the school and communicating concerns with the law, as well as gaps they have identified.
   E. A. Meyers reported that she continues to meet and work with the other Cyber Charter School CEOs on a weekly basis and noted that these meetings have proven to be successful.
   F. B. Worn asked the staff members in attendance how staff were handling the changes.
      1. P. Dubin noted that every day is a new experience and that they manage the changes by remaining unified and collaborative.
      2. C. Kern shared that staff genuinely care about the students and are willing to do whatever is needed to support them. She added that the team is getting into a groove and everyone is working together.

3. T. Knauff added that, with everything new and the changes implemented by PDE, her team has worked together to make the changes positive.
4. J. Byrne agreed with P. Dubin, noting that the nature of the staff is very collaborative.
5. S. Frank noted that the school has a genuinely compassionate staff who connect with students and put them first, and that is what drives who they are.

G. D. Fraatz commented that everyone featured in the video reports had a great attitude.

H. A. Meyers shared that she and V. Nesti recognize that some of the recent change resulted from restructuring the organization and creating an additional level of leadership. She acknowledged that this has required an adjustment and commended staff for being open-minded and adapting to the changes. A. Meyers noted that she believes the new structure will ultimately benefit the organization by improving communication across departments and encouraging greater collaboration. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that everyone feels seen, heard, and appreciated.

I. M. Strangarity commented that it was nice to hear the comments and see the positive attitude everyone has maintained throughout the transition. She noted that everyone continues to work toward supporting the students and thanked staff for sharing their thoughts.

XVI. Personnel

A. New Hires:
1. Emma Lessick, HR Coordinator, 10/19/26
2. Lisa Cunningham, Director of Marketing & Communications, 11/04/26
3. Emily Hardy, Special Education Teacher, 12/01/26

B. Separations:
1. Don Asplen, CIO, Retirement, 10/01/26
2. Katie Bonesteel, Music Teacher, 10/02/26
3. Paul Jones, School Counselor, 10/16/26
4. Chelsea Hoynak, Math Teacher, 11/06/26

C. Position/Salary Changes:
1. Becky Aller, Enrollment Specialist, 9/21/26
2. Anne Daughton, Enrollment Specialist, 9/21/26
3. Bridget Sykes, Attendance Coordinator, 10/05/26
4. Jane Wood, Special Education Coordinator, 10/05/26

D. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve all personnel changes as listed above, with salaries as discussed during Executive Session.
1. Motion to approve all personnel changes as listed above, with salaries as discussed during Executive Session, was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Governance

A. Revised Attendance and Truancy Policy
1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the revised Attendance Policy.
   a. Motion to approve the revised Attendance Policy was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

B. Revised Wellness Check Policy
1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the revised Wellness Check Policy.
   a. Motion to approve the revised Wellness Check Policy was made by B. Worn and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

C. Revised AI Policy
1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the revised AI Policy.
   a. Motion to approve the revised AI Policy was made by B. Worn and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

D. Revised Graduation Requirements Policy
1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the revised Graduation Policy.
   a. Motion to approve the revised Graduation Policy was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

E. Title IX Policy
1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the Title IX Policy.
   a. Motion to approve the Title IX Policy was made by M. Cullen and seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

F. Include Compliance Administrator Report as a Standing Agenda Item for All Board Meetings
    1. A. Meyers called for a motion to include the Compliance Administrator Report as a standing agenda item for all Board meetings.
        a. Motion to include the Compliance Administrator Report as a standing agenda item for all Board meetings was made by B. Worn and seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

G. Designation of Federal Programs Coordinator
    1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the CEO's designation of Cynde Pizur, Compliance Administrator, as the school's Federal Programs Coordinator, effective October 20, 2026.
        a. Motion to approve the CEO's designation of Cynde Pizur, Compliance Administrator, as the school's Federal Programs Coordinator, effective October 20, 2026, was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

H. Marketing Contract
    1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the Marketing Contract with Bravo Group effective October 21, 2026.
        a. Motion to approve the Marketing Contract with Bravo Group effective October 21, 2026, was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XVIII. New Business

A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business and there was none.

XIX. Public Comment

A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any public comments.
    1. Sam Conley-Vaverchak thanked the administration, and especially Paul Dubin, for all the work they have done to support him and his department through the challenges they have faced this year. He acknowledged that it has been challenging but expressed confidence that, with good leadership at the helm, they will be able to work through it.

B. Following public comment, M. Strangarity shared that Don Asplen is very pleased with the work being performed by Michelle Hapich now that he is working directly with her in her new position as Director of IT and Innovation.

XX. Adjournment

A. There being no further business, M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public meeting.
    1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by M. Cullen and seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

B. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.