PACE ACADEMY
Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Via Zoom

Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82974811695

1. Call to Order/Welcome 6:30pm (Beckye Barnes, Acting Board Chair)
2. Board Member Attendance: (Ashleigh Dowey, Acting Secretary)
    a. Beckye Barnes- Present
    b. Ashleigh Dowey- Present
    c. Ashley Anderson-Present
    d. Anne Cheatham-Present
    Also Present: Executive Director- Dr. Melanie Vaughn
3. Approval of the August 21, 2025 Agenda:
    a. Motion: Ashley Anderson
    b. Second: Anne Cheatham
        i. Motion Carries
4. Approval of the July 17, 2025 Minutes:
    a. Motion: Ashley Anderson
    b. Anne Cheatham
        i. Motion Carries
5. Public Comment
    a. The Board values community input. To protect the integrity of the meeting agenda, public dialogue will be restricted to the Public Comment section of the agenda or as directed by the Board Chair. The policy is as follows:
        1. Each speaker has 3 minutes to speak
        2. Speakers may not address an individual board member directly
        3. Speakers may not ask questions of the Board
        4. Board members may not engage speakers in discussion
        5. Disruptive/abusive language or behavior is not permitted
6. Executive Directors Report
    a. Enrollment: PACE enrollment is at 216 with the most students in the lower grades and vacancies in 7th and 8th grade.
    b. Academic Performance: PACE is performing well academically, with significant gains in reading scores, especially for students that struggled previously. MAP testing shows upward gains of 20 points for some students with very few scores indicating summer regression; SC Ready scores will remain embargoed until November.

   c. Financial Update: PACE is in audit; Debt service ratio is 1.53 with 1.20 required to meet the bond covenant. Target level for days cash on hand: 27 PACE's Level is 127 equaling 74 days cash on hand. Still waiting on all state and federal funding. PACE received the "Federal Programs and Finance Award" for demonstrating remarkable success during the programs and finance kick off by achieving no rejections. PACE kicked off CEP lunch- students and staff are eating breakfast and lunch for free for the 25/26 school year.
   d. Safety plan: Previous safety plan vote was not included in previous meeting minutes. Plan includes placement of cameras, who is on the safety team, what to do with incidents regarding safety, etc.
7. Vote to Approve the Safety plan
   a. Motion: Ashleigh Dowey
   b. Second: Ashley Anderson
      i. Motion Carries
8. Executive Session
   a. Motion at 7:00 pm: Ashley Anderson
   b. Second: Ashleigh Dowey
      i. Motion Carries
9. Return from Executive Session:
   a. Motion at 7:30: Anne Cheatham
   b. Second: Ashleigh Dowey
      i. Motion Carries
10. Adjourn
   a. Motion at 7:35pm: Ashley Anderson
   b. Second: Beckye Barnes