



Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees
Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and continued until approximately 7:00 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
 - Dr. Bob Maranto (Member) – Present
 - Dr. Lisabeth Sweeney (Member) – Not Present
 - Mrs. Maryanne Cullen (Member) – 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 January 20, 2026, Board meeting.
 1. Motion to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026, Board meeting by Bob Maranto, seconded by Don Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.
- VI. Discussion Academic Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Academic Video Report.
 - B. Angela Alderfer reported that she did not have any additional updates for the Board.
 - C. B. Worn remarked that it was exciting to learn at the Pete&C Conference that the school is ahead of the curve in AI instruction and invited A. Alderfer to provide additional details. A. Alderfer shared that during several conference sessions she highlighted that the school is a public cyber charter school that has been teaching AI for several years and has designated an AI Champion. She also noted the strength of the school's staff and stated that her goal for next year is for staff members to present at the conference. M. Strangarity also noted it was great to hear that we are at the top end of the cutting edge when it comes to AI.
- VII. Discussion Special Education Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Special Education Video Report.
 - B. Trina Knauff reported that she did not have any additional updates for the Board.
 - C. B. Worn noted that special education enrollment is currently at 39% and asked whether this was the highest level the school has experienced. T. Knauff responded that it was not, noting that enrollment has reached approximately 42% in the past and fluctuates throughout the year.
 - D. B. Worn asked about the video trailers being used for some elective courses. T. Knauff explained that the videos were created by Amanda Reighard and Chrissy Cordovano and are designed to engage students and encourage interest in gifted education electives. She added that these electives focus on higher-level critical thinking, are cross-curricular, and emphasize creativity.
 - E. M. Strangarity asked how new gifted students are being identified. T. Knauff replied that identification includes the use of an internal matrix, benchmark assessments, and teacher referrals. M. Strangarity asked whether feedback is being received from students and parents and if it could be utilized for marketing purposes. T. Knauff responded affirmatively, noting that the school is working with the marketing team on this effort. She added that the school has published a blog post, distributes surveys to parents, and has received very positive feedback.

VIII. Discussion Curriculum Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Curriculum Video Report.
- B. Jodi Byrne reported that she did not have any additional updates for the Board.
- C. B. Worn commented on how much he enjoyed her report this month which showcased some the amazing things our staff has been doing.
- D. Fraatz shared he was also impressed with the sessions that were held for our in-service day.

IX. Discussion Enrollment/Marketing Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Enrollment/Marketing Video Report and there were none.
- B. Becky Aller updated her report to share that we now have 978 students enrolled and that we now hold orientation every day.

X. Discussion HR Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the HR Video Report.
- B. Stefani Frank reported that Amanda Reighard's new title has been finalized as Educational Design Specialist.
- C. B. Worn noted that the continuing education reimbursement amount is \$7,000 and asked how many staff members participate in the program and whether usage has increased or decreased in recent years.
 - S. Frank responded that participation has remained relatively consistent year to year, though she has observed an increase in Act 48 requests. She stated that she would provide a report.
- D. M. Strangarity asked if our payroll company was continuing to do well and S. Frank replied yes, all is going smoothly.

XI. Discussion Guidance Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if 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 and noted that preparations for graduation are underway.

XII. Finance/Business Report

- A. Ryan Schumm presented the monthly Treasurer's Report, offering a clear summary and highlighting key items for discussion. He emphasized that Achievement House maintains full financial transparency, with all incoming and outgoing funds clearly documented and accessible. The financial report was unredacted and all categories of expenses and revenue are identified. This commitment ensures that the Board and the public have a complete view of the school's financial operations.
- B. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report.
 - 1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report by B. Worn, seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Discussion CEO Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the CEO Video Report and there were none.
- B. D. Asplen provided an update on the second and final AI Summit, which was held at Fluxspace in Norristown. He reported that Christian Kunkel, a representative from Building 21, participated in the AHCCS AI Summit, which focused on defining the mission, goals, and organizational stance related to artificial intelligence. He explained that Building 21 has an initiative called Launch Pad, through which students beginning the summer after 11th grade and continuing through their senior year and into post-secondary education, if they choose, are trained as full-stack developers. He added that Building 21 is now expanding its focus on artificial intelligence and has expressed interest in learning how AHCCS approaches AI in a virtual environment and in exploring a potential partnership. Mr. Kunkel also brought a student to the summit to share firsthand experiences about the program. D. Asplen noted that we were so impressed with the student from the Building 21 program that we asked him to be our graduation commencement speaker, noting that he believes students would be able to strongly relate to him.
- C. D. Asplen also shared that he has begun discussions around expanding the school's Entrepreneurship Program. He explained that he is interested in modeling aspects of Building 21's approach, particularly allowing students to earn money while developing skills. He added that there are currently 795,637 open AI positions nationwide, including 20,657 in Pennsylvania, and stated that this initiative would build upon the Gifted Program, align with our Quest Program, and present an exciting opportunity for the school.

XIV. Personnel

A. Transfers:

1. Reighard, Educational Design Specialist - 2/9/26
2. Chrissy Cordovano, Gifted Education Coordinator - 2/9/26

B. Separations:

1. Regan Sarmento, Director of Partnerships - 2/27/26

C. Open Positions: None

D. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the employee transfers and separations as listed above.

1. Motion to approve the employee transfers and separations by B. Maranto, seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XV. Governance

A. Act 55 Board Training

1. D. Asplen announced that this training would be held on March 17, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

B. Residency Verification Policy

1. D. Asplen requested a resolution to approve the Residency Verification Policy.
 - a. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the Residency Verification Policy.
 - i. Motion to approve the Residency Verification Policy by B. Worn, seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

C. Truancy Policy

1. D. Asplen requested a resolution to approve the Truancy Policy.
 - a. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the Truancy Policy.
 - i. Motion to approve the Truancy Policy by B. Worn, seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

D. Student Wellness Check Process and Policy

1. D. Asplen stated an amendment was made this evening to the Student Wellness Check Process and Policy and the updated policy was emailed to Sherri Gilligan.
2. D. Asplen requested a resolution to approve the amended Student Wellness Check Process and Policy.
 - a. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the amended Student Wellness Check Process and Policy.
 - i. Motion to approve the Student Wellness Check Process and Policy by D. Fraatz, seconded by Maryanne Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

E. Resolution to Join Lawsuit

1. Brian Leinhauser requested a Board vote to ratify the decision to authorize the school to enter into joint litigation related to matters arising from recent legislation adopted by the legislature and signed by the Governor, and its impact on the school and its students.
 - a. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the school to enter into joint litigation as presented.
 - i. Motion to authorize the school to enter into joint litigation was made by B. Worn and seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; motion carried unanimously.

XVI. New Business

A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business.

B. D. Asplen noted that several staff members were in attendance and invited those who felt comfortable to share their perspectives with the Board regarding the school environment amid recent changes and increased oversight.

1. Kevin Smochko, a long-standing staff member and AHCCS graduate from 2017, shared that the school's culture is what has kept him at AHCCS. He stated that he values the people, the environment, and the support the school has provided to him both as a staff member and as a former student.
2. Greg Byrne spoke about the implementation of wellness checks, acknowledging that change can be challenging but noting that staff have engaged positively with the process. He described the effort as a strong team initiative, highlighting the self-directed nature of staff and their willingness to contribute ideas and support. While recognizing that challenges remain, he expressed confidence in the staff's ability to address them and noted that morale remains strong, with staff consistently acting in the best interests of students.

3. Paul Dubin echoed Mr. Byrne's comments, particularly regarding wellness initiatives. He noted that while change often requires an adjustment period, the implementation from a teaching perspective has gone very smoothly. He shared that staff have creatively supported the initiative through low-pressure engagement strategies, and that students who are less comfortable have stated they will connect with their mentors, resulting in meaningful conversations.
4. Crystal Hitt shared that, from a teaching perspective, she agreed with the comments made by Mr. Dubin. She reported observing an increase in students turning on their cameras and a greater willingness among students to engage and interact with one another. She also noted an increase in student participation during office hours, attributing this to students' enthusiasm for one-on-one interactions with their teachers. She stated that the initiative is going very well.
5. Michelle Hapich noted that as data is being collected to track the completion of wellness checks, there is also an opportunity for teachers to include notes and comments. She shared that she has appreciated reading about and seeing the connections being formed through this process.
6. D. Asplen noted that, at the school's request, B. Leinhauser developed an opt-out form for families who choose not to participate in the wellness check process. He explained that families who elect to opt out may sign the form, after which the school will discontinue to call them.

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 7:52 pm.
 1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by D. Fraatz, seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes; motion carried unanimously. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm.