



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**The Academy Charter School (TACS)**  
**January 2026**

**Date:** Monday, January 26, 2026

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 6:30pm

**Location:** 100 Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Uniondale NY 11553

**Facilitator:** Robert Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Robert Stewart, Chairman  
Dawn West, Vice Chairman  
Claudette Harrison, Trustee  
Carol Beckles, Trustee  
Roderick Roberts, Trustee  
Marie Graham, Trustee  
Dorothy Burton, Trustee  
Stephen Rowley, Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Donna Douglas, Senior Director of Operations  
Travis Holloway, Deputy Chief Academic Officer  
Sandrea Oneil, Chief Legal & Compliance Officer  
Alwayne Burke, Group Chief Financial Officer  
Yuriy Barskiy, Human Capital Operations Director  
Racquel Chippy, Marketing Director

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Stewart at 5:30pm.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting was reviewed and approved.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment recorded.

#### 4. REPORTS

The following reports were presented:

##### a) **President Report**

**Presenter:** Donna Douglas, Senior Director of Operations (on behalf of the President)

The Board received an operational and strategic update reflecting organizational growth, facilities progress, compliance milestones, and academic partnerships:

- Continued partnership with Howard University to support Digital Arts curriculum development, master's level arts coursework, and long-term program design aligned with graduation pathways.
- Charter School Growth Fund commitment formally received to support Brentwood expansion efforts and overall organizational capacity building.
- SUNY Charter Schools Institute approval processes remain active and pending for expansion-related matters.
- Approval received for new charter applications; official NYSED BEDs codes issued for both Brentwood and Central Islip locations.
- Certificates of Occupancy for all existing buildings have been completed, filed, and accepted by NYSED.
- Construction plans for expansion projects have been submitted, demolition and construction permits, currently pending approval.
- Expansion space for upcoming growth has been finalized and secured.
- Legal and property matters remain ongoing, including Baptist property appeal proceedings, discussions regarding synagogue property, and evaluation of prospective Central Islip sites.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the President's Report. Moved by Trustee Harrison and seconded by Trustee Roberts. Motioned passed unanimously.

After the motion was accepted, the floor was opened for questions and comments on the President's Report, followed by a brief discussion.

##### b) **Chief Academic Officer Report**

**Presenter:** Travis Holloway, Deputy Chief Academic Officer (on behalf of the Chief Academic Officer)

The Board received a comprehensive academic performance and programmatic development update across the network:

- Presentation of Grades 3–8 English Language Arts and Mathematics proficiency data demonstrating performance levels competitive with, and in some cases exceeding, those of significantly lower-poverty Long Island districts.
- Recognition of multiple full-scholarship college acceptances through highly competitive programs including QuestBridge, Posse, Rice University, Boston College, and Hobart & William Smith.

- Hempstead High School awarded AP Gold Honor Roll distinction by the College Board, reflecting increased AP participation and success rates over prior years.
- Successful execution of Junior College and Career Night for families to support post-secondary planning and awareness.
- Introduction of a multi-year Arts Pathway Graduation Plan aligned with NYSED's Portrait of a Graduate requirements, including:
  - Portfolio-based assessment structure
  - Theater program expansion at both high schools
  - Vertical alignment planning to extend pathway into middle school grades.
  - Professional development for arts staff on portfolio design and assessment rubrics
- Ongoing curriculum and professional development support through the Howard University partnership.
- Introduction of Cambridge International coursework model to expand scholar access to globally recognized, college-level academic offerings without replacing existing curriculum, including:
  - School-wide certification model allowing broader teacher participation.
  - Dual credit opportunities
  - Expanded access to rigorous coursework and career/technical education options.
  - Global benchmarking of scholar performance
- Uniondale CTE Virtual Enterprise teams earned three gold medals in regional competition for business pitch, sustainability model, and marketing design.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Academic Officer's Report. Moved by Trustee Beckles and seconded by Vice Chairman West. Motioned passed unanimously.

After the motion was accepted, the floor was opened for questions and comments on the Chief Academic Officer's Report, followed by a brief discussion.

**c) Chief Legal & Compliance Officer Report**

**Presenter:** Sandrea Oneil, Chief Legal & Compliance Officer

The Board received updates on active litigation, community engagement, and organizational communications:

- Multiple active legal matters involving student injury claims, property disputes, employee matters, and scheduled court conferences.
- Notification of newly filed legal action by the New York State Teachers Union challenging charter approvals for expansion schools, to be discussed further in Executive Session.
- Network Blood Drive scheduled for February 12 to support community needs.
- Recognition of the Academy band performance at the Hofstra MLK Day Parade with commendations from public officials.

- Release of network-wide newsletter to families and staff highlighting achievements and updates across campuses.
- Mercy Hospital holiday partnership providing over \$10,000 in gift cards to Academy families.
- Continued development and expansion of PTO engagement across campuses with active efforts to identify a parent representative to serve on the Board by the February meeting.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Legal & Compliance Officer's Report. Moved by Trustee Harrison and seconded by Trustee Graham. Motioned passed unanimously.

After the motion was accepted, the floor was opened for questions and comments on the Chief Legal & Compliance Officer's Report, followed by a brief discussion.

**d) Group Chief Financial Officer Report**

**Presenter:** Alwayne Burke, Group Chief Financial Officer

The Board reviewed financial performance for December and year-to-date:

- Positive month-end and year-to-date financial performance.
- Compliance with CSI financial ratios and bond covenant requirements.
- Stable balance sheet and positive cash flow position supporting organizational obligations.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Group Chief Financial Officer's Report. Moved by Trustee Beckles and seconded by Chairman Stewart. Motioned passed unanimously.

After the motion was accepted, the floor was opened for questions and comments on the Group Chief Financial Officer's Report, followed by a brief discussion.

**e) Chief People & Operations Officer Report**

**Presenters:** Yuriy Barskiy, Human Capital Operations Director, and  
Racquel Chippy, Marketing Director (on behalf of the Chief People & Operations Officer)

The Board received updates regarding recruitment, operations, and marketing efforts:

- Ongoing domestic recruitment efforts at Hempstead and Uniondale campuses.
- International recruitment trip underway in Jamaica for the 2026–2027 school year, generating over 100 applications.
- Review process underway for international staff approaching visa extension milestones to support retention of high-performing educators.
- Strengthening of security protocols, facility signage, incident reporting standards, and operational procedures across campuses.



## **7. ADJOURMENT**

With no business concluded, Board Chairman Stewart requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Beckles. Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:30 pm.

**ATTACHMENT TO 2026  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolutions hereafter was given a document number and voted on by the Board of Trustees accordingly.

- **Resolution with document number 1001-2026 – Financial Resolution**  
Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees.
  
- **Resolution with document number 1002-2026 – Acceptance of Trustee Resignation**  
Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees.