

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING

**VENUE: ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED LEARNING DISTRICT OFFICE
5300 N. Braeswood, Suite 8 Houston, Texas 77096**

President Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. A quorum was established and in attendance were

Board members: James Douglas, Tommy Brooks, Veda Brown, Isaac Ledesma, Percy Creuzot (entered at 5:16 pm)

Absent: None

Also present were Staff: Brandon Chandler (Superintendent), Julian Ryan, Miranda Bonton, Brianna Perez, Martha Bravo

Counsel: Marcia Johnson, Luckett A. Johnson;

Other: Shawana Spann, Jasmine Roberts (via Zoom), Xavier Downs

President Brooks called for a moment of silence.

Mr. Isaac Ledesma read the Mission, Vision, and Goals

Board Minutes: James Douglas moved and Isaac Ledesma seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 16th board meeting. The motion to approve the December 16th carried unanimously.

Parent or Community Resident appearing at the meeting to comment: No appearance

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Superintendent's Report

- i. 2024-2025 TAPR (Texas Academic Performance Report) Public Hearing & Federal Report Card
- ii. Facilities Committee Update
- iii. Fundraising Committee Update
- iv. Legislative & Texas Education Agency (TEA) Updates

b. Financial Reports

- i. AAL Financial Review/Report Update

- ii. Budget amendment for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year
- iii. Presentation, Review and acceptance of the Annual Financial and Compliance Audit and Independent Auditor's Report, for the academic year ended August 31, 2025.
Report presented by McConnell and Jones representatives

c. Board Governance

- i. Board Training at Upcoming Conferences
 - 1) National Alliance of Charter School Conference, June 24-26, 2025, New Orleans, LA
 - 2) Texas Public Charter School Association Conference, September 28-30, 2026, Dallas, TX

Discussion:

Upon request of the Superintendent, the agenda order was modified so that McConnell and Jones could present the audit. They began by presenting the members of the audit team and informed the board what work they do as a team. Shawna Spann, representing the team, reported that there was a material audit adjustment needed to offset an expense that had been miscategorized as income. Adjustments from prior years were presented making for a clean unmodified opinion on finances. Spann presented the new disclosures for 2025. She then reported on the financial highlights for assets and liabilities, the changes, year over year and what caused them. The report reflected that while there were increases in assets, due principally to the acquisition of new facilities, there were decreases in revenues and expenses. The overall results were positive and showed significant progress when contrasted with the findings for each of the three prior years.

Mr. Brooks questioned the decrease shown in net assets and requested an explanation that would explain that number reported. Mrs. Bonton responded that increased bond expenditures and eliminated ESSER funds account for that decrease. Mr. Brooks referred her expressly to the \$1.1 million decrease in total revenue. Bonton explained that line item on the summary sheet is clarified when reviewing it in the context of the full report which explains the calculation.

Mr. Brooks asked whether there is anything that the board can do to assist management in making sure we continue in a positive direction. Spann advised the board to stay ahead of reporting, and to make sure the necessary policy and procedures remain in place and are followed.

Ms. Perez presented the TAPR report which shows a rating of D with a score of 71 which is in the C range but other factors cause the D rating. Mr. Douglas asked what AAL has implemented to make the curriculum and teaching initiatives to ensure academic performance improvements. Perez itemized the actions that the school is taking but Mr. Douglas requested information that showed what the students are doing and being required to do in order to meet and exceed minimum academic performance benchmarks. Mr. Douglas requested data showing specifically what the students are doing as well as identifying trends in performance by students. Dr. Brown requested Douglas provide specific examples of the information he wants. Mr. Creuzot requested regular reports of performance findings now and in the future so that the board can assess the plan's effectiveness. Mr. Ledesma again requested a side-by-side comparison of performance data by year so that he can see where we are still failing to identify to chronicle growth and effectively track that and deficiencies. Mr. Creuzot requested the timeline for the results presented and Ms. Perez responded that the grading period was from the August 2024 – May 2025 school year. Ms. Perez also presented the local improvement plan AAL developed as required due to the D rating. Mr. Douglas

pushed to understand the impact of the reading lessons and testing; when the reading occurs; whether students are required to read at home and whether the students had daily homework assignments to improve reading performance. Mr. Douglas also wanted to know the extent of the reading program, specifically, was there just word recognition and spelling or was reading comprehension a part of the lesson. Dr. Brown questioned the level of comprehension required by the students; specifically, whether the lessons required the students to think. Perez responded that the lessons begin with fluency as stage one but moved to a robust comprehension learning. Mr. Ledesma wanted to know how long we have known about the issue; Perez responded that it has been 2-3 years. Superintendent then explained the process and level of instruction across the district and the curriculum changes that have occurred to get the necessary improvements. Mr. Ledesma wants to make sure that we give the schools what they need, especially at the Belfort campus so that there is growth next year.

Mr. Brooks opined that the level of detail that occurs during the board meetings needs to be reduced and he determined that the board needs to act through committees. He then established the board academic committee and appointed Mr. Douglas and Mr. Ledesma to serve on the academic committee. Douglas and Ledesma accepted the appointment.

Ms. Bravo reported on campus security. She said the receptionist area has been secured at Savoy. Ashcroft has additional levels of security for the campus, including more fencing. She then reported on work at Belfort which included improvement to the stairs to address safety concerns. Mr. Brooks asked where the improvement funds come from. Ms. Bravo reported that the funding came from various grants as well as from bond funds.

Mr. Ryan delivered the report of the fundraising committee stating that AAL has applied for several grants and state funding. There has been additional support that has been applied for from other potential donors but the financial weaknesses reported in the prior year audit caused us to be rejected with an opportunity to apply again.

The financial report and budget were presented to the board including the bond payments necessary this year by Mr. Miranda Bonton. Mr. Brooks asked for clarification on the CDARS and was advised that there are other investment options for the non-state funds. Mr. Brooks asked what happens if we fail to comply with the bond covenant. Ms. Bonton responded that a financial consultant would be assigned to provide oversight to the school.

Ms. Bonton also requested the board approval of a budget amendment because changes due to insurance had not been properly accounted for. There were also network needs that were required for access points for proper computer functions. There were additional expenses for community engagement. The overall financial position was compared to the prior year.

Executive Session: Motion to recess Open Session and open Executive Session was made by Dr. Brown moved to recess open session and to open executive session. Mr. Creuzot seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Open session recessed and executive session opened at 5:35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session:

The president announced that the executive session was being conducted as authorized by the Texas

Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code § Section 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.0821, 551.087, 551.129 et seq.; and

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.071: Consultation with Board attorney regarding all matters authorized by law; and

Tex. Gov't Code §551.074: Deliberation regarding appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public school official or employee including matters regarding renewal/revisions of superintendent's contract; and

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.076: Deliberations regarding security devices or security audits; and

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.072: Consultation and deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property as authorized by law including property leases and property acquisition.

Discussion: Level III Grievance Hearing

Dr. Brown moved to close Executive Session. Mr. Douglas seconded the Motion which carried unanimously without discussion. 7:18 pm. Motion to reconvene Open Session was made by Mr. Creuzot and seconded by Mr. Douglas at 7:18 pm.

APPROVE ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

- a) Motion that the President respond to the complainant within the ten-day period beginning January 21, 2026 and ending January 31, 2026 and that the AAL representative be authorized to conduct additional investigation as needed for resolution made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

- b) Motion to Approve and adopt the Local Improvement Plan as required by Texas Education Agency made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion passed unanimously.
- c) Motion to approve implementing Additional Days School Year (ADSY) beginning June 2026 as additional days to the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion passed unanimously.
- d) Motion to Approve the AAL 2026-2027 Academic Calendar which includes Additional Days School Year (ADSY) days. NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
- e) Motion to approve and accept the Annual Financial and Compliance Audit Report for the year ended August 31, 2025 made by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion passed unanimously.
- f) Motion to approve Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

- g) Motion for AAL Attorney to review the changes to contract language for the school remodeling and renovation project to the Emerald Team, Inc., dba The Emerald Group, Inc. made by Dr. Brown. There was no second and the motion failed.

Discussion: Dr. Brown would like the AAL attorney to look at the contract language to make sure it is appropriate.

- h) Motion to approve awarding contract for school remodeling and renovation project to the Emerald Team, Inc., dba The Emerald Group, Inc. made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Creuzot. 4-0-1 with Dr. Brown abstaining. Motion passed by majority vote.
- i) Motion declining to adopt a policy under Section 25.0823 of the Texas Education Code at this time made by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Vote 4-1 with Dr. Brown nay. Motion approved.

Discussion: Dr. Brown requested seeing the pros of this policy because the information sent to the board was only the cons. Dr. Brown believes that sending information can bias opinions.

Motion by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Creuzot to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Tommy Brooks, Board President Academy
of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that these minutes reflect the business of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. For the board meeting held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

Isaac Ledesma, Board Secretary
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.