



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

**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2026

**Time:** 5:50 pm – 6:50 pm

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

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Robert Stewart, Chairman  
Dawn West, Vice Chairman  
Claudette Harrison, Trustee  
Dale James, Trustee  
Marie Graham, Trustee  
Stephen Rowley, Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Wayne Haughton, President  
Nicholas Stapleton, Chief Academic Officer  
Oddette Williams, Deputy Chief Academic Officer  
Sandrea Oneil, Chief Legal & Compliance Officer  
Alwayne Burke, Group Chief Financial Officer  
Felicia Barracks, Chief People & Operations Officer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Stewart at 5:50pm.

**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:** Wayne Haughton, President

The Board received an organizational and performance update as follows:

- Completion of the second round of interim (I-2) assessments across all campuses, with overall academic performance trending upward.
- Review of high school outcomes, noting 100% college acceptance for graduating scholars, contingent upon final Regents exam completion.
- Planning and preparation underway for the Annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) Symposium scheduled for June 4–5, including partnerships in aviation and workforce development.
- Continued advancement of Charter expansion initiatives, including coordination with external partners and stakeholders to support programmatic growth.
- Enrollment efforts remain strong, with the upcoming Student Lottery scheduled for April 2 following a successful open house cycle and increased application volume.
- Ongoing legal and organizational matters acknowledged, with additional detail reserved for executive session.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the President’s Report. Moved by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Rowley. 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:** Nicholas Stapleton, Chief Academic Officer

The Board received a comprehensive academic performance and accountability update:

- New York State testing window confirmed for April 14 through May 15, including ELA, Math, and Science assessments.
- Comparative analysis of Interim 1 (I-1) and Interim 2 (I-2) assessments demonstrated overall student growth across most grade levels.
- Notable areas of concern identified in Grades 3 and 6, with targeted instructional interventions being implemented to address performance gaps.
- Grade 3 assessment rigor intentionally increased to align with long-term proficiency expectations and prevent regression in foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- High school academic progress reviewed, with approximately 90% of graduating scholars currently on track to meet graduation requirements.
- Continued emphasis on Regents preparation, data-driven instruction, and targeted Academic Intervention Services (AIS).

**Presenter:** Oddette Williams, Deputy Chief Academic Officer

The Board received a comprehensive presentation on the Teach Like a Champion framework which was introduced in the classroom.

- The goal of the framework is to ensure that 100% of students are cognitively engaged in high-quality, standards-based instruction 100% of the time, while also experiencing joy and a sense of belonging in their learning.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Academic Officer's Report. Moved by Trustee Rowley and seconded by Trustee Graham. 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:** Sandra Oneil, Chief Legal & Compliance Officer

The Board received a detailed update on legal, compliance and community engagement:

- Review of multiple active legal matters, including employee relations cases, student-related matters, and property-related litigation.
- Update on Faith Baptist matter, noting favorable legal progress including a successful motion to strike opposing submissions.
- Ongoing Charter expansion litigation involving SUNY and local districts, with external counsel actively engaged.
- Strengthening of the internal compliance structure, including the appointment of a Compliance Director to conduct a comprehensive organizational review.
- Expansion of family and community engagement initiatives, including college savings awareness programs and partnerships supporting financial literacy.
- Continued alignment with SUNY Charter Schools Institute compliance expectations and reporting requirements.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Legal & Compliance Officer's Report. Moved by Trustee Harrison and seconded by Trustee Rowley. 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 statements for the month ending February 28, 2026:

- Presentation of monthly financial statements reflecting a positive operating position, with revenues exceeding expenditures.

- Improvement in overall cash position, strengthening liquidity and operational sustainability.
- Review of accounts receivable, with the majority of balances current and minimal outstanding obligations.
- Presentation of a revised 2025–2026 budget reflecting updated projections and a favorable financial outlook.
- Continued oversight of fiscal controls, internal financial processes, and long-term financial planning.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Group Chief Financial Officer’s Report. Moved by Trustee Rowley and seconded by Trustee James. 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**

**Presenter:** Felicia Barracks, Chief People & Operations Officer

The Board received updates on human capital, operations, and organizational systems:

- i. Human Capital:
  - Participation in multiple recruitment events, including career fairs, resulting in 16 interviews conducted and 12 candidates advanced to the hiring process.
  - Continued development of a strategic recruitment pipeline, including the transition to a “talent summit” model to attract high-quality candidates.
  - Expansion of international teacher recruitment, including active visa processing and onboarding strategies to support staffing needs.
- ii. Training and Systems:
  - Learning pathways for operational staff is still ongoing.
  - Strong evaluation for instructional staff.
- iii. Policies and Procedures:
  - New York State updates are posted.
- iv. Employee Relations:
  - The Employee Relations App was implemented to track compliant and to be informed what training to be done.
- v. Operations:
  - Marketing and Events:
    - Shift from awareness to focus conversion. Impressions declined.
    - Increased digital engagement and application activity, with over 5,000 interactions recorded through recruitment platforms.
    - Website: stabilized

- vi. Recent events attendance:
  - Continued coordination of operational systems, event management, and cross-campus support functions to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

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

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

**f) Chief Executive Officer Report**

The Chief Executive Officer was absent, and the Chairman accepted and moved the report which was tabled. The motioned passed unanimously.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

a) Resolution No. 3001-2026 – Monthly Financial Statement

A Resolution to pass the financial package for the months of January and February 2026 which has been reviewed by the Finance Committee.

The Roll Call vote was conducted as follows:

- Chairman Stewart – Yes
- Vice Chairman West – Yes
- Trustee Harrison – Yes
- Trustee James – Yes
- Trustee Graham – Yes
- Trustee Rowley – Yes

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

b) Resolution No. 3002-2026 – Operating Budget

A Resolution to pass the school's budget for the 2025/2026 school year which has been reviewed and revised by the Finance Committee.

The Roll Call vote was conducted as follows:

- Chairman Stewart – Yes
- Vice Chairman West – Yes
- Trustee Harrison – Yes
- Trustee James – Yes

- Trustee Graham – Yes
- Trustee Rowley – Yes

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

c) Resolution No. 3003-2026 – School Calendar

A Resolution to review and approve the annual 2026-2027 school year calendar as required by the New York State Education Department.

The Roll Call vote was conducted as follows:

- Chairman Stewart – Yes
- Vice Chairman West – Yes
- Trustee Harrison – Yes
- Trustee James – Yes
- Trustee Graham – Yes
- Trustee Rowley – Yes

The Resolution was unanimously approved.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No formal Executive Session entry or exit times were recorded.

**8. ADJOURMENT**

The Board Chairman Stewart requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Vice Chairman West and seconded by Trustee Harrison. Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:50 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 3001-2026 – Monthly Financial Statement**  
Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees.
  
- **Resolution with document number 3002-2026 – Operating Budget**  
Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees.
  
- **Resolution with document number 3003-2026 – School Calendar**  
Unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.