



## **Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees**

### **Public Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

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
  - Mrs. Kristin Chettle (Treasurer) – Not Present
  - Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary) – Present
  - Dr. Bob Maranto (Member) – Present
  - Dr. Lisabeth Sweeney (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 March 18, 2025, board meeting.
    1. Motion to approve the minutes from March 18, 2025, board meeting by Don Fraatz. Seconded by Bob Maranto. All ayes; unanimous.
- VI. Discussion Academic Video Report
  - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Academic Video Report.
  - B. Angela Alderfer did not have any updates for the Board.
  - C. Bob Worn remarked on how proud everyone feels when we reach the testing threshold and invited her to share any related stories. She responded with a few uplifting examples, highlighting the team's hard work in achieving 95% and 96% student participation.
  - D. M. Strangarity noted that she loved the video that A. Alderfer played during her portion of the graduation ceremony. A. Alderfer said she would email the board the link to the video as well as the information on who produced it once she had permission to share their names.
- VII. Discussion Special Education Video Report
  - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Special Education Video Report.
  - B. Trina Knauff did not have any updates for the Board.
  - C. B. Worn asked her about her plan for the percentage of special education students that did not graduate.
    - T. Knauff explained there are several options available for these students, and teams are actively working to determine the best paths forward. Some students have chosen to remain in school until age 21, others plan to return next year with a graduation plan in place, and some are pursuing credit recovery opportunities over the summer.
- VIII. Discussion Curriculum Video Report
  - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Curriculum Video Report.
  - B. Jodi Byrne did not have any updates to her report.
  - C. M. Strangarity asked how she planned to roll out the SIP plan at the start of the year. J. Byrne explained that she will meet with curriculum department heads over the summer for training, enabling them to lead their respective teams. The plan will also be introduced during pre-service, accompanied by a one-page infographic outlining the goals, action steps, and overall strategy. Don Asplen added that the district was called to a virtual meeting with the IU due to not exiting CSI within the required three-year timeframe. He explained that achieving the 67% benchmark is mathematically unfeasible, given that 33–35% of students enter out of cohort. Despite this, the IU has been highly complementary of the district's efforts and even highlighted it as a model during a PDE meeting, recognizing the school as one that is doing everything right. A. Alderfer also

added that we take our three initiatives from the SIP plan and align them with the evaluation processes for educators and everyone at AHCCS is a part of the process.

IX. Discussion Enrollment/Marketing Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Enrollment/Marketing Video Report and there were none.
- B. Becky Aller was not able to attend the meeting tonight so D. Asplen asked if anyone had any questions, and there were none.

X. Discussion HR Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the HR Video Report and there were none.
- B. Stefani Frank provided an update and noted that Amy Lidle's last day was June 13, 2025.

XI. Discussion Guidance Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Guidance Video Report.
- B. Angela Galie shared that this year's graduating class is large, and the numbers are expected to increase over the summer. She and J. Byrne are collaborating with Michelle Hapich to gather more meaningful data on student cohorts, particularly as new students enter the school.

XII. Finance/Business Report

- A. Ryan Schumm provided a summary of the monthly Treasurer's Report and highlighted some of its items. He noted we will be updating our fund balance allocations this evening.
- 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. Maranto. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.

XIII. Discussion CEO Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the CEO Video Report and there were none.
- B. D. Asplen shared that we were honored to be invited to participate in a conversation with Senator Culver, the Majority Chair of the Senate Education Committee, regarding House Bill 1500. Our goal was to engage with the senator as a resource for learning more about cyber education, and the team expressed their interest in becoming a trusted advocate in this area. By the end of the meeting, Senator Culver expressed a desire to continue the dialogue and proposed meeting quarterly with the small group involved.

XIV. Personnel

A. New Hires:

- 1. Laurie Nugent, Special Education Coordinator, 4/09/25

B. Separations:

- 1. Latania Simons, Special Education Coordinator, 4/18/25
- 2. Elizabeth Swaim, Help Desk Technician, 5/23/25
- 3. Amy Lidle, Office Assistant, 6/13/2025

C. Promotions:

- 1. Andrew Guy, AI Champion, 3/31/25
- 2. Jacob Roache, Analytics Engineer, 4/07/25
- 3. Michelle Hapich, Data Analyst & Innovation Strategist, 4/21/25
- 4. Amanda Reighard, Gifted Curriculum Specialist, 4/21/25
- 5. Lisa Seik, Gifted Compliance Specialist, 7/01/25

D. Changes:

- 1. Amy Lidle - hours went from 24 hours per week to 24 hours every other week, 4/21/2025
- 2. Stefani Frank - salary increase, 4/21/25
- 3. Victoria Nesti, resigned as Gifted Program Coordinator but agreed to be a Gifted Program Contractor temporarily, 4/25/25

E. Open Positions:

- 1. Special Education Teacher
- 2. Motion Designer
- 3. Content Marketing Manager
- 4. Director of Partnerships

F. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve all the new hires, separations and changes identified by the HR Manager listed above with salaries as discussed in the Executive Session.

1. Motion to approve all the new hires, separations and changes identified by the HR Manager listed above with salaries as discussed in the Executive Session by B. Worn. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.

XV. Governance

A. Policy Review: Procurement Using Grant Funds Policy - The Board received a copy of this policy with the proposed changes.

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to pass the Procurement Using Grant Funds Policy with the proposed changes.
  - a. Motion to pass the Procurement Using Grant Funds Policy with the proposed changes by D. Fraatz. Seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; unanimous.

B. AHCCS Async Learning Initiative Approval

1. The Board discussed making a change in the amount of asynchronous learning versus synchronous learning. Details of the proposed changes were outlined in a document that was shared with all members.
2. M. Strangarity called for a motion to pass the Async Learning Initiative.
  - a. Motion to pass the Async Learning Initiative by B. Worn. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.

C. Ratify 2025-2026 Draft Budget – Last month the budget was posted on our website.

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to ratify the 2025-2026 draft budget as posted.
  - a. Motion to ratify the 2025-2026 draft budget as posted by B. Worn. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.

D. M. Strangarity called for a motion to amend the item under Governance, subsection D to the reinstatement of the terms and conditions of the CEO contract pending memorialization in writing and as approved by the Board.

1. Motion to amend the item under Governance, subsection D to the reinstatement of the terms and conditions of the CEO contract pending memorialization in writing and as approved by the Board.
  - a. Motion to amend the item under Governance, subsection D to the reinstatement of the terms and conditions of the CEO contract pending memorialization in writing and as approved by the Board by B. Worn. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.
2. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the amended action item under Governance subsection D.
  - a. Motion to approve the amended action item under Governance subsection D by B. Worn. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.

E. Vertex Education PA Contract

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to renew the Vertex Education PA contract with the updated increase in terms.
  - a. Motion to renew the Vertex Education PA contract with the updated increase in terms by B. Worn. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.

F. MacMain Leinhauser PC Billing Increase

1. Motion to increase the billing rate that has not increased in five years for MacMain Leinhauser PC. The change in rate will commence on July 1, 2025.
  - a. Motion to increase the billing rate to commence on July 1, 2025 by D. Fraatz. Seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; unanimous.

G. Reinstate CEO Contract – See subitem D above.

H. Fund Balance Allocations – We are updating our existing fund balance assignments, maintaining most of the current categories. The ESSER Fiscal Contingency will be retired, while several other existing categories will see increased allocations. Here are the fund balance allocations:

**WHEREAS** the Achievement House Cyber Charter School's audited fund balance on June 30, 2024 was \$36,143,051, of which \$33,000,000 is assigned, \$2,836,294 is unassigned, and \$306,757 is non-spendable;

**WHEREAS** the Achievement House Cyber Charter School previously adopted fund balance assignments totaling \$33,000,000, as reflected in the fiscal year 2024 audit;

- \$1,000,000 assigned for facility contingencies.
- \$1,000,000 assigned for technology investments
- \$2,000,000 assigned to curriculum and instructional program development
- \$2,000,000 assigned for employee retirement expenditures
- \$4,000,000 assigned for ESSER fiscal contingency
- \$7,000,000 assigned for regular education tuition reduction contingency
- \$13,000,000 assigned for special education tuition reduction contingency
- \$3,000,000 assigned for legal contingencies

**WHEREAS** the school anticipates that fiscal year 2023 will result in an increase in the total fund balance of no less than \$2,500,000;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Achievement House Cyber Charter School hereby approves the preliminary 6/30/25 Assigned Fund Balances as follows:

- \$1,000,000 assigned for facility contingencies
- \$5,000,000 assigned for technology investments & software development
- \$2,000,000 assigned to curriculum and instructional program development
- \$1,000,000 assigned for employee retirement expenditures
- \$10,000,000 assigned for regular education tuition reduction contingency
- \$15,000,000 assigned for special education tuition reduction contingency
- \$3,000,000 assigned for legal contingencies

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to accept the updated fund balance allocations as listed above.
  - a. Motion to accept the updated fund balance allocations by D. Fraatz. Seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; unanimous.

I. Primary Checking Account at WSFS

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to make a change to the primary checking account at WSFS that the only signatories on the account should be the Treasurer, Kristin Chettle, the CEO, Don Asplen and the Principal, Angela Alderfer.
  - a. Motion to make a change on the primary checking account at WSFS that the only signatories on the account should be the Treasurer, Kristin Chettle, the CEO, Don Asplen and the Principal, Angela Alderfer by D. Fraatz. Seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes; unanimous.

XVI. New Business

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business.
- B. D. Asplen shared a few minutes of a QUEST testimonial video that Jason Heme, one of our QUEST teachers, made for the us. D. Asplen will share the link with the Board so that they can watch the full video when they have time.

XVII. Public Comment

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any public comments.
- B. Kris Botes shared about her son who attended AHCCS and recently graduated from college and was hired at his job because of the skills he learned at Achievement House -- specifically for his ability to use Excel to keep himself organized.
- C. Stefani Frank shared some memorable moments from graduation, where several parents and students were searching for specific staff members. When she was able to connect them, it was heartwarming to witness the genuine appreciation shown to our team.
- D. Eva Thierry shared a graduation story. She ran into a mother while working at the flower tent who happened to be the mother of a student that had been on her caseload who was struggling. It was so exciting for E. Thierry to see that he graduated and to meet his mom.

XVIII. Adjournment

A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:15 pm.

1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by B. Maranto. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.  
The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2025.