



Minutes
September 13, 2026

Welcome –Wes Westmoreland, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1PM.

****Notification of the board meeting was advertised on the Pinnacle Classical Academy website and the front doors of the school building were open.**

In attendance:

Attending: Board Members – Dr. Pauline Cahill, Amy Dulin, Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, Dr. Shelly Shope, Wes Westmoreland and Debbie Clary, joined virtually, Mark Griffin, absent.

Administration- Laura Beth Richardson, Monica Dellinger, Kendra McGinnis, Angela Brooks, and Jeff Ziegler.

Sue Jones, Clerk

Conflict of Interest Statement *In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. If any board member has any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict at this time, and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.*

Adoption of Agenda. Dr. Pauline Cahill moved for adoption of the agenda, Amy Duline second the motion. the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes Wes Westmoreland moved for the approval of the minutes of the August meeting without objection and hearing no objection, the minutes were approved.

Public Comments *Persons wishing to appear before the Board during this portion of the meeting should register their name and the subject they wish to address with the Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each presentation will be limited to three (3) minutes. The Board is interested in hearing your concerns, yet speakers should not expect comment, action, or deliberation on subject matter brought up during the public comment segment. Topics requiring further investigation will be referred to the appropriate board committee.*

No members of the public were present

K-3 Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by Ms. Kendra McGinnis
September 13, 2026

Professional Development

- Teachers will participate in half-day planning sessions on Monday, September 14 and Tuesday, September 15. These sessions will focus on reviewing pacing guides, analyzing data, and developing lesson plans. Grade level teachers will meet to discuss standards, assessment data and student projects. A big thanks to Carolyn Jackson for making these arrangements!
- Mrs. Jackson has also started our classical professional development. There will be continued PD each month throughout the year for teachers to join.
- We will partner with Listen First Learning (formerly iLEADR) for professional development again this year. We will begin in October, with a focus on improving instruction in Math and Reading for grades K-8.

Human Resources

Our partnership with Appalachian State University is underway for the 2026/2027 school year. We are proud to be recognized as a Non-profit Partner.

- The first partnership meeting was held on Monday, August 31, 2026. We are planning a "Lunch and Learn" session with a class of education students, where Mrs. Richardson and I will have the opportunity to present information and answer questions about PCA.

Community & Parent Involvement

- The K-3 Open House was a success and well attended by faHope Community Church supported our school through the Labor of Love Project on Sunday, August 30.
- Hope Community Church supported our school through the Labor of Love Project on Sunday, August 30.
- PEAK.
 - The first PEAK meeting of the year was held on Thursday, September 3.
 - The "Skip the Car Line" Auction raised an impressive \$5,650 with two winners (Brooke Hovis and April Jackson).
 - PEAK also generously provided lunch for all K-12 staff on Wednesday, August 5 as a show of appreciation.

Data & Testing

- The NC Beginning-of-Grade (BOG) Test for 3rd grade was administered on Thursday, August 20. This assessment measures a student's current understanding of third grade standards.
 - 27% of students were proficient.
- The iReady Beginning-of-Year Diagnostic began the week of August 24. This adaptive assessment collects data to create personalized learning paths and inform instruction throughout the year. Data will be shared when all grade levels have completed the assessment.

Upcoming Dates

Sept. 8th: In-Person Classical PD option @ K-3

Sept. 14th/15th: Half Day Planning

Sept. 15th: Good News Club Begins

Sept. 16th: Fall Picture Day

Sept. 17th: Constitution Day

Sept. 21st: Parents/Volunteers may enter the building

Sept. 25th: Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School

4-8 Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Mrs. Laura Beth Richardson Sept. 2026

Curriculum/Academics/Data:

- iReady Beginning of Year Diagnostic
 - Each year our 4th-8th grade students complete a beginning of year diagnostic in iReady. The diagnostic is intuitive, meaning it will provide questions based on student performance. The data we will gain will show the approximate percentage of students who would place in each state test level if they had taken the state assessment at the same time as the beginning of year diagnostic. The results also set the learning pathway for students until they take their second diagnostic. The lessons in their pathway are assigned to fill any learning gaps based on state standards. Our beginning of year data for 4-8 students is listed below.
- Middle of Year Diagnostics are scheduled before winter break. We are looking forward to seeing growth between the two checkpoints of the year.

Reading Overall

	2025-26 EOG Proficiency	1st Diagnostic Proficiency	2nd Diagnostic Proficiency		3rd Diagnostic Proficiency		2025-26 EOG Proficiency
4th	77%	49%					
5th	69%	55%					
6th	68%	55%					
7th	72%	52%					
8th	75%	82%					

Reading Achievement Level by Grade

Diagnostic 1	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2-1
4th	5%	31%	14%	51%
5th	13%	17%	24%	45%
6th	2%	21%	31%	45%
7th	6%	23%	23%	48%
8th	5%	36%	41%	18%

Math Overall

	2025-26 EOG Proficiency	1st Diagnostic Proficiency	2nd Diagnostic Proficiency		3rd Diagnostic Proficiency		2025-26 EOG Proficiency
4th	71%	25%					
5th	66%	43%					
6th	62%	60%					
7th	77%	55%					
8th	20%	56%					

Math Achievement Level by Grade

Diagnostic 1	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2-1
4th	0%	9%	15%	75%
5th	0%	19%	24%	57%
6th	0%	18%	41%	40%
7th	0%	28%	27%	45%
8th	10%	18%	28%	44%

Professional Development:

- **PLCs:** Professional Learning Communities are meeting regularly for grades 4-8.
 - Biweekly, on Thursdays during planning periods
 - Mrs. Barnes does a wonderful job continuing to be 4th and 5th grade's 'go-to' person for PLC meeting items.
 - A weekly bulletin is also printed and provided to all staff as an additional way to remain updated with important information.
- **Teacher Tag-In PD**
 - During the month of September, 4-8 teachers may observe another teacher in the building for at least 45 minutes to 90 minutes. The teacher they choose is solely based on the area they need the most support in. For example, a math teacher may want to improve their management skills and will therefore plan to observe a teacher who excels in that area. A middle school history teacher may choose to observe a high school history teacher in order to gauge how prepared their students are for future courses.
 - As administrators, we have the opportunity to see many effective teaching strategies across grade levels and subjects. This will give our teachers a similar opportunity.
 - This approach is often requested in our Teacher Working Conditions Survey. Our teachers acknowledge their coworkers as talented educators they can learn from.

Intermediate Activities/Important Dates

- September 9 - Fall Athletic Pictures
- September 14 - Progress Reports go home
- September 16 - Fall Picture Day
- September 19 - MS Sneaker Ball - Semi-formal

- September 24 - 4th grade field trip - Liberty Mountain Play
- September 25 - Teacher Work Day
- September 29 - Middle School CLT

High School Report
Prepared by Monica Dellinger
September 13, 2026

Student Recognition

Adrianna Hayes, August Terry, and Mason Kistler had the incredible opportunity to represent Pinnacle Classical Academy at North Carolina Girls State and North Carolina Boys State. These prestigious programs give students the opportunity to experience government firsthand while developing leadership, communication, collaboration, and citizenship skills alongside students from across North Carolina. We are incredibly proud of Adrianna, August, and Mason for representing Pinnacle Classical Academy with such excellence. Their experiences at Girls State and Boys State challenged them to lead, to communicate, to step outside their comfort zones, and to see themselves as young leaders capable of making a difference.

Pinnacle Classical Academy senior Reagan Stroud participated in the highly competitive Atrium Health HYPE (Healthcare Youth Pathways to Employment) Summer Academy, a four-week program designed to introduce students to healthcare careers through hands-on experiences, professional mentorship, and career exploration. During the program, Reagan shadowed professionals across multiple medical specialties and gained exposure to healthcare careers and educational pathways she had not previously considered. She also developed meaningful professional and peer relationships throughout the experience. Reagan's participation is an excellent example of PCA's commitment to providing students with opportunities to connect classroom learning to real-world experiences and explore pathways for their future education and careers.

Academic Focus

As part of our High School goals for the 2026–2027 school year, the high school team is examining the relationship between **student attendance, grades, and demonstrated mastery**. Teachers participated in a 35-minute case-study activity using hypothetical high school student profiles across multiple content areas, including Biology, English II, Math III, Chemistry, Civics, Economics, Personal Finance, and Health/PE. The activity challenged teachers to look beyond final grades and examine assessment performance, make-up work, and evidence of mastery. A key focus of the discussion was whether our current grading and make-up practices accurately communicate what students know and can do when they miss substantial amounts of instruction. This professional learning activity will serve as a foundation for examining our own school data and identifying practices that provide students with meaningful opportunities to recover missed learning while maintaining appropriate accountability for demonstrating mastery.

Dean of Academics
Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by J. Ziegler
September 2026

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency¹
All Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2025-26	70.2%	62.1%	59.2%
2024-25	63.7%	55.1%	55.0%
2023-24	72.7%	52.9%	54.2%
2022-23	72.1%	52.5%	53.6%
2021-22	72.3%	53.6%	51.4%
2020-21	70.6%	48.4%	45.4%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	77.8%	60.9%	58.8%
2017-18	66.8%	59.6%	58.8%
2016-17	71.7%	58.2%	59.2%
2015-16	73.5%	58.1%	58.3%
2014-15	69.9%	57.4%	56.6%

Pinnacle Classical Academy's 2025-26 proficiency rate is

- higher than all but four of the state's 115 LEAs: Union County (73.8%), Chapel Hill - Carrboro City (73.1%), Camden County (72.1%), and Carteret County (71.2%).
- higher than all five of the UNC system laboratory schools
- in the top 35% of charter schools

¹ "2025-26 School Assessment and Other Indicator Data," Accountability Data Sets and Reports, <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/accountability-and-testing/school-accountability-and-reporting/accountability-data-sets-and-reports> (retrieved September 7, 2026).

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency
Economically Disadvantaged Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2025-26	63.7%	54.7%	46.2%
2024-25	53.3%	48.1%	41.7%
2023-24	65.5%	45.2%	40.9%
2022-23	62.5%	44.6%	39.7%
2021-22	61.8%	42.7%	35.1%
2020-21	58.3%	37.6%	28.8%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	68.2%	50.8%	44.6%
2017-18	53.6%	49.6%	43.6%
2016-17	59.5%	47.8%	44.2%
2015-16	NA	48.5%	43.7%
2014-15	66.1%	47.4%	41.6%

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency
Black Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2025-26	64.9%	48.5%	44.2%
2024-25	55.7%	40.0%	39.2%
2023-24	65.9%	37.9%	37.9%

2022-23	57.4%	36.2%	36.1%
2021-22	65.4%	37.3%	33.4%
2020-21	53.8%	31.0%	26.3%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	68.4%	44.2%	40.9%
2017-18	52.8%	43.5%	40.4%
2016-17	59.1%	41.1%	40.3%
2015-16	57.6%	41.3%	39.5%
2014-15	40.4%	39.6%	37.3%

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency
Hispanic Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2025-26	64.3%	59.3%	48.4%
2024-25	62.1%	51.8%	43.2%
2023-24	71.1%	49.4%	42.1%
2022-23	66.7%	51.1%	42.3%
2021-22	65.5%	53.1%	40.4%
2020-21	74.6%	47.7%	33.9%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	80.3%	58.4%	48.8%
2017-18	50.0%	57.4%	48.1%
2016-17	56.7%	54.5%	48.4%
2015-16	65.9%	54.4%	47.6%
2014-15	76.7%	51.1%	45.2%

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update
Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by J. Ziegler
September 2026

1. Our fall CFP lecturer (October 1) is David Raney, professor of history at Hillsdale College (Michigan). He will speak on the 250th anniversary of the American founding. If you would like to join us for dinner (6:00), please let me know by Monday, September 21.
2. The Classical Foundations Program advisory board met virtually on Friday, August 7, at 4:00. The board approved the attached minutes from the previous meeting in May.
3. Students in middle school and high school watch a brief presentation each month by T.K. Coleman; each presentation is devoted to one of the school's ten values. September's theme is integrity.

Minutes of May 1, 2026, meeting

The Pinnacle Classical Academy Classical Foundations Program advisory board met virtually on May 1, 2026, at 4:00- P.M. Eastern time. Adam C. Smith (chair), Thomas Pack (vice chair), Sen. Wes Westmoreland (former chair), Allan Carey, David Raney, Anna Steinberg, and Jeff Ziegler (non-voting faculty liaison) were in attendance, as was Carolyn Jackson (Pinnacle Classical Academy's Assistant Coordinator of Academics, K-8).

Dr. Raney moved, and Mr. Carey seconded, that the agenda and minutes be approved. The motion was approved without objection.

Sen. Westmoreland and Mr. Ziegler updated the CFP board on the progress of Pinnacle Classical Academy and Classical Foundations Program, including an update on the spring speaker, crime and violence at local schools, the graduation speaker, and financial statements. Board members were also briefed on recent press releases, press coverage, and web posts.

Board members turned to new business. Upon the motion of Sen. Westmoreland, with Mr. Carey seconding, the 2026-27 activities and budget recommended by the executive committee were approved without objection, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M., following a motion from Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Carey.

K-12 Headmaster Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by Angela Brooks
September 13, 2026

Action Items:

- Requesting approval to cease the waiting list for the 2026-2027 school year as of September 30, 2026.
- Requesting approval of the Title I, Title II, Title IV, and Rural, Low-Income School grants.
- Requesting the approval of the budget adjustment.
- Requesting the approval of the compensation alignment for the 2026-27 school year.

Curriculum and Academics:

- Our school report card grade just came out and we moved from a 'C' to a 'B'. We are very proud of the work our team has done to achieve this growth and expect to keep up this momentum as we move into the 2026-27 school year. Our deans are looking at their individual areas and will be having data discussions with the staff in the coming weeks.
- Our K-2 teachers iReady data has been analyzed and we have the following performance bonuses for our teachers with the highest scores:

Holland	Reading	K	Exceeds			\$1,000
	Math	K	Met			\$500
Julian	Reading	1st	Exceeds			\$1,000
McNeilly	Reading	1st	Exceeds			\$1,000
	Math	1st	Exceeds			\$1,000
Simpson	Reading	2nd	Met			\$500
Shirey	Reading	2nd	Met			\$500
Burton	Reading	2nd	Exceeds			\$1,000
	Math	2nd	Exceeds			\$1,000
						\$7,500

Finance:

- **Budget** - Requesting the approval of the budget adjustment. This allows the budget to more accurately reflect the income from federal money received.
 - Requesting approval of the compensation alignment for the 2026-27 school year. This ensures greater compensation alignment across comparable positions and levels of experience, and performance while allowing the budget to remain under

- \$15,000 of what was budgeted and approved for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - The monthly financial information is attached.
- Requesting approval for the federal grants as listed below
- **Title I Grant (Low-Income Students/Families)**
 - The grant has been written and submitted for your approval today.
 - Within the grant, our plan is to fund the following items in order to support the daily instruction of students. The budget includes:
 - Two remedial teachers salaries
 - Workshops for teacher training
 - Supplies
 - Nurse
- **Title II Grant (Support Effective Instruction)**
 - The grant has been written and submitted for your approval today.
 - Within the grant, our plan is to fund the following items in order to support the development of teachers. The budget includes:
 - Mentor stipends
 - Teacher recruitment
 - Marketing
 - Teacher Bonuses
- **Title IV Grant (Student Support and Academic Enrichment)**
 - The grant has been written and submitted for your approval today.
 - Within the grant, our plan is to fund the following items in order to support the daily instruction of students. The budget includes:
 - Remedial Tutors
- **RLIS Grant (Rural, Low-Income School)**
 - The grant has been written and submitted for your approval today.
 - Within the grant, our plan is to fund the following items in order to support the daily instruction of students. The budget includes:
 - Remedial Tutors
 - Supplies

Legal/DPI:

- **EpiCenter**
 - We are up to date with all submissions
 - Grievance Policy
 - Parent Bill of Rights
 - Senate Bill 277 - Eliminating “DEI” in Public Education
 - School Mental Health Plan
 - Summer Camp Reporting

Enrollment:

- Unfortunately we did not hit our projected enrollment numbers but we have maintained

our average or 6.7% of Cleveland County population. Our team will be working to up our game in our recruitment efforts for the 2027-28 school year.

	25-26	26-27
K	121	100
1	100	116
2	97	92
3	95	99
4	96	84
5	94	104
6	103	89
7	102	100
8	90	100
9	87	79
10	86	78
11	78	78
12	66	72
	1215	1191

Athletics: Athletics report attached.

**Athletic Department Update
Submitted by Brandon Gosey
September 8, 2026**

Board Report:

The 2026 Fall Athletic Season officially kicked off on August 1 with the start of fall practices. Athletic contests will begin during the first week students return to school. Pinnacle Classical Academy will offer the following sports this fall:

Fall 2026 Athletic Teams

- Girls Volleyball (Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity)
- Cross Country (Middle School and Varsity)
- Boys Soccer (Middle School and Varsity)

This will also be our first fall season competing in the newly joined Carolina Beltway Athletic Conference for middle school athletics. We are excited to provide conference competition for all of our middle school teams and look forward to the opportunities this new conference will provide for our student-athletes.

2026-2027 Athletic Business Sponsors

As shared in a previous email, the Athletic Department continues to raise funds through our Annual Business Sponsorship Program. Below is our current list of business sponsors:

- Berry Business Systems
- Boiling Springs Family Dentistry
- Caldwell Appraisals
- Center City Salon
- Christy Ray Fitness
- Clary Construction Concepts
- Discovery Nissan
- Hoke Enterprises Inc.
- Keener Builders
- Pink Paradise Wellness & Spa
- Rejuvatour Medical Spa
- Shelby Alarm Co.
- Shelby Dental Care Center
- Steffes
- Steven Ray, FBI
- Westmoreland Printers
- RR LLC Equipment Repair Services

We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of these businesses and individuals who continue to invest in Pinnacle Classical Academy Athletics. While we are still actively securing additional sponsors, we remain hopeful of reaching our sponsorship goal of \$20,000 this year. I look forward to providing the Board with more concrete fundraising figures in next month's report.

Varsity Girls Basketball Coaching Update

The Athletic Department recently hired Wes and Latoya Peeler to lead our Varsity Girls Basketball program. We are excited to welcome them into their new coaching roles and look forward to their leadership of our student-athletes.

Wes and Latoya have been part of the Pinnacle Classical Academy family for the past four years. Both are graduates of Cleveland County Schools and are active members of the local community. They have three children, Jalen, Jurnee, and Jaxon. Jurnee is currently a sophomore at PCA, and Jaxon is a freshman.

Wes is employed at Albemarle, where he works in the QC laboratory, while Latoya serves as an EC teacher at Pinnacle Classical Academy. They are active members of First Baptist Church of

Earl, where Wes serves as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and choir director, and Latoya serves as youth director and a youth Sunday school teacher.

Basketball has been a part of Wes's life from an early age. His experience includes AAU basketball, JV and Varsity basketball at Crest High School, and coaching in recreational leagues. Latoya brings a passion for working with young people and helping develop them into responsible and respectful young adults. Together, they bring a shared commitment to developing well-rounded student-athletes both on and off the court.

The Athletic Department would also like to express its sincere appreciation to Coach Laura Wellmon and Jerry Wellmon for their leadership of the girls basketball program over the past six years. We are grateful for the time and dedication they have given to our student-athletes and the program. Coach Laura Wellmon continues to serve PCA Athletics by overseeing our JV and Varsity Girls Volleyball programs.

Middle School Cheer Update

The Athletic Department has made the difficult decision not to offer Middle School Cheer for the upcoming basketball season. The program was originally scheduled to move forward with a coach in place; however, the coach was forced to step away the week of tryouts after receiving a serious medical diagnosis.

Given the unexpected timing of the vacancy, the Athletic Department immediately began seeking a replacement and interviewed additional candidates. Unfortunately, we were unable to identify the right fit within the limited timeframe available to properly organize the team and prepare students for the upcoming season.

Rather than rush the hiring process simply to fill the position, we felt it was in the best interest of our student-athletes and the overall program to pause Middle School Cheer for this season. Families were notified of the decision, and we hope to bring the program back for a future season with the appropriate leadership and preparation in place.

Action items:

1. Debbie Clary made a motion to approve modifications to the salary structure as recommended by staff, Dr. Pauline Cahill second the motion, all approved.
2. Dr. Anthony Negbenebor made a motion to approve the Title I, Title II, Title IV, and Rural, Low-Income School grants, Amy Dulin second the motion, all approved.
3. Amy Dulin made a motion to approve the budget adjustment, Dr. Pauline Cahill second the motion, all approved.
4. Amy Dulin made a motion to approve to cease the waiting list for the 2026-2027 compensation alignment for the 2026-2027 school year, as of September 30, 2026, Dr. Anthony Negbenebor second the motion, all approved.

Wes Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the meeting with objection.