

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 19, 2026

6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Adil Khan, Joseph Little, Ana Kalman, Paige Campbell, Mike Brossart, Janice Jones, Zelda Abram, Sheilitha Williams, Jill Haladay, Nick Sellars 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 6:00p.m. Adil Khan moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 Board meeting. Paige Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Financial Report

Paige Campbell presented the financial report for the seven months ending April 30, 2026. Cash and investments total \$2.82 million. Total assets are \$4.04 million and net assets are \$4.03 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 approximately \$478K.

Development Report

We have the date set for next fiscal year's Top Golf event for Thursday, September 17. We have some new opportunities such as bar sponsors and spectator tickets. Kelly will send out information soon.

Parents Report

We had a yearbook sponsor this year and all students received one free of charge. We have a field trip planned at Peppa Pig park on Tuesday June 2. The parents group will pay for the student's ticket and parents get a discounted ticket price. The last parent breakfast will be a joint one at Fred's Market tomorrow morning.

Principal's Report

There are six days of school left. Teachers are working to close out files and send the cumulative files to students' receiving classroom or school. The Lakeland graduation is tomorrow night at 6pm with about 40 graduates. Bartow and Winter Haven had their graduations that went very well.

We now have two teachers leaving us. The most recent is a Bartow teacher who is going back to the district for the retirement benefits. The Florida Retirement System is also the biggest barrier we have in recruiting teachers from the district. Mike Brossart suggested we look deeper into the requirements for joining the Florida Retirement System. He will reach out to someone he knows to get us started.

President's Report

Kelly talked about Top Golf in September. We have kept the dollar figure to raise from that event flat in the budget as this event is more of a friend-raiser.

The Birth to Three application for United Way is due June 1, 2026. As previously noted, we can only receive up to what we ask for so we propose a budget with a larger allocation. The team is also working on the mid-year reporting for United Way.

We had a monitoring visit from the United Community Wellness Grant team for the grant that helps cover the salary of the Resource Parent. It went well and we can apply again for next year.

Thank you to those that attended the We Care Wednesday Lakeland Flying Tigers game. We look forward to continuing that relationship.

Development will begin working to secure Community Leaders for next year's Top Chef event.

Janice Jones congratulated Kristin Aiken and Paige Campbell for the graduation with Leadership Lakeland.

Committee Reports

Steve Earley reported that he has three bids for the Building B roof so far. He is waiting on one more then will be able to make the selection and get the roof replaced over summer break.

The Nominating Committee put forth the following slate of officers to serve a two-year term beginning next fiscal year.

Officers

Chair – Adil Khan

1st Vice Chair – Sheilitha Williams

2nd Vice Chair – Paige Campbell

Treasurer – Ana Kalman

Secretary – Nick Sellars

Immediate Past Chair – Trish Buchanan

The Nominating Committee also recommends term renewals and new board members as follows:

3-year Term Renewals

Zelda Abram

Mike Brossart

Brant Masters

Liz Plemons

Karli Wilkinson

New Board Members

Jesse Naranjo – 3 years

Randy Estrada – 1 year

Deb Misch – 1 year

Keri Donley Martin – 1 year

Kayla Newmyer – Parent Representative – 1 year

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The Nominating Committee also recommends honoring Steve Earley and Janice Jones with status of Emeritus Directors in recognition of their longstanding service and commitment to Achievement Academy.

Jill Haladay moved to approve the recommendations from the Nominating Committee. Joseph Little seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Vision Committee gave an update. They have held several focus groups that included board members, staff and parents and have done some cost modeling of combining the three campuses into one. Board members Trish Buchanan and Joseph Little with Kristin Aiken visited the Quest Kids Academy in Orlando. The next step for the Vision Committee is to hone in on the next direction and consider some near-term needs before jumping into a capital campaign.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Trish Buchanan and Kristin Aiken attended a GiveWell Community Foundation workshop and learned how to use the board to fundraise. A key point was to invite others to share in the joy you get from serving here. Trish was thankful to all of the committees and board members for your time and effort given to Achievement Academy.

The list of board meeting dates for the 2026-27 fiscal year are included in the board packet. Deborah Sulsona will send out calendar invites next week.

Tonight is the last board meeting until the August 18, 2026 board meeting. Steve Earley moved to give the Executive Committee voting authority to conduct business over the summer months until the next board meeting. Sheilitha Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mike Brossart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona

Chief Financial Officer