Achievement House
CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL

# Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees

## Public Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, September 15, 2026

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and concluded at approximately 7:10 p.m.

I. 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) – Present
Mrs. Maryanne Cullen (Member) – Present
Ms. Bari Buiso (Member) – Not Present

III. Notification of Recording
A. Marilou 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 August 18, 2026, Board meeting.
1. Motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026, Board meeting was made by Bob Worn and seconded by Don Fraatz. 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. He noted that classes are running smoothly, all systems and processes are in place, and the administration will continue monitoring operations to identify opportunities for improvement.
C. D. Fraatz commented that the report was very informative. He encouraged P. Dubin not to be concerned about the length of his report and to take whatever time is necessary to provide updates to the Board.

VII. Discussion: Special Education Video Report
A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Special Education Video Report.
B. Trina Knauff reported that there are currently 266 students with IEPs, with 11 additional evaluations in process. She also noted that there are five potential new gifted students this year. T. Knauff shared that her department recently held its first data meeting, during which the Special Education Instructional Teachers identified areas for improvement and began developing strategies to address lower performance scores.
C. B. Worn commented that he was impressed with the department's calendar of workshops and events. T. Knauff reported that attendance at the optional workshops has ranged from 15 to 25 students. She explained that each workshop focuses on a different topic and that the schedule has been planned for the entire school year. T. Knauff further shared that the two Emotional Support Teachers have partnered with the Transition Coordinator to facilitate the workshops, and she expressed her satisfaction with the positive results achieved thus far.
D. M. Strangarity asked Victoria Nesti about the growth of the Gifted Program. V. Nesti stated that she is thrilled with the outstanding work being done by the Gifted Team under T. Knauff's leadership. She noted that the team has already experienced significant successes with families who had previously struggled to find support in other educational settings. V. Nesti attributed these positive outcomes to the dedication of staff members who actively listen to and collaborate with families to meet students' needs.

VIII. Discussion: Curriculum Video Report
A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Curriculum Video Report.

B. Jodi Byrne provided an update to her report. J. Byrne noted that the school has begun its annual Act 48 professional development activities. She stated that teachers and curriculum point of contacts are collaborating to identify the most effective ways to support students and meet their needs. J. Byrne also reported that staff members have enrolled in Professional Learning Communities, which will begin on the fourth Wednesday in October.

C. M. Strangarity referenced the VIP initiative that was introduced several years ago and noted the importance of maintaining a unique identity that reflects who Achievement House is as a school community. She stated that it is important for students and families to feel cared for and supported and that this message is consistently conveyed through J. Byrne's reports. M. Strangarity emphasized that while academic achievement and testing are important, it is equally important to ensure students receive the appropriate curriculum while also knowing that the school genuinely cares about their success and well-being. She expressed her appreciation for the manner in which J. Byrne communicates this commitment.

IX. Discussion: Enrollment/Marketing Video Report

A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Enrollment/Marketing Video Report.

B. V. Nesti introduced Jason Schmucker, the new Director of Enrollment and Student Services, who provided an enrollment and marketing update. She also introduced Tunisia Garnett, the new Director of Family and Student Experience, and Cynde Pizur, the new Compliance Administrator, and invited them to introduce themselves following J. Schmucker's presentation.

C. J. Schmucker shared information about his background and professional experience. He stated that he hopes to provide the Board with increased data and information through his future Board reports. J. Schmucker reported that current enrollment stands at 727 students. He also noted that several enhancements have been made to the enrollment process to align with the updated Act 20 and Act 47 attendance requirements and that implementation of those changes has been running smoothly.

D. T. Garnett shared information about her background and professional experience. She stated that a significant part of her role since joining Achievement House has been focused on listening and learning. T. Garnett reported that she has been spending time with Cheryl Kern and her team members to better understand their roles and strengths, assess current programming, and identify opportunities for collaboration across departments. She noted that several immediate areas of focus include strengthening the wellness check process, supporting students and families with weekly benchmarks, and evaluating the overall student experience. On the family engagement side, T. Garnett reported that efforts are underway to strengthen communication, make resources more accessible, remove barriers to communication, and ensure families receive information in their preferred language. Additionally, T. Garnett stated that she is exploring ways to measure engagement across several areas, including the Makerspace, Field Trip Team, and Mentoring Division. As the school year progresses, she hopes to gain a deeper understanding of what is working well and identify opportunities for growth and improvement.

E. C. Pizur shared information about her background and professional experience. She reported that she is transitioning into the Compliance Administrator role and has been in the position for one week. C. Pizur stated that she has been spending time getting to know her team members and learning about Achievement House. She expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome she has received and stated that she looks forward to providing a more detailed update at the October Board meeting as she continues to grow in her role.

F. B. Worn thanked J. Schmucker, T. Garnett, and C. Pizur for joining Achievement House and stated that he looks forward to working with them.

X. 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 open enrollment for medical benefits is underway and is currently 74% complete. S. Frank is actively recruiting for the open positions of Director of Marketing and Communications and Special Education Teacher.

XI. 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 did not have any updates for the Board.

XII. 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 C. Hakes and seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Discussion: CEO Video Report
   A. M. Strangarity asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the CEO Video Report.
   B. Ana Meyers recognized Don Asplen, who will be transitioning to a consulting role with Achievement House effective October 1. She thanked him for his 16 years of service, not only to Achievement House but also to the cyber charter school movement as a whole. A. Meyers stated that D. Asplen has been a fearless leader within the movement and that she had the privilege of working with him both at Achievement House and during her time with the Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools (PCPCS). She noted that she has not encountered another CEO who has contributed as much to unifying the cyber charter sector. A. Meyers expressed the school's gratitude for his leadership and service and wished him the best in his retirement. She also thanked him for remaining with the organization as a consultant through the end of June.
      D. Asplen thanked A. Meyers for her kind remarks.
   C. A. Meyers provided several updates to her Board report. She reported that she registered to attend the PCPCS Conference in November, citing the importance of collaboration and continued support of a unified cyber charter movement. A. Meyers also shared that she has completed 42 one-on-one meetings with staff members and described the experience as both enjoyable and valuable in getting to know employees on a professional and personal level.
   D. A. Meyers further noted that there have been several positive developments within the cyber charter sector. She explained that Act 20 has fostered increased collaboration among cyber charter CEOs, who have been meeting more frequently, sharing resources, and supporting one another as they navigate new compliance requirements. A. Meyers expressed her appreciation to the Achievement House staff for their hard work and flexibility during a period of significant change. She acknowledged that the school community has embraced an "all hands on deck" approach to address evolving needs and stated that she is grateful for the dedication of the entire team. A. Meyers concluded by reaffirming the school's commitment to providing a VIP experience for current and prospective families.
   E. M. Strangarity expressed her appreciation for Don Asplen and the significant impact he has had on her personally and professionally. She thanked him for his support, leadership, and guidance throughout their time working together. M. Strangarity described D. Asplen as wise, fair, authentic, resilient, and deeply committed to his work. She noted his ability to lead with both strength and compassion and acknowledged the many contributions he has made to Achievement House over the years. M. Strangarity thanked him for his service to the school and for identifying a strong successor to continue leading the organization into the future.
   F. B. Worn shared remarks regarding Don Asplen's service to Achievement House. He reflected on his 12 years working alongside D. Asplen and stated that it had been the best job of his career. B. Worn noted that he remained with the organization longer than he had originally anticipated because of the people and, in particular, because of the opportunity to work with D. Asplen. He expressed his appreciation for D. Asplen's leadership and stated that he felt blessed to have spent the final years of his career at Achievement House. B. Worn concluded by thanking D. Asplen for his service and friendship.
   G. A. Meyers called for a motion to modify the agenda to add *Digital Payment for Additional Compensation to COO* under Governance Item E.

1. Motion to modify the agenda to add *Digital Payment for Additional Compensation to COO* under Governance Item E was made by B. Worn and seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Personnel

A. New Hires:
   1. Cynde Pizur, Compliance Administrator, 9/08/26
   2. Jeffrey McKay, Reading Specialist, 9/14/26

B. Promotions:
   1. Michelle Hapich, Director of IT & Innovation, 9/07/26

C. Stipend Positions:
   1. Adam Folk, Interim Team Captain, 26-27 SY
   2. Kris Botes, Team Leader for Guidance, 26-27 SY

D. Separations:
   1. Annette Fox, Special Education Teacher, 9/04/26

E. Open Positions:
   1. Director of Marketing and Communications
   2. Special Education Teacher

F. 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 B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XV. Governance

A. PDE eGrants Electronic Signature Resolution
   1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the PDE eGrants Electronic Signature Resolution.
      a. Motion to approve the PDE eGrants Electronic Signature Resolution was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

B. Internet Reimbursement Policy
   1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the Internet Reimbursement Policy.
      a. Motion to approve the Internet Reimbursement Policy was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Trip Policy
   1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve the Educational Trip Policy.
      a. Motion to approve the Educational Trip Policy was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

D. Include the COO Report, Director of Family and Student Experience Report and Director of Enrollment and Student Services Report as Standing Agenda Items for All Board Meetings.
   1. A. Meyers called for a motion to include the COO Report, Director of Family and Student Experience Report, and Director of Enrollment and Student Services Report as standing agenda items for all Board meetings.
      a. Motion to include the COO Report, Director of Family and Student Experience Report, and Director of Enrollment and Student Services Report as standing agenda items for all Board meetings was made by D. Fraatz and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

E. Digital Payment for the Additional Compensation to the COO
   1. A. Meyers called for a motion to approve a digital payment for additional compensation to the COO.
      a. Motion to approve a digital payment for additional compensation to the COO was made by B. Worn and seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XVI. New Business

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

XVII. Public Comment

A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

XVIII. Adjournment

A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 7:42 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on October 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by C. Hakes and seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.