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

I. Call to Order – 6:05 PM

II. Public Notice of Meeting/NJ Sunshine Law

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. In compliance with this Act and P.L. 2025, c. 72, notice of this meeting has been provided through the Achievers Early College Prep Charter School's website under "Public Notices." Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

III. Roll Call

Trustees	Role (Term Expires)	Present	Absent	LA/ED
1. Alescia Teel	Trustee, (2/2029)			LA 6:10pm
2. Elizabeth Murphy	Trustee, (8/4/2029)	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		
Hope Blackburn	Board Attorney	X		
Katheryne Ralph	Director, Human Resources	X		
Kiyana Little	Chief Operations Officer	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 **October 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	1	X			
Elizabeth Murphy		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 **September 10, 2026,** Regular Board meeting.

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

VI. Public Comment - NONE

VII. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

Liz Neary provided a general update from the finance committee meeting held on Oct 1, noting that September financial reports were not available for the meeting due to it being only the 1st day of the month.

b. Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support Committee - NONE

VIII. Executive Director Report

a. Informational presentation from Building Hope, as attached.

Justin Little and his parter, Iliya Krutko, from Building Hope gave a presentation to the Board via Zoom about the process of building a new school facility, noting that the school would lease and pay monthly upon completion. They shared slides and details about 2 recent projects. Larry Patton noted that a "friends of" entity may need to be created and asked if they had any experience with this. Hope Blackburn asked about prevailing wage requirements and requested a copy of their agreements with previous NJ schools.

b. Leadership updates

Nava Coppin provided an update on Math, ELA and Science scores, indicating that some ground was lost in math due to instructional rigor. There were also some staff inconsistencies and challenges. Targeted action is being taken including a new intervention math class for Middle School, a newly hired ELA coach, but a math coach that still needs to be found and hired. She also noted the science curriculum has been switched. The school is preparing for the renewal visit scheduled for October 23.

Kiyana Little reported that there is a hefty student waitlist and they're quick to enroll replacements. Nu-Way food service company is good so far. Several student events are occurring including Trunk or Treat and High School Costume Fall Ball. She shared pictures of beatification efforts for the 177 Building with landscaping and signage. She noted recent facility repairs including toilets and sinks, and that there was a water heater failure, prompting contract with the landlord to assist with this.

Kathy Ralph provided an update on employee recruitment, and that LinkedIn, Greenhouse, and Indeed are being used heavily. She also mentioned the employee referral program as an incentive.

Jonquille Eley provided a High School update including college acceptance and merit scholarships of over $500k being awarded before need. She also spoke about the CTE pathways and partnerships including dual credit partnership efforts with colleges.

IX. Motions for Approval

1. Finance

a. Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report: To approve the final Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for September 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 September 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 September 11, 2026, to October 8, 2026.

c. To approve the reimbursement to Jonquille Eley for nurse lab supplies, in the amount of $33.59, as attached.

d. To approve the submission of the Annual Charter/Renaissance School Fiscal Questionnaire, as attached, to the NJDOE.

e. To approve the following payrolls:

September 15, 2026	$229,212.49
September 30, 2026	$239,779.08

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

2. Contracts

a. To approve the consulting agreement with **Christopher Perpich** to provide executive coaching, leadership development, and strategic planning support to the Executive Director, beginning 10/15/26 through 6/30/27, rate $110/hour, NTE $7,040, as attached.

b. To approve the quote from **Greenhouse** for subscription services for the candidate recruitment & hiring platform, 1-year total cost $10,530, as attached.

c. To approve the contract and rate sheet from **KindSpire Education Staffing** for staffing services for the 2026-2027 school year, as attached.

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

3. Building & Grounds

a. To approve the quote from **JMM Cleaning Services** for lighting replacement & repair at the Middle School & High School, in the amount of $3,700, 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

4. Personnel

a. To accept the resignation of **Arthur Washington**, Facilities & Maintenance Manager, effective 9/12/26.

b. To approve the following athletic coaching stipends for the 2026-2027 school year, as attached:

Employee Name	Coaching Position	FY27 Stipend	Payment Schedule
Ola Walker-Thomas	Assistant Cross Country Coach	$3,500	Equal pay periods October-June
Matthew Stewart-Sajous	High School Head Soccer Coach	$4,500	Equal pay periods October-June

c. To approve the following new hire contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year, as attached:

Term	Employee Name	Job Title	FY27 Salary	FY27 Stipend	Start Date
10-Month	Bobbi Nichols	Middle School Math Intervention Teacher	$73,934	None	TBD
12-Month	Sabrinah Mubarak	High School CTE Director	$98,000	None	TBD
10-Month	Krys Kole Hargrave	Instructional ELA Coach	$91,549	None	TBD

d. To approve the following FY27 Mentor/Mentee staff, fees, and stipends, as attached:

Name	Position	Certification	Mentee	Amount	Earning/Deduction Schedule
Myra Bellamy	Mentor	CE	Albertine Williams	$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct-June
Christopher Carragher	Mentor	CE	Pralay K. Paul Chowdhury	$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct-June
June White	Mentor	CE	Tia Sanders	$1,000	Equal pay periods Oct-June
Gretchen Stricker	Mentor	CEAS	Kristen Kraunelis	$550	Equal pay periods Oct-June
Olivia Hackett	Mentor	CEAS	Mark Larochelle	$550	Equal pay periods Oct-June
Candace Foltiny	Mentor	CEAS	Brittany Spencer	$550	Equal pay periods Oct-June

e. To approve the following employee participation in the Alternate Route Program via Achiever's *Agreement for Eligible Teachers to Obtain Teaching Certification via Alternate Route Program*, fully funded by Achievers, up to a maximum of $5,000, as attached.

Staff Name	College Name
Tia Sanders	Rutgers University
Dalia Seyam	Rutgers University
Pralay K. Paul Chowdhury	Rutgers University
Steven Stover	Brookdale Community College
Albertine Williams	Brookdale Community College
Chaya Bangalore	Brookdale Community College

f. To approve payment for the following Alternate Route Program courses, as attached.

Staff Name	College	Course Code	Course Dates	Cost
Evangeline Albert	Brookdale Community College	XCTPP-008-SEP02	9/9/26-12/22/26	$1,474
Chaya Bangalore	Brookdale Community College	XCTPP-008-SEP02	9/9/26-12/22/26	$1,474

g. To approve the professional development workshop from **TMI Education** *Hot Issues in Special Education Law: 2026-2027,* for **Maria Hocker** on 12/8/25, cost $160, as attached.

h. To approve/ratify the staff being applied under federal grants for 2025-2026 School Year:

Employee	Grant
Sunil Laudari	ESEA - Title I

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

5. Curriculum/Special Education/Student Activities

a. To approve the **STEAM Curriculum Development Proposal** for AECP STEAM teacher, **Steven Stover**, to develop middle school STEAM curriculum units for each grade level 6-8, rate $45.00/hour, up to 48 hours, NTE $2,160, as attached.

b. To approve the **8th Grade Fundraising Proposal** for the 2026-2027 school year including Dr. Auntie's Popcorn & Gertrude Hawke Chocolate, to raise funds for student activities, 8th grade dance, and End of Year trip, as attached.

c. To approve the following 2026-2027 **Middle School Tutoring Program,** 18 weeks total, 3 hours/week, staff rate $45.00/hour, NTE $25,920 plus End of Year celebration TBD, as attached.

Program Grade	Program Length	Program Schedule
Middle School	Three 6-week sessions; total 18 weeks from 10/5/26 – 5/4/27	3 days per week, Mon/Tues/Thurs, 3:30-4:30pm

Employee	Program Role	Days per Week	Weeks	Total Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Pay
Tia Sanders	Math Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Nicole Blair	ELA Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Christoper Carragher	ELA Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Julianna Nini	Math Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Abner (agency)	ELA Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Walker (agency)	Math Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Daniel Aulisio	Science Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Shamima Nasreen	MLL Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Myra Bellamy	Reading	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Deborah Brandimarte	MLL/Empowered Teacher	3	18	54	$45	$2,430
Michael Schoener	Fun Day Staff	1	18	18	$45	$810
Anna Tkatch	Fun Day Staff	1	18	18	$45	$810

Grand Total = $25,920

d. To approve the following after-school student clubs, and club leader stipends for the 2026-2027 school year, NTE $3,500 as attached:

Club Name	Club Leader	Stipend Amount	Stipend Pay Date
Theater Club	Deandrah Rodriguez	$500	6/15/2027
Astronomy Club	Sunil Laudari	$500	6/15/2027
Game Club	Gretchen Stricker	$500	6/15/2027
Yearbook Club	Gretchen Stricker	$500	6/15/2027
Debate Club	Kristen Kraunelis	$500	6/15/2027
Track & Field Club	Brittany Spencer	$500	6/15/2027
Creative Home & Craft Club	Shelby Sumner	$500	6/15/2027

e. To approve the quote from **No Red Ink** for annual subscription services for High School ELA writing practice & support for the 2026-2027 school year, amount $7,035, as attached.

f. To approve the quote from **Certiport** for Adobe Pro Classroom License Full Suite, annual subscription services for the 2026-2027 school year, amount $4,732, as attached.

g. To approve the following student trips, including round-trip bus transportation, as attached:

Date	Trip Location	Trip Purpose	Vendor	Trip Cost
11/10/26	Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital, Cherry Hill NJ	CTE Pathways	Student Transportation, Inc.	$545
11/20/26	Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg NJ	College Visit	Student Transportation, Inc.	$675
4/8/26	Students 2 Science	Middle School Field Trip	Student Transportation, Inc.	$895

h. To approve AECP's membership in the **New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA)** for the 2026-2027 school year, annual dues $2,725, as attached.

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

6. Policy/Misc - NONE

X. Enrollment Report

Grade	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027	May 2027	Jun 2027
6		79	90	90								
7		93	93	93								
8		93	93	92								
9		91	90	90								
10		92	93	91								
11		104	100	97								
12		85	85	85								
Total		**637**	**644**	**638**								

XI. HIB Reports

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

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

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

XII. Public Comment - NONE

XIII. Reports / Look Ahead / Miscellaneous

1. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 6:00PM

XIV. Adjourn Public Session/End Meeting - 7:15PM

Larry Patton proudly noted that Achievers received accolades at a 500-person event he recently attended.

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