

Carolus Online Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 19, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM EST

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Recorder: Brad Scott

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 PM EST by Board Chair John Palish.

II. Roll Call and Attendance

- The following board members were present:
 - Pam Sieger
 - Betsy Carpentier
 - John Pallasch
 - Eric Mack
 - Chad Long
 - Jackie Reed
 - Katie Gomersall
 - Scott Sides
 - Dan Martin
 - Crystal Cumbee
 - Bassanya Bryant
 - Tom Travia

Quorum: Yes

III. Approval of Minutes from May 2025 Meeting

Motion to approve: Pastor Eric Mack

Seconded:

Vote: Unanimous approval

IV. Board Membership Updates

- Resolution to Remove Board Member: Motion was made and passed to remove Gretchen due to commitments in other areas. The board and staff thank her for her service to the school.
- New Board Appointments:
 - Annie – Appointed to serve the 1-year remainder of Gretchen’s term.
 - Candace – Appointed to a 2-year term.
 - Dave – Appointed to a 2-year term.
 - All three appointments were approved unanimously.

V. Introduction of New Staff

- Craig Finley, Truancy Officer: Extensive background in law enforcement and school-based security. Will work with the school social worker and attendance team to support student re-engagement and compliance.
- Katie Gomersall, High School Academic Administrator: Former ED at NCVA; brings extensive experience in virtual education and high school performance management.

VI. Staffing and Hiring Update

- 92% of teachers are returning for the upcoming year (up from 7% retention in 2024).
- Remaining open positions include:
 - 3 Special Education roles
 - 2 High School CTE roles
 - 1 High School English role
 - 1 Spanish teacher (new position)
 - 1 K-8 Counselor (new position)
 - 1 Operations Manager (interviews beginning next week)
- All registrar positions filled pending background clearance.

VII. Financial Report (Presented by Chad Long)

- FY25 Year-End Projection: \$20M revenue, \$17.8M expenses, ~\$2.3M surplus
- FY26 Proposed Budget:
 - Target Enrollment: 4,100
 - Projected Surplus: ~\$300K
 - Awaiting final state charter add-on funding updates

Action Taken:

- Board approved the FY26 Budget contingent on:
 - 1:1 review and approval by Treasurer Pastor Eric Mack
 - Adjustment for updated EFA charter add-on funding
- Motion passed unanimously

VIII. Policy Updates

1. Attendance Policy (Updated) – Review postponed until July meeting for additional board review.
2. Service Animal Policy (New) – Draft reviewed; vote postponed to July.
3. Background Check Policy (Revised) – Approved unanimously.
 - Removed requirement for FBI fingerprint checks for non-certified staff in compliance with SC law.

IX. SC Ready Scores and DCAP Update

- SC Ready Results: Expected July 19; COA had 32 third graders required to attend summer school.
- DCAP Update: 4 of 5 corrective actions closed. The remaining item pertains to the school report card designation. Board meeting may move to July 24 to align with state data release.

X. Closing Remarks

- Dr. Bryant-Spann and Crystal Cumbee were thanked for their service as they conclude their board terms.
- Multiple board members expressed appreciation for their advocacy and commitment to the school.

XI. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Dr. Bryant-Spann
- Seconded: Pastor Eric Mack
- Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM EST