

Carolus Online Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 21, 2025

Location: Virtual

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:02.

Attendance: Brad Scott, Jackie Reed, Pam Sieger, Dan Martin, John Pallasch, Kristen Bell, Dave Hanley, Chad Long, Tom Travia, John Kramer, Katie Gomersall, Annie Polvinen

2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

- June and July 2025 minutes were reviewed.
- Motion to approve: Candice
- Seconded: Annie
- Vote: Unanimously approved.

3. Agenda Adjustments

- Board sheet/summary from John was removed as no summary was provided.

4. Action Items and Policy Approvals

The following items were individually motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved:

1. Service Animal Policy
2. Attendance Policy
3. Employee and Student Handbooks
4. Live Streaming Policy (authorizer request to begin recording and streaming meetings).

5. Finance Report (Chad)

- Reviewed FY26 budget adjustments.
- Enrollment reduced by ~2,000 students (flat year-over-year).
- Total funding reduced by ~\$11.7M; now ~\$18.9M.
- Teacher costs reduced by \$2.3M.
- Student-level costs decreased by \$6.2M; admin costs by \$2M; tech services by \$800k.
- Staffing: 101 FTEs projected for FY26 (vs. 76 prior year).
- Surplus projected: \$200k (down from \$300k).
- Current year update: July books closed.
- Projected enrollment ~2,200.
- Additional 3 FTEs added; total 104 FTEs.
- School expected to be financially break-even.

6. Leadership Updates

- Special Programs Coordinator: Introduction postponed until next month.
- Enrollment: Covered in finance update.

7. DCAP Update (Pam)

- All five DCAPs lifted — major milestone.
- Ongoing oversight remains for PowerSchool (HS grades/transcripts), WIPs, and special education compliance.
- One update required by Oct. 15: WIPs for 69 seniors.
- Partnership with Cante and support from Chrissy has improved compliance.
- Board praised leadership team for significant progress.

8. Federal Programs Recognition (Brandy)

- Recognized by the district five times at the FY26 Federal Programs Conference.
- Commended for strong collaboration with finance, Epicenter compliance, and budgeting.
- Board congratulated Brandy for her leadership.

9. Hiring Update (Pam)

- Three positions currently open:
 - 3rd Grade Math Teacher
 - High School Social Studies Teacher
 - High School Health CTE Teacher
- Coverage provided by shared teachers until hires are made.
- New teachers onboarding (some began this week, others starting Monday).

10. Community Outreach

- Recent event celebrated; Channel 57 covered the event.
- Board member Annie assisted with photos and represented parent learning coaches.

11. Executive Session

- Motion made and seconded to enter executive session to review preliminary results per authorizer's request.
- Approved unanimously.
- Only board members and Pam remained.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned following executive session.

Decisions Made

- June/July minutes approved.
- Four policies approved (Service Animal, Attendance, Employee/Student Handbooks, Live Streaming).
- Budget adjustments and staffing projections acknowledged.

Action Items

- Pam & Katie to submit senior WIPs to district by Oct. 15.
- Continue active hiring for 3rd Grade Math, HS Social Studies, and Health CTE.
- Share Channel 57 interview link with board once available.

