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Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, August 19, 2026
At 6:30 p.m. (Hybrid)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. M. Brown, Ms. S. Mayer, Ms. N. Pierce (6:35 p.m. Arrival),
Ms. A. Taylor (President), Ms. D. Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. J. Spence

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. C Covington, Ms. K. Johnson

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Board President Ashley Taylor and Roll Call was taken.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATIONS: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, The Pride Academy Charter School Board of Trustees has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Star Ledger and on NJ.COM under Legal Notices and posted on the school website on July 21, 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETING: The Board Voted to Accept Agenda for August 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. M. Brown

Vote:

All ayes, 5-0

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETINGS: Board voted to Accept the Minutes from June 11, 2026, Special Meeting; June 23, 2026, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting; and July 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. M. Brown

Vote:

All ayes, 5-0

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

BOARD VOTE: The Board approved the Policy items as presented.

1. Technology: Approval of District Technology Policies and Procedures.
2. Student Cell Phone Policy: Approval of the Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Policy for the 2026-2027 school year.
3. Title One: Approval of the Annual Title One Parent Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, during Back to School Night.
4. Attendance and Truancy Policy: Approval of Attendance & Truancy Documents.
5. Special Education: Approval of Manual & Updated IDEA and local policy.
6. Behavior Rubric & Expectations, Referral Schoolwide System.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. M. Brown

Vote:

All ayes, 5-0

Motion Carried

PRINCIPAL REPORT

The Principal's Report was presented, including the following presentations:

1. Amistad Commission Collaborative - Ms. Marcia Wilson, Dean of Academics.
2. Seton Hall University Master of Social Work Program - Mr. Jumoke Charles, School Social Worker.
3. Pride Parent Teacher Organization Framework for Parents - Ms. Rosemary Dumenigo, Assistant Principal.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

BOARD VOTE: The Board approved agenda items I1-I7.

- I1. Approve adding ELL/ESL Program for the 2026-2027 School Year and approval of Essex Regional Educational Services Commission Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- I2. Approve Amistad Commission Collaborative; No Cost.
- I3. Approve Seton Hall University's Master of Social Work Program; No Cost.
- I4. Approve the new Pride Parent Teacher Organization for the 2026-2027 school year.
- I5. Approve the Namesake Committee's Classroom Name Change from Team Chavez to Team Obamas.
- I6. Approve the establishment of Pride Principal's Parent Connection: Every 3rd Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
- I7. Approve the Operation of High School Night and 7th Grade Scholarship Night on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (No Cost).

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. M. Brown

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

PERSONNEL

BOARD VOTE: The Board approved agenda items J1-J7.

J1. Approval of Imani Coston as the School Social Worker for the 2026-2027 school year, start date pending background check, salary \$85,000.

J2. Approval of Myrna Serrano, Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year pending clearance for background check, salary \$82,000.

J3. Approval of Instructional Stipends Rate for 2026-2027 - \$40/hour.

J4. Approval of Non-Instructional Stipend Rate for 2026-2027 - \$25/hour.

J5. Acceptance of Resignation for Nanayaa Nketia, School Social Worker.

J6. Acceptance of Resignation for Nasyia Drayton, 6th Grade Math Teacher.

J7. Approve posting for Teacher Search (in-district) to facilitate and coordinate WIDE & ELL/ESL instruction for 30 minutes per day.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. M. Brown

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

BUSINESS OFFICE

BOARD VOTE: The Board approved the Business Office Report as presented and agenda items K1-K3 and K5-K9. Agenda item K4 was tabled.

K1. Approval of the Bills List for General and Special Revenue Funds for August 19, 2026, in the amount of \$46,120.97.

K2. Approval of Payroll for the Month Ending July 31, 2026 - \$235,173.75.

K3. Approval of Treasurer of School Monies Agreement with Chris Lessard - \$500 per month.

K4. Approval of Delta-T contract for the 2026-2027 School Year - TABLED.

K5. Approval of Essex Regional Educational Services Commission Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year - Speech/Language Services.

K6. Approval of Essex Regional Educational Services Commission Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year - Child Study Team Services.

K7. Approval of Consulting Agreement with Samad Mobley - \$500 for Phase 1 and \$2,000 for Phase 2, if applicable.

K8. Approval of the Grant Submission for the 2027 IDEA Consolidated Application and Acceptance of the Grant Award in the amount of \$81,538 - IDEA Basic.

K9. Approval of the Grant Submission for the 2027 ESEA Consolidated Application and Acceptance of the Grant Award: Title I - \$160,262; Title II - \$14,463; Title IV - \$11,994.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. N. Pierce

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BOARD VOTE: The Board approved the Professional Development items as presented.

1. Marcia Wilson - NJ Curriculum Leadership Summit - October 5, 2026 - No Cost to District.
2. Dr. Crystal Covington - New Jersey Principal and Supervisors Association/Dues - 2026-2027 - \$930; 11-000-230-890.
3. Joseph Wenzel - PD Training, Summer Teacher Orientation - August 19, 2026 - Contracted Hourly Rate; 11-000-230-331.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. N. Pierce

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: There were no comments from the public at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD VOTE: The Board approved a Returning Bonus of \$2,000. All other stipends remain under review.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. N. Pierce

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

CLOSED SESSION (Executive Session)

BOARD VOTED: To enter Closed Session at 7:28 p.m.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. N. Pierce

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To resume Public Session at 8:37 p.m.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. N. Pierce

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Motion to approve: Ms. D. Taylor

Second: Ms. N. Pierce

Vote:

All ayes, 4-0

Motion Carried