

MAEF Public Charter Schools
Dba ACCEL Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 29, 2026
8:30am

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Jordan Jones with opening remarks emphasizing the urgency of continued organizational improvement, appreciation for staff navigating personnel changes, and the need to press forward with strategic priorities.

OPENING INVOCATION

A prayer was offered by secretary, Rev. Charlotte Green, requesting wisdom, guidance, and blessings for board members, staff, teachers, and students, and for effective stewardship of responsibilities entrusted to the organization.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

A roll call was conducted by board attorney, Nash Campbell, and a quorum was confirmed.

BOD Members present: Jordan Jones, Sarah Stashak, Rev. Charlotte Greene, Mark Spivey, Richard Perry, Ebony Smith, Denisha Triplett, **Virtual:** Ronnie Stallworth

BOD Members Absent: Henry O'Connor, Kimberly Wiggins

Staff present: Dr. Marlon Firle, Dr. Jeremiah Newell, Michelle Parson, Brittany Little, Stan Akers, Nathan Adams, Braxton Tucker, Vinson Bradley, Jira Roberts, Jason Herring, Rachael Davis

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S CHAIRMAN OVERVIEW

Chairman Jones shared a personal anecdote about highlighting the concept of student potential versus actual performance. While students are often discussed in terms of grade levels, these measurements are averages and do not fully capture individual potential. It is important to recognize that some students could be performing above their grade level if provided the right support, while others may excel in areas outside academics. The group was encouraged to focus on closing learning gaps relative to individual potential, running programs based on personalized plans and assessments.

The emphasis was placed on identifying students who are behind their grade level but have the capacity to excel. The goal is to push these students forward, focusing on their unique abilities and providing the necessary attention to help them realize their potential.

FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Stan Akers shared a construction progress update, describing challenges caused by weather, difficult ground conditions, and unexpected issues like underground water and trash piles. These problems often required input from engineering and technology teams. Despite these setbacks, concrete has already been poured on the west side of the building, with the north side next in line. Stone bridges have helped tackle water-related complications.

The project is delayed, with completion now expected at the end of December instead of November, though efforts are being made to make up lost time. While contingency funds have been used, contract funds remain untouched. The team believes that once above-ground work starts, progress will speed up. Stan commended the contractor and architect for their responsiveness and effectiveness, emphasizing that the project is headed in a positive direction.

PARENT AND STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Parents and students praised the school for its supportive staff and valuable programs. One parent highlighted her daughter's progress in the Airbus program and suggested better scheduling communication. Another credited therapy services and extracurriculars for her child's growth from non-verbal to high-achieving. Students valued the encouragement from teachers and administrators.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:46am on January 29, 2026, the Board Chair requested entry into Executive Session. Board Attorney Nash Campbell confirmed this was permissible under the Alabama Open Meetings Act due to discussion of good name and character.

Motion by Mark Spivey; seconded by Charlotte Greene.

Voice vote (YEA): Jordan Jones, Sarah Stashak, Rev. Charlotte Greene, Mark Spivey, Richard Perry, Ebony Smith, Denisha Triplett, Ronnie Stallworth.

The Board returned to open session at 9:05am.

CONSENT AGENDA AND ACTION ITEMS

Approval of December 4, 2025, Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2025, meeting was made by Mark Spivey and seconded by Charlotte Greene. There were no questions raised, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Superintendent Performance Objectives

Mark Spivey moved to approve the superintendent performance objectives, with Charlotte Greene providing the second. No questions were presented, and the motion was approved.

Approval of Bus Purchase

A motion to approve the purchase of a bus was made by Mark Spivey and seconded by Ebony Smith. There were no questions, and the motion was approved.

Engagement of a Payroll Service

Mark Spivey moved to engage a payroll service, with Charlotte Greene as the second. There were no questions, and the motion was approved.

Approval of Personnel

A motion to approve personnel was made by Mark Spivey and seconded by Charlotte Greene. No questions were raised, and the motion was approved.

Approval of Website Contract

Mark Spivey made a motion to approve the website contract, which was seconded by Charlotte Greene. No questions were asked, and the motion was approved.

SCHOOL LEADER REPORT

- Middle school enrollment gains and high school enrollment declines.
- Contributing factors include lack of athletics, limited course offerings, and counselor capacity.
- A distinction was emphasized between **enrollment** (attracting students) and **retention** (keeping students).
- A need for stronger implementation and monitoring of individualized student success plans.
- Acknowledgment that leadership accountability is critical to consistent execution.

Night School / Evening Academy Update

- Approval as a separate school with its own school code and anticipated funding.
- Target student populations include overage/under-credited students, working students, and those requiring flexible schedules.
- Instructional model proposed:
 - Thirty percent digital learning
 - Forty percent hands-on career/technical education
 - Thirty percent small-group instruction
- Emphasis on academic rigor, career readiness, holistic support, and individualized success plans.
- Commitment to progress monitoring, accountability, and credential attainment.

Intervention, Assessment, and Student Growth

- Expanded intervention time aligned to ACAP and ACT standards.
- Data-driven instructional grouping and progress monitoring using assessments and growth metrics.
- Evidence of accelerated academic growth, particularly in mathematics and English language arts.
- Early ACT preparation strategies beginning in middle school.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- Job shadowing opportunities aligned to student career pathways.
- Increased student interest in hands-on trades and technical programs.
- Ongoing efforts to expand CTE offerings and partnerships.

Graduation Update

- Graduation is scheduled for **May 14 at 6:00 p.m.** at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.
- Efforts are ongoing to re-engage students, complete credentials, and ensure graduation requirements are met.
- Graduation rate goals were reaffirmed.

Safety, Transportation, and Attendance

- The school received recognition for safety and reduced chronic absenteeism.
- Transportation capacity expanded with the approval of an additional bus.
- Continued focus on improving attendance and student access.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee

- December revenues reflected delayed receipt of state funding.
- Expense variances related to staff turnover, transportation repairs, and test preparation.
- A temporary deficit is expected to decrease as outstanding revenues are received.
- Financial statements will be posted in accordance with reporting requirements.

FOUNDATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (MOBILE AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION)

Dr. Newell reported that the organization's Full Service Community Schools Grant through the Department of Education has been fully funded for the upcoming year, and will be receiving an additional \$1.9 million. Further grants from the Charter School Grow Fund and potential expansion funding are in process. Community partnerships, such as the Youth Success initiative and Mobile Plan 2035, aim to support youth development and workplace learning experiences.

Upcoming events include the INOW Youth Event on March 26th, bringing together students from public and private schools for leadership development and community engagement. The mayor's board is also undertaking a five-year strategic planning process to define future focus areas and maximize organizational impact.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional items on the agenda, Chairman Jordan Jones formally adjourned the meeting at 10:10am, expressing gratitude for the board's dedicated service and ongoing support of the organization's mission.

Respectfully submitted by,



Charlotte Greene

MAEF Public Charter Schools Board Secretary



Michelle Parson

Staff