



**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 8, 2026; 6:00 pm**

**I. Call to Order – 6:02PM**

**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, (2/2026)	x		
2. Elizabeth Murphy	Trustee, (8/4/2026)	x		
3. Larry Patton	Trustee, (3/2026)	x		
4. Imebet Stewart	Trustee, President (3/2026)	x		
5. Meredith Pennotti	Trustee (4/2026)		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		
Katheryne Ralph	Director, Human Resources	x		
Yereilis Martinez	Student Representative to the Board of Trustees	x		

**IV. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda**

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the Agenda for the **January 8, 2026**, meeting.

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	1	x				Meredith Pennotti					x

**V. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

Motion for Achievers Early College Charter School, Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from the **December 11, 2025**, Regular Board meeting.

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

**VI. Trustee Reappointment**

Motion for Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, Board of Trustees to reappoint **Alicia Teel** for an additional 3-year term, effective 2/1/2026 - 1/31/2029.

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

**VII. Public Comment - None**

**VIII. Committee Reports** – Liz Murphy shared an update from the Finance committee meeting, including that finance reports will now be provided prior to committee meetings so that all Trustees have a chance to review before each Board meeting.

**IX. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Coppin: Provided updates on MAP assessments prior to winter break. Staff came back refreshed and had a New Years celebration. Shared MAP results & average scores by grade for ELA and Math, with strong growth in Math and a special shoutout to 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Dr. Nicholson: Spoke about the recent audit from the Dept of Agriculture, including a couple of action items with a plan already approved. Noted that student mailings to home are going green and that paper will no longer be sent. Also noted a security update - visitors and vendors are now required to have ID’s scanned and wear a badge while on site.

Ms. Ralph: Presented the proposed new medical benefits plan to the Board.

Ms. Miller: Provided an update for the Middle School including a skating trip incentive for students to earn based on meeting growth goals.

Ms. Eley: Provided a High School MAP summary; updated college acceptances to 94 total for 30 students; noted a Senior event scheduled for January 26 with jeans attire.

Ms. Martinez: Updated the Board with student learning including lots of reading in ELA and lots of equations in Math; gave student feedback to the Board concerning a dislike of school lunch options; spoke about the door decorating contest.

**1. Finance**

- a. Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Report: To approve the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for December 2025, 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 December 2025, 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 December 12, 2025, to January 8, 2026.
- c. To approve reimbursement to Sunil Laudari for Praxis exams pertaining to CE and the Alternate Route Program, in amount of \$951.74, as attached.
- d. To approve the following payrolls:

December 15, 2025	\$194,874.78
December 31, 2025	\$198,429.54

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

**2. Contracts**

- a. To approve the plan changes for medical insurance from Horizon BCBS Gold/Platinum to **Anthem BCBS Gold/Platinum**, including the addition of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), effective 2/1/26, as attached.

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

**3. Personnel**

- a. To approve the quote from **NJSPPRA** for attendance at the Winter 2026 Workshop on 1/13/26, in the amount of \$125, as attached.
- b. To approve the following new hires for the 2025-2026 School Year, as attached:

Term	Employee Name	Job Title	FY26 Salary	FY26 Stipend	Total Salary	Start Date
10-Month	Give Lord Francisque	Middle School Math Teacher (8th Grade)	\$65,050	none	\$65,050	TBD
10-Month	Chaya Bangalore	High School Health Sciences Teacher	\$65,050	none	\$65,050	TBD

c. To approve the following 2025-2026 Mentor/Mentee staff, fee, and stipend, as attached:

Mentor Name	Position	Certification	Mentee	Amount	Earning/Deduction Schedule
Daniel Aulisio	Mentor	CE	Evangeline Albert	\$1,000	Equal pay periods Jan -June

d. To approve the following stipends for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Name	Position	FY26 Stipend	Pay Schedule
Julianna Nini	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade EOY Event Coordinator	\$1,500	Equal pay periods Jan -June
Myra Bellamy	Middle School Graduation Chair	\$1,500	Equal pay periods Jan -June

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	2	x				Meredith Pennotti					x

**4. Curriculum/Special Education/Student Activities**

- a. To approve the quote from **IXL Learning** for IXL Complete site license grades 6-8 Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies, in the amount of \$10,575, as attached.
- b. To approve the quote from **Amazon** for Health Science curriculum textbooks, in the amount of \$3,960 with requested reimbursement through the CSP grant, as attached.
- c. To approve the quote from **Sheppard Bus Service** for round-trip bus transportation for the following High School Basketball game, as attached.

Date	Location	Cost
1/14/26	Thrive Charter School, Hamilton Twp, NJ	\$520

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

**5. Policy/Misc.**

- a. To approve the first read of the following policies and regulations, as attached:

Policy/Regulation #	Policy/Regulation Title	New/Revised
Policy #2530	Resource Materials	Revised
Regulation #2530	Resource Materials	New
Policy #2535	Library Material	New
Regulation #2535	Library Material	New
Policy #9130	Public Complaints	Revised
Regulation #9130	Public Complaints	New
Policy #5339.01	Student Sun Protection	New

A discussion occurred between trustees and the board attorney about the student sun protection policy.

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

**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					
7	92	93	93	92	92	92	90					
8	93	93	93	93	93	93	93					
9	91	98	98	94	94	94	94					
10	104	108	108	112	111	107	107					
11	81	88	88	91	90	91	92					
12	48	52	52	57	57	56	57					
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>624</b>					

**XI. HIB Reports**

- Motion to **approve** the previously accepted HIB investigation report for December 2025, with the following findings:

Report	# of Cases	# Founded	# Unfounded
December 2025	3	3	0

- Motion to **accept** the HIB investigation report for January 2026, with the following findings:

Report	# of Cases	# Founded	# Unfounded
January 2026	1	1	0

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

**XII. Public Comment - NONE**

**XIII. Reports / Look Ahead / Miscellaneous**

- Next Regular Board Meeting: February 12, 2026 at 6:00PM

**XIV. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting – 7:03PM**

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	2	x				Meredith Pennotti					x

