



Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees
Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 19, 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
 - Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary) – Present
 - Dr. Bob Maranto (Member) – Present
 - Dr. Lisabeth Sweeney (Member) – 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 July 15, 2025, board meeting.
 1. Motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2025, board meeting by Bob Worn, seconded by Don Fraatz. 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.
- VII. B. Worn inquired why homeroom coaches would not be needed this year. A. Alderfer explained that data indicated they were no longer necessary, and teachers would instead use that time to work directly with students in their classrooms. M. Strangarity observed that several changes are being implemented this year, to which A. Alderfer responded that the adjustments are intended to optimize how teachers spend their time.
- VIII. Discussion Special Education Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Special Education Video Report.
 - B. T. Knauff provided an update to her report, noting that 69% of seniors with IEPs graduated this year. Additionally, eight students have chosen to remain enrolled until they reach the age of 21, which she described as an exciting development. Regarding gifted education, there are currently eight identified students, with several evaluations still underway so this number may increase.
 - C. Bob Maranto expressed that he was really impressed that she met with the parents who responded to her survey. T. Knauff shared that the information she received from the survey to help prepare for the upcoming year led to a lot of positive changes in her department. She will continue to send out the survey and hopes to get more responses.
 - D. M. Strangarity asked who conducts evaluations for students applying to the gifted program. T. Knauff responded that these assessments are handled by Cait Gilmarten, an external contractor.
- IX. III. Discussion Curriculum Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Curriculum Video Report.
 - B. Jodi Byrne shared two updates with the Board:
 1. Our in-person pre-service day will now include lunch for everyone, followed by a team-building activity organized by Christina Swiontek.
 2. Thanks to the dedicated librarians at OverDrive, our curated Sora library is now live and available to students. We've created shelves featuring books aligned with our courses and tailored to various academic and career pathways.

- C. M. Strangarity invited Lizabeth Sweeney to elaborate on her comments from the executive session regarding the book list. L. Sweeney emphasized that the key consideration isn't necessarily which books are included, but rather how each book is used, how it is taught, and how it is understood.
- X. Discussion Enrollment/Marketing Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Enrollment/Marketing Video Report.
 - B. Becky Aller informed the Board that enrollment is at 809 students. She also expressed enthusiasm about the new structured Launch Pad, which now includes pre-checks of students' computer setups prior to orientation—a change that's already showing positive results. Additionally, the team is looking forward to collaborating with the new marketing team.
 - C. M. Strangarity requested a comparison of student enrollment between this year and last. As of August 21, 2024, enrollment stood at 919 students, which reflects a decrease of 110 students compared to the current total. Don Asplen noted that we had a very large graduating class this year.
 - D. B. Worn inquired about the defibrillator mentioned in her report. B. Aller explained that our school nurse has been working with Aiden's Heart Foundation, based in Downingtown, whose mission is to provide portable defibrillators to all schools. We hope to have one available in our building soon, and the nurse will also be able to bring it along to school trips, testing sites, and graduation events.
 - E. B. Worn also asked about the number of field trips, noting the increase. B. Aller shared that we've added many new trips over the past two years. Kelsey Montgomery, our Events Coordinator, has been especially creative in planning fun and educational experiences that appeal to a wide range of student interests.
- XI. Discussion HR Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the HR Video Report.
 - B. Stefani Frank did not have any updates for the Board.
 - C. B. Worn noted it was encouraging to see that there have been no recent openings in the Special Education Department. S. Frank highlighted the strength of the team, crediting T. Knauff's restructuring efforts last year, which have contributed to improved retention of special education staff.
- XII. Discussion Guidance Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Guidance Video Report.
 - B. Kris Botes provided an update on Paul Jones' report. This summer, 294 students were enrolled in Summer School, resulting in the issuance of 397.25 total credits. Notably, 94 students advanced to the next grade level due to their participation. Additionally, some students who did not move up still earned credits that will support their future graduation goals. The team was very pleased with these outcomes. This year we have 278 seniors so far.
- XIII. 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. R. Schumm also commented on our staffing levels, noting that Achievement House is setting a strong example. His firm works with approximately 70 charter schools across Pennsylvania, and he shared that ours is the only cyber charter school he's aware of that is fully staffed—a testament to our organizational strength and appeal.
 - C. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report.
 - 1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report by L. Sweeney, seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes; unanimous.
- XIV. 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 reflected on how people used to say, "It's a great time to be alive," but noted that today, many hesitate to say that due to the confusion and uncertainty in the world. He recalled a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, which essentially states that the goal of life is not to be happy, but to be useful, compassionate,

and honorable. He emphasized that these values are what drive this school, something that's not always easy to say about every job. For him, despite the unknowns and uncertainties, it truly is a great time to be alive and a great time to be in education because we embody those values. B. Worn echoed his sentiments, expressing pride in our school. He shared how wonderful it is to see it not only maintained but enhanced and affirmed his belief that Achievement House is something special.

XV. Personnel

A. Separations:

1. Aaron Dake, English Teacher – 8/01/25
2. Alyssa Wright – Summer School Teacher – 8/11/25
3. John Hulik – Summer School Teacher – 8/11/25

B. Changes:

1. Jeanell Moultrie, Student Success Coach – 8/20/25
2. Daniela Carmona, Part Time Mentor – 8/25/25
3. Mike Kass, Special Education Teacher – 8/20/25
4. AJ Houpt, English Teacher – 8/20/25

C. Open Positions:

1. Gifted Resource Teacher
2. Mentor
3. Auxiliary Teacher

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

1. Motion to approve all the employee separations and changes with salaries as discussed in the Executive Session by D. Fraatz, seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes; unanimous.

XVI. Governance

A. AI Policy

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the AI Policy as submitted by Andrew Guy, our IT Champion.
 - a. Motion to approve the AI Policy by L. Sweeney, seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; unanimous.

B. Juneteenth Holiday

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to revise how the Juneteenth holiday will be observed. The updated policy states:

- If Juneteenth falls on a Monday through Thursday, it will be observed on that day.
- If it falls on a Friday or Saturday, it will be observed on the preceding Thursday.
- If it falls on a Sunday, it will be observed on the following Monday.

This approach aligns with the existing policy for holidays that fall on weekends.

- a. Motion to approve the revised Juneteenth holiday observance was made by D. Fraatz, seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; unanimous.

C. School Safety and Security Coordinator's Report

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to accept the School Safety and Security Coordinator's Report which had been submitted by Susan Deegan-Watson for board review.
 - a. Motion to accept the report by D. Fraatz, seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes; unanimous.

D. Book List

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the Book List which had been submitted by Jodi Byrne, our Curriculum Coordinator.
 - a. Motion to approve the Book List by L. Sweeney, seconded by B. Worn. All ayes; unanimous.

E. AP Student Compact

1. M. Strangarity proposed a motion to table the formal adoption of the AP Student Compact until the September board meeting, citing the need for additional revisions to the wording.
 - a. Motion to table the formal adoption of the AP Student Compact by B. Worn, seconded by D. Fraatz. All ayes: unanimous.

XVII. New Business

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

XVIII. Public Comment

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

XIX. Adjournment

A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:01 pm.

1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by B. Maranto, seconded by M. Cullen. All ayes; unanimous.
The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2025.