Achievement ACADEMY

Special Beginnings...Brighter Futures

Minutes of Board Meeting
April 21, 2026
6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Adil Khan, Liz Plemons, Joseph Little, Ana Kalman, Karli Wilkinson, Paige Campbell, Logan Browning, Jesse Naranjo and Steve Earley. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Cindi Parker-Pearson, Kelly Lane and Deborah Sulsona.

Approval of Minutes

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m. Steve Earley moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 Board meeting. Karli Wilkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Financial Report

Paige Campbell presented the financial report for the seven months ending March 31, 2026. Cash and investments total $2.76 million. Total assets are $4.01 million and net assets are $3.99 million. Total revenue was $3.56 million and total expenses were $3.26 million resulting in a net surplus of $295K. Deborah updated the year-end projection column. We are looking at a net surplus at year-end of almost $500K. The main reasons for the significant surplus versus what was budgeted are 1. We received a one-time gift of $150K at the beginning of the fiscal year as well as a $50K capital gift from Publix Charities for a roof replacement; 2. The addition of nurse observation to student matrix plans that boosted many students to the level 4 funding; and 3. Health insurance premiums came in much lower than budgeted.

Development Report

We have the date set for next fiscal year's Top Golf event for September 17. Kelly will begin working on that soon.

We are able to get some things on our teachers' and therapists' wish lists with our United Way Community Wellness grant for equipment and supplies. We've submitted mid-year reports for all three Community Wellness grants. Tomorrow, we will have an audit on the one-time services grant to ensure eligibility requirements.

Principal's Report

Cindi has one teacher observation/evaluation to complete. Remaining staff have begun.

There are five weeks of school remaining. We currently have 57 students projected to graduate. Classroom placement meetings for returning students has been done. Graduates will have transition meetings at their incoming school before school is out.

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Graduations are next month at each campus; Bartow on May 7, Winter Haven on May 12 and Lakeland on May 20. All start at 6pm and are an open house style.

The last day of school is May 28. So far, we know of one teacher and two paras that are not returning.

Parents Report

Mary Holjes has a potty-training workshop scheduled this week for parents. She is also working on staff appreciation luncheons for each campus that is sponsored by the parents group.

There will be a final parent meeting next month that is off campus and combined for all three sites. She also has scheduled the end of year field trip which will be held at the Peppa Pig theme park at Legoland.

President's Report

The Birth to Three visit from the Polk County CDBG grant went well. The team simulated a home-visit. We have submitted our request for next year.

We are working to hire one of the two Early Interventionist candidates for the Birth to Three program.

We had a combined Top Chef and Development Committees debrief meeting of the Top Chef event. We had a lot of great feedback and know what weak points to work on. Next year's event is scheduled for February 22, 2027 at Bonnet Springs Park.

Thank you to Janice Jones and Trish Buchanan for inviting their Top Chef guests to tour. They went well. We have a little more time to have tours while kids are still in school.

The spring newsletter went out in the mail. We had the Leadership Lakeland visit. They came when there were no kids here but we were able to go in classrooms, talk to teachers and "experience" a typical school day.

We Care Wednesday with the Tigers is May 6 where Achievement Academy will be the featured non-profit.

Committee Reports

The Nominating Committee will have a slate of officers and new board members to vote on next month.

Steve Earley reported that the Facilities Committee will have a compiled list of roofers to vote on for the Building B roof replacement at the May meeting.

Deborah Sulsona shared the proposed budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Total revenue is slightly less than the current year's projection because of the one-time gifts that were received. However, we still have a big fundraising goal as we do each year. On the expense side, salary increases for staff as well as the holiday bonus are included. Due to required classes to take the state exam, our Assistant Principal candidate will not move into that role full-time this year. We have added a couple of new line items for next year: 1. An expense line for IT services and 2. A staff incentive. These are both items that will be explored further next year. The proposed budget has a net surplus of $33K. The Finance Committee has reviewed the budget and recommends approval. Adil Khan moved to approve the 2026-27 budget as presented. Paige Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business
None

Karli Wilkinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona
Chief Financial Officer