



**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2026; 6:00 pm**

**I. Call to Order – 6:04PM**

**II. Public Notice of Meeting/NJ Sunshine Law**

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on in accordance with N.J.S.A 10:4-6 et seq.

On the rules of this act, Achievers Early College Prep Charter School has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time, and place, of the regularly scheduled meeting in the Public Notice Section of the Star Ledger and Trenton Times and Posted at the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School located at 544 Chestnut Ave, Trenton NJ 08611. Formal action will take place at this meeting.

**III. Roll Call**

Trustees	Role (Term Expires)	Present	Absent	LA/ED
1. Alescia Teel	Trustee, (2/2029)	x		
2. Elizabeth Murphy	Trustee, (8/4/2026)	x		
3. Larry Patton	Trustee, (3/2029)	x		
4. Imebet Stewart	Trustee, President (3/2029)	x		
5. Meredith Pennotti	Trustee (4/2029)	x		

**Also Present**

Non-Voting	Role	Present	Absent	LA/ED
Nava Coppin	Executive Director	x		
Joshua Solow	SBA, School Business Office	x		
Elizabeth Neary	Board Secretary, School Business Office	x		
Michael Nicholson	Chief Operating Officer		x	
Hope Blackburn	Board Attorney	x		LA 7:15pm
Katheryne Ralph	Director, Human Resources		x	
Yereilis Martinez	Student Representative to the Board of Trustees	x		
Jordan Lambdin	Busch Law Group	x		

**IV. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda**

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the Agenda for the **April 16, 2026**, meeting.

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton	1	x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

**V. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

Motion for Achievers Early College Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from the **March 12, 2026**, Regular Board meeting.

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton	1	x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

**VI. Public Comment NONE**

**VII. Committee Reports**

- a. Finance Committee: Budget Presentation  
Josh Solow, SBA, provided a detailed explanation of the FY27 to be voted on.
- b. Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support Committee:  
Larry Patton shared that this new committee met for the first time on April 15 and will plan to discuss action steps to adopt, review and assess curriculum.

**VIII. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Coppin – Shared benchmark results including student math & ELA proficiency; explained the crescendo model of reteaching, assessment and adjusting. Meredith Pennotti and Alescia Teele asked questions about gaps or any specific groups of students falling short in math.

Ms. Wright – Provided facilities update including safety drills, passing of fire and health inspections, e-rate submission, new cameras, and athletics including two new sports, flag football and volleyball, with a huge student sign-up.

Ms. Chowdhry – Spoke about the Middle School events including Steam fair, 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the National Constitution center, 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Franklin Institute, spring dance, and Mercer Street Friends food bag program.

Ms. Eley – Spoke about High School events including college decision day that was attended by parents, and an upcoming Steam fair. Larry Patton asked what percentage of Seniors plan to go to college; of 55, all but 2 didn't apply which was impressive to all.

Ms. Martinez – Gave an update on student events including a fun spirit week, and Steam fair that had lots of student engagement this time. She said that college decision day was the most exciting day ever; everyone was cheering and so proud. Alescia Teele shared her own college background story, relating it to Ms. Martinez's.

**IX. Motions for Approval**

**1. Finance**

- a. Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report: To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for March 2026, as per the attached. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(a), the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the secretary's certification, and after review of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of March

2026, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the school’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- b. Bills List and Check Journal: To approve the bills list and check journal for the period March 13, 2026, to April 16, 2026.
- c. FY27 Budget: To approve the FY27 Budget and its submission to the NJDOE.
- d. To approve reimbursement to Anna Tkatch for poster boards, in the amount of \$43.98, as attached.
- e. To approve the following payrolls:

March 15, 2026	\$ 201,385.35
March 31, 2026	\$ 206,868.88

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton	2	x			
Elizabeth Murphy	1	x				Meredith Pennotti		x			

**2. Contracts**

- a. To approve the quote from **OnCourse Systems for Education** for student information system services including a 1-year annual subscription, implementation, integration and training, to be ready for the 2026-2027 school year, in the amount of \$38,614.85, as attached.

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x						x			
Imebet Stewart	2	x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti	1	x			

**3. Building & Grounds**

- a. To approve the quote from **Quick Stop Fire Protection** for annual fire extinguisher inspection, maintenance and recertification, total \$1,461.65, as attached.
- b. To approve the quote from **BDP Construction** for door repair, total \$1,675, as attached.

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel	1	x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

**4. Personnel**

- a. To accept the resignation of **Laura Springsteen**, HS Social Studies Teacher, effective March 27, 2026, as attached.
- b. To approve the annual NJASBO membership and conference registration fees for **Joshua Solow**, School Business Administrator, in the amount of \$1,750, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **Amazon** for staff books, *Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain*, in the amount of \$1,917, as attached.
- d. To approve the following new hire to start in the 2025-2026 School Year, as attached:

Term	Employee Name	Job Title	FY26 Salary	FY26 Stipend(s)	Total Salary	Start Date
12-Month	Rickia Reid	High School Principal	\$143,600	None	\$143,600	4/20/26

ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy	2	x				Meredith Pennotti	1	x			

5. Curriculum/Special Education/Student Activities

- a. ~~To approve the MOU from **Mercer Street Friends Food Bank** for participation in the *Send Hunger Packing Program* for pick-up and distribution of non-perishable food bags to Achievers students & families at no cost, as attached.~~
- b. ~~To approve participation in the *Hunger Prevention Program* from **Arm in Arm** for drop-off and distribution of non-perishable food bags to Achievers students & families at no cost, as attached.~~  
\*Items a & b were tabled to be discussed in executive session, then later approved
- c. To approve the Senior student trip to **Kalahari Resort** with an overnight stay and round-trip bus transportation on June 3-4, 2026, total cost to school \$3,675.44, including the following quotes/costs, as attached:

Venue/Vendor	Dates	Cost
Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Pocono Manor, PA One night hotel accommodations, waterpark, food vouchers & meeting room rental	June 3-4, 2026	\$6,536.65 (student paid)
US Coachways Inc.	June 3-4, 2026	\$3,676.44 (school paid)

- d. To approve the quote from **Student Transportation of America** for round-trip bus transportation to Dorney Park for the High School field trip on 6/4/26, in the amount of \$3,640, as attached.
- e. To approve the quote from **Shore Inflatables** for game rentals for Grade 6/7 Field Day, in the amount of \$658, as attached.
- f. To approve the quote from **Crown Awards** for student trophies for the Sports Banquet on 5/26/26, in the amount of \$1,226.81, as attached.
- g. To approve the quotes for student refreshments at the following student events, grand total \$6,232.20, as attached:

Date	Student Event	Vendor	Cost
4/24/26	High School Honor Roll Breakfast	Ben's Deli	\$1,914
4/30/26	Middle School Honor Roll Breakfast	Ben's Deli	\$2,844.50
5/23/26	Sports Banquet	Jerry's Enterprises	\$663.88
TBD	NJSLA Tutoring Party	Jerry's Enterprises	\$809.82

- h. To approve the following **student fundraisers** to help offset the costs of student end-of-year trips & activities, as attached.

School	Fundraising Event
Middle School	Dr. Auntie's Popcorn Selling Fundraiser
Middle School	Steam Fair Food and Drink Sales Fundraiser (after school hours)
Middle School	Chipotle Fundraiser
Middle School	Paid Dress Down/Spirit Week
Middle School	Pi Day Fundraiser
High School	Walking Tacos (after school)

- i. To approve the quote from **Boyd Youth Development** for custom NJSLA T-Shirts, in the amount of \$2,250, as attached.
- j. To approve the quote from **CDW-G** for district-wide ID card supplies, in the amount of \$2,598.34, as attached.

\*Items a & b were tabled to be discussed during executive session

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel	1	x		a & b							
Imebet Stewart		x		a & b		Larry Patton		x		a & b	
Elizabeth Murphy		x		a & b		Meredith Pennotti	2	x		a & b	

**6. Policy/Misc. - NONE**

**X. Enrollment Report**

Grade	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026
6	93	93	93	92	91	91	91	92	92	92		
7	92	93	93	92	92	92	90	90	90	90		
8	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93		
9	91	98	98	94	94	94	94	94	94	93		
10	104	108	108	112	111	107	107	106	106	106		
11	81	88	88	91	90	91	92	89	89	87		
12	48	52	52	57	57	56	57	57	57	56		
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>617</b>		

**XI. HIB Reports**

1. Motion to **accept** the HIB investigation report for April 2026, with the following findings:

Report	# of Cases	# Founded	# Unfounded
April 2026	3	1	2

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart	2	x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti	1	x			

**XII. Public Comment 2 - NONE**

**XIII. Adjourn Public Session and Begin Executive Session – 7:13PM**

The Board discussed a personnel matter, and tabled items a & b from Agenda section IX.5.

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton	1	x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

**XIV. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session – 7:46PM**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart	1	x				Larry Patton	2	x			
Elizabeth Murphy		x				Meredith Pennotti		x			

**XV. Motions from Executive Session**

- a. To approve the MOU from **Mercer Street Friends Food Bank** for participation in the *Send Hunger Packing Program* for pick-up and distribution of non-perishable food bags to Achievers students & families at no cost, subject to final review by legal counsel and decision by Executive Director.
- b. To approve participation in the *Hunger Prevention Program* from **Arm in Arm** for drop-off and distribution of non-perishable food bags to Achievers students & families at no cost, subject to final review by legal counsel and decision by Executive Director.

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy	2	x				Meredith Pennotti	1	x			

**XVI. Reports / Look Ahead / Miscellaneous**

- 1. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:00PM
- 2. Financial Disclosure Statements: Due April 30, 2026

**XVII. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting 7:51PM**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Alescia Teel		x									
Imebet Stewart		x				Larry Patton		x			
Elizabeth Murphy	2	x				Meredith Pennotti	2	x			

