Prepare | Explore | Empower

The Academy
Board of Directors

Board Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2026
5:00pm

Agenda

I. Open Meeting
The Academy's mission is to help all students grow into college ready, exemplary citizens by combining academic mastery with personal empowerment to drive lifelong success. We serve our full community by intentionally developing a school culture that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion. With this in mind, the Board of Directors welcomes all members of our community to this meeting and invites each person to begin our time together in whatever way will help ground you for thoughtful and productive discussion - a few deep breaths, a prayer, a moment to organize your thoughts, or whatever meets your needs.

II. Consent Agenda
a. Approve Agenda
b. Approval of September 28, 2026 minutes.

III. Public Comment
The chairperson will recognize anyone who signs the request form before the meeting time. Public comment and input shall be limited to fifteen minutes total, ten minutes per topic, and 2 minutes per speaker. Neither Board members nor Academy staff is obligated to respond to comments or input. The Board will provide written responses as deemed appropriate.

IV. Presentation and Discussion
a. Principal Reports - *Expectation: Principals will share first quarter updates on progress with their Annual Work Plans.*
b. Executive Director Evaluation – Expectation: The Board will collect input from Principals on the content of 360 feedback questions for the ED's evaluation.

V. Reports from Directors, Principals, and Committees
a. Executive Director Report – *Expectation: The ED will update the Board on progress toward financial and operational strategic priorities.*
b. Chief Academic Officer Report - *Expectation: The CAO will update the Board on progress toward instructional and cultural strategic priorities.*
c. Committee Reports – *Expectation: Committee Chairs will update the Board on progress with each committee.*
    i. Finance – See meeting minutes.
    ii. SACademic – See meeting minutes.

iii. PTO – PTO is on hold this school year.

VI. Executive Session C.R.S. §24-6-402(4) – *Expectation: As needed, the Board may call an executive session for one of the specific topics identified below via a 2/3 majority.*

a. Discussions regarding buying or selling property;
b. Conferences with an attorney to receive legal advice;
c. Matters required to be kept confidential by state or federal law (e.g., student academic records);
d. Security arrangements or investigations;
e. Determining contract negotiation strategies;
f. Personnel matters;
g. Consideration of documents protected from disclosure under the Open Records Act; or
h. Discussion of individual students where public discussion would adversely affect the student involved.

VII. Executive Summary

a. N/A - There are no items up for a Board vote in this meeting.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Return to Agenda

Prepare | Explore | Empower

The Academy
Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2026

Board Members Present:	
Sarah Drewlow	Chairperson
Kevin Sanchez	Vice Chair
Dan Klenjoski	Treasurer
Kristen Cofrades	Secretary
Jen Halford	Board Member
Autumn Coffee	Board Member
Larissa Fransua	Board Member-online

Also Present:	
Brent Reckman	Executive Director
Sarah Gramarossa	Chief Academic Officer
Stacy McCleskey	Exec. Admin. Manager

Minutes of the regular Board meeting of The Academy held at 11800 Lowell Blvd, Westminster, CO 80031 in Adams County on September 28, 2026.

I. Open Meeting
A quorum being present, Sarah Drewlow called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Consent Agenda
   a. Kevin Sanchez moved to approve the August 31, 2026, minutes. Seconded by Kristen Cofrades.
      Discussion: Correct athletic app to TeamSnap
      Ayes: Sarah Drewlow, Dan Klenjoski, Larissa Fransua, Autumn Coffee
      Abstained: Jen Halford

III. Public Comment
There was no public comment this month.

IV. Reports from Directors, Principals, and Committees
   a. Executive Director Report
      i. Enrollment
         1. Executive Director is learning about new search engine strategies.
         2. The online work that is being done is substantial for student recruitment.
         3. Monthly updates will be provided, along with opportunities to brainstorm ideas.

4. The Academy spends approximately $35,000 on student recruitment efforts and ad campaigns.
    a. Return on investment is estimated by the number of students who enroll as a result of marketing efforts and may not have enrolled otherwise. At approximately $11,000–$12,000 in funding per student, four additional students would cover the cost of marketing.

ii. Finance
1. The audit is close to being done and the Finance Committee will read it in October.

iii. Operations
1. There is nothing significant to report.

iv. Facility Master Plan
1. Work continues on the field project
2. The Original Development Plan was approved.

b. Chief Academic Officer Report
i. The School Performance Framework was received and it reported strong overall performance with a rating of 68.5%.
ii. Graduation Trajectory
1. The class of 2027 has 119 students.
2. 99% of the students are on track to graduation.
3. Eleven students are on the watch list and they will have weekly or bi-weekly check-ins.

iii. Attendance
1. The year-to-date attendance is 93%, which is a bit higher than this time last year.
2. The chronic absence rate is 24% for elementary and 19% for secondary.
3. Level administration will begin to reach out to families to create 1:1 support plans.

c. Committee Reports
iv. Finance
1. There are no new members on the committee this school year.
2. The strategic goals are tied to the strategic plan.
3. An update was given on the construction budget.
4. The monthly financial report was reviewed and everything is on track.

v. SACademic
1. UIP draft
    a. Discussed READ Plan Priority in K-3.
    b. Ideas were discussed for a K-3 Early Literacy Cohort.
    c. Gaps are being identified to support students.
    d. It has been submitted to CSI.
2. Family, School, and Community Partnerships Plan
    a. The benefits of ROAR Hub is to have all volunteer opportunities in one place in order to track, report, and measure data.
    b. Athletics will not be switching to ROAR Hub yet because their apps already work well.

vi. PTO – PTO is currently on hold.

V. Presentation and Discussion
a. After School Care Programming
i. Administration decided to move forward with Right at School.
ii. The reasons for going with an external provider are:
1. There are more resources and expertise to give our families.

2. They will provide infrastructure expertise for programs, staff hiring, training and licensure requirements.
3. The curriculum will be deeper and more robust.
4. There will be more available slots for families on the waitlist and it will increase numbers for the summer camp program.

iii. The program will begin in January after Winter Break.
iv. There will be a meeting with Aftercare staff to give details and then information will be sent out to families.
v. Pathways for current staff members will be available to become a Right at School employee.
vi. Pricing will remain the same as our current program.

b. Supporting Appropriate Staff-to-Student Relationships
   i. The information added to the employee handbook is now included in the coaches' handbook.
   ii. Staff are required to acknowledge and sign through Paylocity to confirm they have reviewed the handbook. Coaches will now be required to do the same.
   iii. Level principals will develop a statement outlining approved methods of communication between staff and students.
c. Niche.com School Rankings Report
   i. Niche.com is a comprehensive platform for school reviews and rankings.
   ii. School rankings are updated annually.
   iii. The platform provides a useful external perspective on school performance.
   iv. The Academy's 2027 rating continues to improve, earning an A– and placing the school in the 86th percentile nationally.
   v. The Academy ranks second among 32 public high schools in Adams County.
   vi. Niche incorporates multiple measures to provide a comprehensive school rating.
   vii. The platform allows direct comparisons between The Academy and nearby schools.
d. Open Records Request Policy Updates
   i. The current policy was approved in 2016.
   ii. Verbiage regarding fees needs to be updated.
   iii. The CSI template was used and updated with The Academy language.
e. Work Session Summary
   i. Monthly Board communications were reviewed.
   ii. Reviewed the current Alternative Educational Programs Policy.
   iii. Discussed the Executive Director Evaluation.
   iv. Discussed student retention.

VI. Executive Summary
   a. Approval of the Open Records Request Policy.
   Kevin Sanchez moved to approve the Open Records Request Policy. Seconded by Sara Drewlow.
   Discussion: None
   Ayes: Dan Klenjoski, Autumn Coffee, Kristen Cofrades, Jen Halford, and Larissa Fransua
   Nays: None

VII. Adjourn Meeting – Sarah Drewlow adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Return to Agenda

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Executive Director Board Report – October 2026 Meeting

Expectation: Share information about ongoing implementation of initiatives in support of the Finance & Operations section of The Academy's 5-year Strategic Plan and other Board priorities.

Finance & Operations

The Board finalized the 2026-27 Data Dashboard at the August meeting. The Executive Director will present a mid-year update as it pertains to the Bi-Annual Finance & Operations Scorecard at the semester break.

The annual audit was finalized last week and presented in draft form to the Finance Committee at the beginning of the month. It was another successful audit cycle with no material concerns reported. The audit will be presented to the full Board in November.

Facilities Master Plan Update

Work is moving forward steadily on the main athletic field project. Grading and foundation work is complete, light poles have been set, the concessions and restroom building is dried in, the press box has been framed, and fencing is going up around the site. Things have progressed smoothly in recent weeks with no major surprises and only minor use of contingency funds related to an adjustment in the netting system design. We are still on track to complete the project before the end of December and will continue to share updates on that work in the coming months.

Start of the work on our practice field project has been delayed. During the utility locate process, we discovered gas and electric lines buried under the dirt lot in a nonstandard location. This reality is forcing a change in grading plan that needs to be processed by our civil engineer. That review is underway, and we hope to begin this work in a couple weeks.

Enrollment Update

The October Count enrollment reporting process is complete, and our PK-12 enrollment officially came in at 1862 (40 Pre-K; 1822 K-12). Those numbers were 1856 (40 Pre-K; 1816 K-12) at this time last year. The 26-27 budget is based on 1851 (40 PK; 1811 K-12), so we are ahead of that expectation.

Return to Agenda

Prepare | Explore | Empower

Chief Academic Officer Board Report –October 2026 Meeting

Expectation: Share information about ongoing implementation of initiatives in support of the Instruction & Culture section of The Academy's 3-year Strategic Plan and other Board priorities.

Instruction & Culture Scorecard

Students have completed baseline assessments (Star, MAPs, IXL) to start the year. Principals will present on their beginning-of-year data as it pertains to the Bi-Annual Instruction & Culture Scorecard at tonight's October Special Meeting.

CAO Snapshot

- 26-27 Unified Improvement Plan submitted to CSI and CDE.
- SACademic Meeting to review 6 new course additions at HS in connection with the development and expansion of Career and Technical pathways, Postsecondary Readiness.
- Hosted CSI ELD Cohort (5 schools) to observe and learn about The Academy's programming and structures to support Multilingual Learners.
- Facilitated K-3 Literacy Team to start evaluating our K-3 literacy structures and programs using CDE's Literacy Evaluation Tool.

Graduation Trajectory (Percent of seniors on track to graduate.)

The cohort (Class of 2027) has 125 students.

At this time, 124 students are on track to graduate in May 2027. 11 students are on a watch list and 1 student is not on track to graduate in May 2027.

CDE and all schools in Colorado account for students who are in programs where they are taking 5, 6, or 7 years to meet the graduation requirements. These include postsecondary programs (ASCENT, Gateway, TREP) or Special Education 18-21 Transition services. For the students in this group (6 students currently), 100% are on track to graduate in May 2027.

Attendance Update

93.9% attendance rate year to date. Trending a touch higher than this time last year.

Chronic Absence Rate- 28% K-12 (5% below the end of year Chronic Absence Rate from 25-26)

Admin are in the process of setting up meetings and implementing support plans for identified students as needed.

Return to Agenda

Finance Committee

October 2026 Agenda & Meeting Minutes

"Fueling lifelong success through preparation, exploration, and empowerment."

The Academy's mission is to help all students grow into college ready, exemplary citizens by combining academic mastery with personal empowerment to drive lifelong success. We serve our full community by intentionally developing a school culture that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Scoring Rubric	
1	Unsatisfactory
2	Complete, looking for significant improvement
3	Complete, improving but still below expectations
4	Complete, meets expectations

Members Present:

Jen Halford, Kris Kelley, Tony Marola, Kristine Jackson, Andrea Foust, Brent Reckman

1. **Welcome and Review Protocols**

   Expectation: All committee members will review norms and start the meeting together with focus.

   Meeting Protocols

   - Start on time; end on time
   - Members arrive prepared
   - Technology for meeting use
   - No sidebar conversations
   - Focus eyes, ears, and heart on speaker and topic

   Notes:

   n/a

2. **Initial Review of Annual Audit**
   Expectation: The Committee will review the draft audit and begin analysis and discussion ahead of a formal review of the final version with the auditor next month.

   Notes:

   Work with the new auditing firm has moved slowly, as expected in the first year of a new partnership. The first full draft has been completed but is still in the review process and both the school and auditor sides are suggesting edits, revisions, and corrections. The auditor has directed a change to the way the school records

its loan activity. It will no longer be reported as a separate proprietary fund. The Committee discussed ending fund balance for FY26, pension and OPEB liabilities, long-term debt obligations, and account balances. School admin will complete the MD&A section and finalize the audit within the next couple weeks. The Committee will review the final version and speak directly with the auditor in its November meeting.

3. **Financial Report Review**
   Expectation: The September Financial Report was shared in advance. The Committee will review and discuss current position and any open questions.

   Notes:

   Revenue mostly tracks expectations (24.9% YTD for FY27 vs. 26.2% YTD for FY26). There are no individual standout lines. Enrollment is currently at 1863. Expenses also mostly track expectations (17.7% YTD for FY27 vs. 21.4% YTD for FY26). There are no individual standout lines.

4. **ColoTrust Investment Options**
   Expectation: The Executive Director will share information about a new investment product available from ColoTrust.

   Notes:

   The Committee discussed a new investment tool being offered by ColoTrust that could increase the interest rate the school earns on its cash reserves. The higher interest rate is appealing, but there are drawbacks with cash availability and risk. School administration will look into CD options through Sunflower Bank and inquire about other possibilities with CSAFE.

5. **Construction Budget Update**
   Expectation: The Executive Director will provide regular updates on current status of the budget for the ongoing construction project.

   Notes:

   Construction continues with no surprises. There has been no new use of contingency funds since the last update.

6. **Self-Assessment**

   Expectation: The committee will self-assess on the effectiveness of today's meeting.

   Notes:

Next Meeting: November 12, 2026

Return to Agenda

SACademic Committee

October 2026 Agenda & Meeting Minutes

"Fueling lifelong success through preparation, exploration, and empowerment."

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Scoring Rubric	
1	Unsatisfactory
2	Complete, looking for significant improvement
3	Complete, improving but still below expectations
4	Complete, meets expectations

Members Present: Min Cho, Ioana Dutchievici, Jennifer Zaccone, Kristen Cofrades, Sarah Gramarossa, Kent Smith

1. Welcome and Review Protocols

Expectation: All committee members will start the meeting together with focus. Meeting Protocols

· Start on time; end on time

· Members arrive prepared

· Technology for meeting use

· No sidebar conversations

· Focus eyes, ears, and heart on speaker and topic

Notes:

2. New Course Proposals (See Course Approval packets along with slideshow -slides 91-98)

Expectation: Committee members will review and discuss the 6 new course proposals for HS CTE and Postsecondary programming/course offerings.

Notes: Committee discussed each course and asked questions about the CTE pathways. Kent Smith explained each course along with any additional materials or staffing that would be necessary. The committee recommends the 6 courses for Board approval.

3. Self-Assessment

Expectation: The committee will self-assess on the effectiveness of today's meeting.

Notes: The committee did a great job of asking questions and learning more about the courses and pathway.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2026

Return to Agenda