PACE ACADEMY
Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Location:

Via Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82878410741

1. Call to Order/Welcome 6:30pm (Beckye Barnes, Board Chair)

2. Roll Call (Renae Martin, Secretary)
    a. Beckye Barnes- Present
    b. Ashleigh Dowey- Present
    c. Ashley Anderson- Absent
    d. Anne Cheatham- Present
    e. James McCall- Present
    f. Allison Leo- Absent
    g. Janet Robinson- Absent
    h. Robin Peterson- Present
    i. Priscilla Martin- Present

3. Approval of the March 19, 2026 Agenda:
    i. Motion Carries
4. Approval of the February 19, 2026 Minutes:
    i. Motion Carries
5. Executive Session: Skipped.

6. 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

7. Executive Directors Report

a. Financial Update: Revenue for the month of February up 8% with operating expenses down. PACE's net income is up 11% year to date. PACE still meeting bond covenant with nothing being different this month vs. previous month.
b. Current enrollment is 215, down 3 from target of 218; lottery process has started. Plans to add 58 students for total of 270 next year and additional students would be accommodated in current building- the SPED rooms are oversized for pulling 2-3 students; will return to original smaller SPED rooms and conference rooms, freeing up larger classrooms
c. Funding through 3-4 year grants to hire additional teachers; can sustain positions after grants end. All current positions filled; advertising for additional positions since January; teachers involved in interview process
d. Enrollment target set at 270 students for 2026-2027 school year
e. No current staffing vacancies for present student population
f. visit from Joseph Alata of the State Department, marking the first time a state official toured PACE facilities, marking the first State Department visit in PACE's history; felt truly heard for the first time in a long time Board Member James McCall arranged the meeting; goal was for Alata to see PACE operations and take information back to his office. PACE receives nearly $4,000 less per pupil than traditional schools; does not receive Act 388 money or 8% capital needs funding that traditional schools get. Joseph Alata was Impressed with school operations; had no prior knowledge of PACE's unique mission; encouraged replication. Bond payments are over $45,000 monthly, barely touching principal; Alata Advised against new bonds; low-interest loan program piloted with two schools showing promise; information expected April-May.

8. Action Items:
    a. Vote to Approve the 2026-2027 School Calerndar:
        i.
        ii. Beckye Barnes- Yes
        iii. Ashleigh Dowey- Yes
        iv. Ashley Anderson- Absent
        v. Anne Cheatham- No
        vi. James McCall- Yes
        vii. Allison Leo- Absent
        viii. Janet Robinson- Absent
        ix. Robin Peterson- Yes
        x. Priscilla Martin- Yes
            1. Motion: Renae Martin; Second: Ashleigh Dowey
            2. Motion Carries

9. Adjourn
    a. Motion at 7:31 pm Anne Cheatham
    b. Second: Robin Peterson

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