Dare to Soar

PINNACLE
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Minutes
October 11, 2026

Welcome –Debbie Clary, 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 – Wes Westmoreland, Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, Dr. Shelly Shope, Mark Griffin, Dr. Pauline Cahill and Amy Dulin, 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. Wes Westmoreland moved for adoption of the agenda. Mark Griffin second the motion. the agenda was adopted without objection.

Approval of Minutes. Mark Griffin moved for the approval of the minutes of the September meeting. Dr. Shelly Shope second the motion, the minutes were approved without objection.

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

Administration reports:

K-3 Report to the Board of Directors

Presented by Ms. Kendra McGinnis
October 11, 2026

Professional Development

- Listen 1st Learning (formerly iLEADR) will be joining us on Thursday, October 15, to provide professional development sessions focused on reading, math, and classroom management. Teachers will have the opportunity to select the session that best aligns with their individual needs and professional goals.

K-3 Events / Activities

- Thursday, September 24, 3rd grade hosted Devine Reptiles. Devine Reptiles is an educational reptile entertainment and mobile animal experience. Joe Devine is the owner and leader.
- Monday, October 5, Shelby Fire & Rescue visited PCA to give first grade students a fire safety presentation during Fire Safety Week. Students learned what to do if they see a fire, who to call in an emergency, and the importance of designating a family meeting place in the event of an emergency. Students also had the opportunity to walk through a fire truck and learn about the tools and equipment firefighters use.
- Kindergarten Pastries with Parents will be in the K-3 gym from 7:30am-8:00am on Wednesday, October 7. 194 people have responded "yes" to the invitation. Parents and students will enjoy fruit, donuts, and fellowship.
- The Kindergarten grade level will come together to host an in-school Continent Cafe on Thursday, October 29 from 9:00am-11:30am. This event, which will cover all seven continents, is being planned to conclude the Core Knowledge Maps, Globes and Continents Domain. Parent volunteers will be present to help facilitate the activities.
- There will be a Veterans Day Event at the K-3 campus on Friday, November 6. Veteran relatives of PCA students will be invited. Families will enjoy a third grade performance of music, donuts and juice.

Community & Parent Involvement

- There was a general PEAK meeting held on October 8, along with a chili cookoff. Parents voted for the top 3 pots of chili. Bragging rights were earned and awards were presented.
- Pinnacle will be represented at the 2026 Livermush Festival this year on Saturday, October 17.
- The PEAK sponsored Annual Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 23 at the K-3 campus from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Data & Testing

Reading Standard View

Diagnostic 1	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
K	23%	77%	0%
1st	20%	78%	2%
2nd	32%	59%	9%
3rd	60%	20%	20%

Math Standard View

Diagnostic 1	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
K	22%	78%	0%
1st	8%	86%	6%
2nd	11%	59%	30%
3rd	19%	61%	20%

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 14th: Third Grade - Vikings Day
Oct. 14th: Q1 Grades due by 4:00 pm
Oct. 15th-16th: Teacher Workdays - no school for students
Oct. 20th: BT Meeting at 3:30
Oct. 21st: Report cards go home
Oct. 22nd: Caffeine Monkey @ k-3 Campus 9:00-12:00
Oct. 23rd: Fall Festival 6:00pm-8:00pm
Oct. 27th: Fall Picture Make-up day
Oct. 29th: Kindergarten's Continent Cafe in the K-3 Gym
Oct. 31st: Halloween

4-8 Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by Mrs. Laura Beth Richardson
October 11, 2026

Curriculum/Academics/Data

- Classic Learning Test 6-8
    - Middle School students took the CLT on Tuesday, Sept 29. The CLT assessed language arts and mathematics corresponding to each grade level, including reading comprehension, writing, grammar, arithmetic and operations, geometrical

reasoning, and overall mathematical reasoning. Reading passages on the CLT were intentionally taken from classic children's literature, poetry, and historical fiction and non-fiction.
    - This is the third year our middle school students have taken this test and it provided interesting insight into middle school student's top domain skills.
        - 6th Grade Top Domains: Writing Concepts and Skills, Reading Comprehension, and Arithmetic and Operations
        - 7th Grade Top Domains: Mathematical Reasoning, Textual Analysis (inferences, point of view, understand how verbal/quantitative evidence are used in passages), and Pre-Algebra and Algebra
        - 8th Grade Top Domains: Mathematical Reasoning, Grammar, and Textual Analysis (inferences, point of view, understand how verbal/quantitative evidence are used in passages)

- **iReady Winter Fest**
    - To encourage intermediate students to utilize their iReady lessons correctly each week, we will be hosting a Winter Fest on Thursday, December 17.
        - To attend, students must pass two lessons in math and two lessons in reading each week. These goals are attainable for every student as iReady provides them prescribed lessons based on their diagnostic results. This opportunity will officially start October 19 and end on December 4.
        - Winter Fest will be held in the 4-12 gym. Students who meet their weekly goals will attend Winter Fest during their daily scheduled PE time.
        - Activities include cookie decorating, creating Cards of Cheer (holiday cards to send to local first responders and nursing homes), and a photo op. Students will also get to enjoy hot chocolate and purchase items from the concession stand. Proceeds will be applied to the Pinnacle Award Scholarship.

Recruitment/Personnel:

- Ms. McGinnis and I are eager to attend the following job fairs to represent PCA and encourage individuals to apply to work at PCA upon graduation.
    - Gardner Webb University- Wednesday, October 7
    - Appalachian State University- Friday, October 22
        - Partnering with ASU again this year will allow us to meet with education students before the career fair to promote PCA and provide professional development.

Professional Development

- Listen1stLearning: Jamie Beecham and Allison Kiser will be at each campus on October 15 to provide multiple PD opportunities for staff. Our teachers will be able to sign up for a session that best meets their needs. Staff will receive CEU credits for attending.

- Student Engagement: Mrs. Kelly Barger will be providing a PD session focused on student engagement (specifically utilizing purposeful questioning) over the October work days. Staff will receive CEU credits for attending.

Intermediate Events/Activities

- PEAK's middle school dance was a hit! We appreciate all of their hard work in making it special for our middle school students.
- October 15 and 16- Work Days
- October 21- Report cards go home
- October 23 - PEAK's Fall Festival



High School Report
Prepared by Monica Dellinger
October 11, 2026

Curriculum and Academics:

- September 28, 2026 juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend Cleveland Community's **College Experience** CACRAO fair. Students could either participate in the college experience fair or learn more about an area in a CTE field of interest. Pinnacle had 40 (of 72) seniors and 28 (of 79) juniors attend.

- **Countdown to College** is planned and underway. During the month of October students K - 12 will have a focus that supports our college focus. The K-11 activities lead up to our senior event College Application Day on Wednesday, October 21. K-3 students will be completing several activities from decorating a graduation cap to completing sheets

about when they graduate high school. Students in grade 4 will complete a mock college application. Grade 5 students will decorate a college pennant. In grade 6, students will write a letter to their future self. These will be filed in their cumulative record to be revisited when they become seniors. Seventh grade students will complete a sheet about themselves and then will become college detectives. This activity has students show colleges throughout the state of NC as well as surrounding states that are in close proximity to Shelby. Eight grade students will complete a career inventory survey with the support of our CCC coach, Mrs. Wyatt. Freshman create their SCIOR account and begin listing their activities they will want to include in their senior application essays. Sophomores create a CFNC account, update their activities list in SCIOR and learn about the college search feature in CFNC. Juniors work in CFNC using the college search feature and begin research colleges of interest based on their career interest survey information.

- **The National Honor Society** will induct its new members Thursday, October 29, 2026. Students inducted have a GPA of 3.29 or higher. Once invited to be part of the society they complete an application with teacher recommendation. Upon submitting, a review committee of four faculty and one administrator reviews the applications based on character and conduct. If the application is approved the student will receive a formal invitation to the induction ceremony. We are looking forward to inducting our newest members. We would love to see you there.

Extracurricular Activities:

- Homecoming
    - Our annual **homecoming parade** has been approved by the City of Shelby to occur on Friday, December 4 at 2:00pm. Planning is well underway and we are looking forward to holding this parade as it has been rained out the last two years.
    - December 12 we will host our high school homecoming dance at the LeGrand Center from 7:00 - 10:00. Tickets are on sale now. Students and staff alike are excited about this event.

Special Recognition

- Willow Wood, senior, was recently recognized by the **Classic Learning Test** as being a 2026 CLT10 Distinguished Scholar award. This award was given to Willow for being the top scorer for Pinnacle during her sophomore year. Congratulations to Willow for this outstanding achievement.

Senior Activities

- **NC College Connect:** Our seniors are participating in NC College Connect, a statewide direct-admission initiative designed to simplify access to higher education. Students who are on track to graduate receive a direct pathway to their local community college, with qualifying students also receiving offers from participating four-year institutions. We are

helping seniors understand their offers and navigate the next steps toward college enrollment.

- **College Application Update**: As of October 6, 2026, 26 of our seniors have submitted a total of 90 college applications to 41 different colleges and universities. To date, 31 of those applications have already resulted in acceptances, with many additional applications still pending. This early progress reflects the strong engagement of our seniors as they begin the college application process. We will continue to support students through application completion, financial aid and scholarship opportunities, and the college decision-making process throughout the school year.
- **College application Day** is quickly approaching on Wednesday, October 21. This whole day activity allows students to complete applications, have essays proofed and revised, hear from a representative with CFNC and participate in mock school/job interviews. This is a great opportunity for our students to participate in. Kudos to Dr. Martin for her thorough planning and execution of this day.

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

Historic Grade-Level Proficiency Data
(% of students who earned a 3, 4, or 5 on an EOG/EOC)

proficiency (%)	25-26	24-25	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	2019-20 no tests	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14
reading													
Grade 3	68.2	60.8	64.1	50.0	68.6	65.3		77.4	55.1	72.9	72.1	88.4	88.4
Grade 4	76.9	63.7	71.1	81.7	72.5	75.8		82.2	67.1	72.5	80	79.1	55
Grade 5	69.2	52.5	72.2	52.3	61.1	58.2		75.3	56.9	71.4	76.1	52.5	68.4
Grade 6	68.0	72.4	61.1	78.0	72.6	69.1		83.9	80	77.4	76.2	81.4	80.6
Grade 7	87.9	71.9	85.6	78.6	81.0	78.0		88.7	87	77.1	84.8	83.8	NA
Grade 8	63.3	75.0	73.5	93.1	74.4	71.9		76.4	61.2	75.6	70	NA	NA

no test in grade 9													
English II	70.6	82.4	82.4	77.1	84.1	86.0		88.9	90	NA	NA	NA	NA
math													
Grade 3	75.3	68.0	69.6	70.0	73.5	68.4		84.5	64	65.7	76.7	86	69.8
Grade 4	71.4	63.7	69.1	71.2	78.8	69.5		71.1	60.3	64.7	73.3	72.1	47.5
Grade 5	64.8	59.6	68.0	62.8	65.3	59.3		61.2	74.5	75.5	71.7	45	60.5
Grade 6	61.9	78.6	76.9	76.9	80.0	76.6		80.4	66	66	57.1	62.8	66.7
Grade 7	76.8	55.1	75.3	73.5	73.8	81.7		81.1	64.8	58.3	63	70.3	NA
Grade 8	44.3	58.3	69.6	74.7	74.4	66.7		71	42.9	48.8	42.5	NA	NA
Math 1					NA	NA		57.9	NA	71.4	95+	NA	NA
Math 9-12 [since 2018-19, “Math 1 (9-12)”][1]	15.4	<5	27.3	17.6	23.1	NA		NA	40	NA	NA	NA	NA
Math 3 (9-12)	66.2	68.5	71.8	80.9	73.8	51.9							
science													
science (grade 5)	72.5	45.5	67.0	67.4	71.6	82.4		81.2	80.4	83.7	82.6	45.0	68.4
science (grade 8)	79.7	77.1	93.1	93.1	91.0	86.0		94.5	83.7	95+	90.0	NA	NA
Biology (high school)	73.3	50.5	71.9	68.4	52.3	59.6		77.1					

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update
Presented by J. Ziegler
October 2026

1. Our fall CFP lecturer (October 1) was David Raney, professor of history at Hillsdale College (Michigan).

2. The Classical Foundations Program advisory board will meet virtually on Friday, November 6, at 4:00. PCA members have received a calendar invitation and are welcome to attend.
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. October’s theme is reality.

[1] The (relatively few) students who did not take Math 1 in Grade 8.

K-12 Headmaster Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by Angela Brooks
October 11, 2026

Action Items:

- Request to approve the revised Parental Leave Policy for implementation during the 2026-27 school year.

Curriculum and Academics:

- Our team, with the help of Mrs. Karis, is working on developing an engineering academy for the high school. We are in the draft stages of this academy, but it seems very promising and would really set us apart from other educational institutions. The curriculum committee has been involved in the initial planning process and we hope to be able to present a draft in the coming months.
- Mr. Ziegler, with assistance and input from Mrs. Karis and Mrs. Austin wrote a grant and was awarded over $10,000 to assist with fees and equipment for the robotics program. We are grateful to all who worked on this endeavor.

Marketing:

- We have worked diligently on enhancing and updating our school website and social media accounts. We are making a concerted effort to highlight all grade levels and activities throughout our various media accounts. In addition to classroom highlights we have initiated a Pinnacle Proud post, a Classical Education post and will soon be continuing with our Alumni posts.

Finance:

- **Budget -** We are in good financial standing. The balance sheet and cash position is provided for each board member.

Professional Development:

- Dr. David Raney presented to the high school and faculty on Thursday, October 1st. Dr. Raney left with a very positive view of Pinnacle Classical Academy and Shelby. His discussion focused on the Constitution.

- Currently Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Ziegler are leading classical professional development on the book *Tried and True*: *A Primer on Sound Pedagogy.* Last month the focus was on following the school's mission and making that a focus for all that we do within the school. This month the focus is on leading students and establishing useful routines. We are grateful for the teachers participating in these discussions and for the leadership of Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Ziegler in this endeavor.

Legal/DPI:

- **EpiCenter**

    - We are up to date with all submissions

- **Parental Leave Policy**
    - **Extended paid parental leave:** Eligible employees may receive up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave following a qualifying event, including the birth, adoption, foster care, or other legal placement of a child.
    - **Equalized leave benefits:** The revised law increases the maximum paid parental leave from eight weeks for birthing parents and four weeks for non-birthing parents to 12 weeks for all eligible parents.
    - North Carolina will continue to reimburse schools as business offices submit and funds remain available.

Enrollment:

- **Livermush Festival**
    - We are excited to kick-off enrollment for the 2027-28 school year. Mrs. Haire and Miss McGinnis have been working on getting everything organized and ready to go for the livermush festival on Saturday, Oct. 17th.

- **Enrollment Dates:**
    - Saturday, Oct. 17th - Enrollment Kickoff
    - Monday, March 1st - All applications due
    - Friday, March 5th - Lottery
    - Friday, March 12th - K-Day

Attachments:

Athletic Department Update
Submitted by Brandon Gosey
October 6, 2026

Fall Athletics Overview: *(August 18–October 8, 2026)*

As the fall regular season comes to a close, the Athletic Department is pleased to share an overview of PCA's athletic offerings and competition schedule. These numbers highlight the breadth of our fall program and the opportunities our student-athletes have to compete, develop their skills, and represent PCA throughout the regular season.

• Program Offerings: Three fall sports offered and seven individual programs offered across middle school, JV, and varsity levels.

• **Volleyball** — 47 scheduled matches: 11 middle school, 18 JV, and 18 varsity.

• **Soccer** — 27 scheduled games: 11 middle school and 16 varsity.

• **Cross-Country** — 8 scheduled meets: Four middle school and four varsity, including a PCA-hosted meet at Cleveland Community College.

• **Total — 82 scheduled competitions: 39 home and 43 away.**

A special thank-you to Coach McCachren and Cleveland Community College for welcoming PCA and our conference teams to their beautiful collegiate cross-country course for our home meet. This partnership gave our runners and fellow conference athletes a valuable opportunity to compete on a college course and experience athletics in a collegiate setting. We are grateful to the college and everyone who helped make this experience possible.

Postseason Conference Competition:

Regular-season play concludes this week, with postseason conference competition beginning next week for middle school and varsity boys soccer, middle school and varsity cross-country, and middle school, JV, and varsity girls volleyball.

Our Eagles will compete in the Carolina Beltway Conference and Western Piedmont Athletic Conference postseason following a strong fall season. We look forward to cheering them on and sharing updates on their progress throughout postseason competition.

PCA Spirit Nights:

A special thank-you to Red Bridges Barbecue and Jammin' J's Pizza for hosting Spirit Nights this year in support of our athletic scholarship fund. We appreciate their generosity and our school community's participation. We are currently coordinating an October Spirit Night and hope to return to Red Bridges Barbecue later this month. Details will be shared as soon as the date is confirmed.

Winter Sports Preview:

PCA is excited for the upcoming winter athletic season! Following our recent move to the Carolina Beltway Conference, our middle school teams will continue conference participation in boys basketball, girls basketball, and swimming.

At the high school level, varsity boys and girls basketball and JV boys basketball will continue competing in the Western Piedmont Athletic Conference, with varsity cheer and our high school athletics pep band bringing energy and school spirit to home games.

All teams have been rostered, coaches are in place, and the Athletic Department is actively finalizing schedules. We look forward to welcoming visiting teams and families to our beautiful gymnasium for another exciting season of PCA athletics.

Action Item:

The revised Parental Leave Policy for implementation during the 2026-27 school year, was

voted for approval. Wes Westmoreland made a motion for approval, Dr. Shelly Shope second the motion, the Parental Leave Policy was approved without objection.

Adjournment: Dr. Shelly Shope made a motion for adjournment, Wes Westmoreland second the motion, the meeting was adjourned without objection.