PRIDE ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
117 Elmwood Ave, East Orange NJ, 07018 Phone: 973-672-3200 Fax: 973-672-3207

# Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 22, 2026 At 6:30 p.m. (Hybrid)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. S. Mayer, Ms. J. Spence, Ms. A Taylor (President), Ms. D. Taylor (Vice President)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. M. Brown, Ms. N. Pierce

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

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. and Roll Call was taken.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge was done at 6:36 p.m.

**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 BOARD MEETING:** The Board Voted to Accept Agenda for July 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.
**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

**APROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING:** The approval of the Minutes from June 11, 2026, Special Board Meeting and June 23, 2026, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting was tabled until the next Board Meeting.

## EDUCATIONAL REPORT

**BOARD VOTE:** The Board approved agenda items H1-H6.

H1. Approval of Organizational Structure.

H2. Approval of Revised School Calendar for 2026-2027.

H3. Approval of Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for Special Education Training, 2 hours a week, No Cost to District.

H4. Approval of the following subscriptions: DeansList - List Core Features/License Fee - $6,150.00; PowerSchool - Student Information Systems Subscription/Certificate/School Messenger - $5,694.43 + $1,898.65; Fishtank Learning - ELA Curriculum - $3,900.00; No Red Ink Corp - Subscription - $5,735.21; Blooket LLC - Site Certification - $550.00; LinkIt - LinkIt Suite - $16,335.00; Delta Math Solutions - Schoolwide License - $760.00; IXL Learning - Math, ELA, Science and SS Subscription - $7,350.00; Able Space - Subscription - $1,500.00; Frontline - Evaluation Management (Stronge) - $2,394.64.

H5. Approval Back to School Bash Proposal - Proposed Day August 29, 2026, from 10am to 2pm.

H6. Approval of Young Audiences of New Jersey Performance - Trekking Mexico; Date: September 23, 2026. Cost: $2,245.

**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

## PERSONNEL

**BOARD VOTE:** The Board approved agenda items IA-IC.

IA. Approval of Karen C. Johnson Employment Contract for 2026-2027.

IB. Approval of Staff Salaries for the 2026-2027 School Year.

IC. Establishment of Hiring Committee - Dr. Crystal Covington, Marcia Wilson, Rose Mary Dumenigo, Asgeir Ofstad, Amanda Birt, Peter Zabor.

**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

## BUSINESS OFFICE

**BOARD VOTE:** The Board approved the Business Office Report as presented and agenda items J1-J6.

J1. Approval of the Bills List for General and Special Revenue Funds for July 22, 2026, in the amount of $80,735.75.

J2. Approval of the Monthly Board Secretary for the month ending May 31, 2026.

J3. Approval of the Treasurers' Reports for the month ending May 31, 2026.

J4. Approval of Equitable, 403b provider.

J5. Approval of Treasurer of School Monies Agreement with Chris Lessard. $475 per month.

J6. Approval for VelvetSpeech LLC Agreement to provide Speech-Language Services for the 2026-2027 school year; Rate $125/hour.

**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

1. Dr. Crystal Covington - Kean University - July 28-July 30, 2026 - No Cost to the School.
2. Dr. Crystal Covington and Karen C. Johnson - NJ Ed. Cert Virtual Certification Training - July 21, 2026 - No Cost to the School.
3. Dr. Crystal Covington, Rosemary Dumenigo, and Karen C. Johnson - NJ Public Charter Association 30th Anniversary, Hyatt New Brunswick, NJ - September 28-29, 2026 - Registration $350 per person; Total $1,050.
4. Board Members, Dr. Crystal Covington, and Karen C. Johnson - NJ School Boards Conference, Atlantic City, NJ - October 19-22, 2026 - Registration $2,400, Lodging, Mileage and Tolls.
5. Dr. Crystal Covington, Asgeir Ofstad, Rose Dumenigo, and Marcia Wilson - Stronge PD-Virtual - September 30, 2026 - $275 per person; Total $1,100.00.

**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** S. Critchlow addressed the Board regarding an employment matter.

**CLOSED SESSION (EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

**BOARD VOTE:** To enter Closed Session at 7:12 p.m.
**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

**BOARD VOTE:** To return to Open Session at 9:09 p.m.
**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BOARD VOTE:** The Board approved the following resolutions:

1. Approval of Freezing all 2026-2027 stipends until further review by Principal/SBA/Board Trustees
2. Approval to advertise for Teaching Staff for unanticipated vacancies for the 2026-2027 school year
3. Approve the new lease with Imani Baptist Church for the 2026-2027 school year; $2000 per month or $24,000 for the year.
4. Approval of title change for Lina Lopez to Business Office Asst/Main Office
5. Approval of salary increase for the 2026-2027 for Lina Lopez, from $56,650 to $60,000, effective August 1, 2026

**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

**BOARD VOTE:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.
**Motion to approve: Ms. A. Taylor**
**Second: Ms. S. Mayer**
**Vote: 4-0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary