

## Board Minutes

### The New Academy Charter School

Minutes of the general meeting of the Board of Directors of The New Academy Charter School held on December 11, 2025.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mr. William Nunn. Representative Joe Preston and Katie Micco were present. Mr. Ken Curcio, Mr. David Caliguiri and Ms. Susan Creighton were excused.
- II. In accordance with applicable law, Notice of Publication of the meeting was advertised in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on January 16, 2025 and the meeting was conducted at the 900 Agnew Road facility.
- III. Comments were requested from the public but there were none.
- IV. Minutes from the meeting of September 11, 2025 were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- V. Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by Mr. Robert Grochowski. Mr. Grochowski indicated that revenue for the Charter was under budget for the first 4 months due to a lower than anticipated census and that rates were also somewhat lower than budget. Mr. Grochowski then reported that the grant for roof repair was progressing..

He next reported that the audit for the year ending June 30, 2025 had been completed and that the report was clean.

#### VI. The Education Report

The Education Report was presented by Mr. Jay Moser. Mr. Moser reported that enrollment was currently at 81 (breakdown listed below)

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	22
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	17
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	15
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	19

He further indicated that the total number of students with Programs for Exceptionalities is 46, 37 of which are from Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Mr. Moser then reported the status of all New Academy Charter School pending and awarded grants as of November 5, 2025. See the following:

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Amount Pending</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Term Start Date</b>	<b>Term End Date</b>
Dollar Bank Foundation	Driving Simulator	Application-Submitted	\$17,850.00	\$0.00		
Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County	LSA-2024	Application-Submitted	\$342,919.40	\$0.00		
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency	'24-'25 School Safety and Mental Health	Awarded		\$70,000.00	7/1/24	6/30/26
Fruit Tree Planting Foundation	Orchard Grant-Charter	Awarded		\$300.00	2/27/25	
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency	2024 School Mental Health	Awarded		\$70,000.00	1/1/24	12/31/25
Pennsylvania Department of Education	School Improvement	Awarded		\$75,000.00	9/13/25	9/30/26
Pennsylvania Department of Education	Title I	Awarded		\$40,748	8/2/25	9/30/26
Pennsylvania Department of Education	Title II	Awarded		\$3,646	8/2/24	9/30/26
Pennsylvania Department of Education	Title IV	Awarded		\$10,000.00	8/2/24	9/30/26
Pennsylvania Department of Education	IDEA	Awarded		TBD	9/1/24	6/30/25
Western PA Food Bank	Partner Support Impact Grant	Awarded		\$1500.00	9/2025	12/25
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>360,769.40</b>	<b>\$272,719.00</b>		

Mr. Moser then reported an update on the Charter School Renewal process. He indicated that that on June 25, 2025, the Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh voted at its public Legislative Session to renew the charter of The New Academy Charter School for an additional five (5) year term, extending from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. He further indicated that the Review Team found that The New Academy Charter School met all of the renewal criteria.

## **Student Recruitment and Retention**

Mr. Moser then presented the school's current student recruitment and retention plan which outlines The New Academy Charter School's ongoing strategic work to support student recruitment and retention for the 2025-2026 academic year. He further explained that the school was prioritizing expanding enrollment within the target student population while simultaneously enhancing student engagement and persistence. The recruitment and retention efforts include the following

### **Recruitment Efforts:**

#### **1. Community Outreach & Partnerships:**

- Continuing collaboration with local organizations to build awareness of our academic offerings.
- Continue to use presentations and information sessions at various local community hubs throughout the 2025-2026 school year, including presentations with the Juvenile Public Defenders office, the Public Defenders' Office and the Parent Advocacy Association.
- Leverage partnerships with organizations serving vulnerable populations to identify prospective students who may benefit from our personalized, trauma-informed model.

#### **2. Marketing & Visibility:**

- Distribute updated recruitment materials (flyers, brochures, bilingual handouts) across Pittsburgh-area neighborhoods and businesses.
- Update the school website with clearer enrollment information, success metrics, and testimonials from current students.
- Offer tours for interested students to experience a typical school day.

### **Retention Efforts:**

#### **1. Student Support & Engagement:**

- Ongoing implementation of wraparound services, including mental health counseling, academic mentoring, and family outreach.
- Increase focus on student voice via surveys and student advisory groups, shaping changes to our culture and climate.

#### **2. Attendance & Re-engagement Initiatives:**

- Develop individualized attendance plans with at-risk students, supported by home visits and family conferences.

### 3. **Family Connection:**

- Strengthen two-way communication with families through regular phone calls, Remind app messaging, tours, and school events. We have started using Talking Points, an app that teachers can use to send messages, assignments and class information to our families.

### **Next Steps:**

- Begin implementation of our credit recovery program. This program will allow us to maintain the enrollment of our most critically credit deficient students.

Mr. Moser then indicated that in October 2025, designated school leadership attended specialized training on the Mental Health Procedures Act (MHPA) and the process for petitioning for Involuntary Commitment. He further explained that this training, designed for first responders and mandated reporters, provided a comprehensive overview of how mental health emergencies are handled in Pennsylvania. He indicated that upon returning from the session, all materials and critical information were shared directly with the school's Mental Health Supervisor to support internal alignment, strengthen crisis response procedures, and ensure consistent implementation across student support teams. He indicated that the session, led by the Office of Behavioral Health, covered the following:

- The Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976 (MHPA) and relevant statutes
- Voluntary vs. involuntary treatment pathways (201, 302, 303, 304, 305)
- Identifying clear and present danger to self or others
- Criteria for when emergency mental-health evaluations may be necessary
- Petitioning and documentation requirements
- Roles of county delegates, crisis services, and healthcare partners
- Firearms restrictions following upheld commitments
- How extended commitments (303, 304, 305) progress after a 302.

#### 1. Types of Commitments

- 201 – Voluntary Commitment
- 302 – Involuntary Emergency Evaluation (up to 120 hours)
- 303 – Extended Involuntary Treatment (up to 20 days)
- Additional extensions possible based on clinical need.

#### 2. Criteria for a 302 Petition - A 302 may be pursued when a person is:

- A danger to self (suicidal behaviors, self-harm, inability to care for basic needs due to mental illness, medical neglect), or

- A danger to others (threats, attempts, or acts of serious bodily harm).

Behavior must be connected to symptoms of mental illness and based on incidents occurring within the past 30 days.

3. Application to the School Environment - while schools do not file 302 petitions directly, the training clarified:

- Staff may serve as “responsible persons” who can report dangerous behavior when completing documentation for crisis responders.
- Accurate, timely documentation of observed behaviors is essential for student safety and legal compliance.
- Schools must work closely with crisis agencies such as Resolve Crisis Services and DHS Mental Health Delegates.
- Understanding MHPA ensures appropriate response when a student exhibits severe mental health symptoms or dangerous behavior.

4. Communication and Follow-Up - The importance of:

- Immediate reporting of concerning or escalating behaviors.
- Internal communication with the Mental Health Supervisor for coordination and review.
- Maintaining strong relationships with mental health crisis agencies for prompt evaluation and intervention.

He stated training significantly enhances our ability to respond to critical mental health emergencies, protect students in crisis, and ensure compliance with Pennsylvania law.

Mr. Moser then reported on the security enhancements recently completed or underway as follows:

- Installation of exterior doors to improve access control.
- Upgrades to exterior lighting to increase visibility and deter after-hours activity.
- Upgrades to exterior cameras to expand coverage and improve video quality.

Mr. Moser explained that through enhanced training, strengthened crisis-response coordination, and continued facility improvements, The New Academy Charter School remains deeply committed to maintaining a safe, secure, and supportive environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

Mr. Moser then went over the current status of New Academy charter Schools improvement goals as listed below:

<b>IXL</b>	
Goal	By June 2026, 35% of all students will show positive average monthly growth on Math IXL.
Target 1	By Sept. 30, 50% of our students will be practicing at least two skills per week in Math on IXL – <b>TARGET MET</b>
Target 2	By December 30, 75% of our students will be practicing at least two skills per week in Math on IXL
Target 3	By March 30, 25% of all students will show positive average monthly growth on Math IXL.
Target 4	By June 2026, 35% of all students will show positive average monthly growth on Math IXL.
Goal	By June 2026, 35% of all students will show positive average monthly growth on ELA IXL.
Target 1	By Sept. 30, 50% of our students will be practicing at least two skills per week in ELA on IXL. <b>TARGET MET</b>
Target 2	By December 30, 75% of our students will be practicing at least two skills per week in ELA on IXL
Target 3	By March 30, 25% of all students will show positive average monthly growth on ELA IXL.
Target 4	By June 2026, 35% of all students will show positive average monthly growth on ELA IXL.
<b>Think Kids</b>	
Goal	By June 2026, responders' total average on the PA School Climate Survey will be at least 2.7.
Target 1	By Sept. 30, responders' (students) total average on the PA School Climate Survey will be at least 2.6. <b>TARGET MET</b>
Target 2	By Dec. 30, responders' (staff) total average on the PA School Climate Survey will be at least 2.6.
Target 3	By Mar. 30, responders' (students) total average on PA School Climate Survey will be at least 2.7.
Target 4	By June 2026, responders' total average on the PA School Climate Survey will be at least 2.7.
<b>Attendance Goal</b>	By June 30, at least 15% of students will have regular attendance (14 or fewer absences, attending 90% of the time).

Target 1	By Sept. 30, at least 15% of students who have a history of chronic absence (attending less than 90% of the time) will have an attendance success plan.
Target 2	By Dec. 30, our average daily attendance will be 70%.
Target 3	By March 30, at least 20% of students will have regular attendance (attending 90% of the time).
Target 4	By June 30, at least 15% of students will have regular attendance (14 or fewer absences, attending 90% of the time).

Mr. Moser then reported the following student achievement metrics:

- Students mastered 454 skills and demonstrated proficiency in 580 skills, practicing a total of 1,349 skills.
- They collectively answered over 35,000 questions, with 419 total hours logged—405 hours at school and 14 hours at home.

Mr. Moser then presented the events scheduled for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

- UPMC Pathways for Students event on November 19, 2025 at David L. Lawrence Convention Center. This event is designed to be an educational experience, offering your students exposure to 50 different career areas at UPMC. In addition, representatives from 17 academic institutions will be present to help students explore their educational pathways.
- Tour and presentation of Robert Morris University on December 3, 2025.
- Tour of CCAC Homewood-Brushton Center along with presentations by Job Corps on December 10, 2025.
- Tour of Rosedale Technical College on December 16, 2025.
- CPR/First Aid for seniors to complete ACT 158 requirements on December 17, 2025.
- Upcoming partnership with Miracle Dental Associates. Miracle Dental Associates provides an integrated approach to dentistry by utilizing occupational therapists, therapy dogs, and other useful modalities to increase positive experiences. We work hard to reach the under-served, with emphasis on those with spectrum and psychological diagnoses, while respecting parental choice as it pertains to their child's health. They will be providing screenings and cleanings for interested students bi-annually.
- In-house dental and hygiene presentations presented by UPMC for You Dental

- Two students registered for SAT tests on December 6, 2025. Three additional students registered for SAT tests in 2026.
- Navy recruit Rebecca will be at the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade lunches on Tuesday, December 9.

He further reported that the school's inaugural Speaker Series is continuing indicating that the first speaker was the Mayor of Pittsburgh, Ed Gainey. He also reported that following the Mayor would be PA State Representative Jessica Benham in October. He also indicated that the school also hosted the Chief of EMS Amera Gilchrist, the first female and African-American chief in the city of Pittsburgh.

He concluded his report by indicating that although this highlights our progress, our work continues, and that together, the board, staff members and our families and students can achieve remarkable things together.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Nunn commended Mr. Moser for his hard work and enthusiasm.

## VII. Legal

Mr. Norris reported that there were no new claims. He then requested a resolution extending the Board terms of Mr. Nunn and Mr. Caliguiri through December 2028. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

At this time, a discussion was held to establish meeting dates for 2026 and a motion setting meeting dates for Thursday March 12, 2026, Thursday June 18, 2026, Thursday September 17, 2026 and Thursday December 10, 2026 was made, seconded and approved unanimously. At this time, Mr. Moser then discussed his efforts to locate a parent who was willing to serve on the Charter Board.

Mr. Norris then requested a resolution authorizing Mr. Jay Moser as Principal of the New Academy Charter School to sign legal documents and contracts, including those for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, on behalf of the New Academy Charter School. The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

## VIII. New Business

The next scheduled meeting of the Board is set for Thursday, March 12, 2026.

## VIV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.