

Minutes

August 10, 2025

Welcome – Debbie Clary, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 1PM.

**Notification of the board meeting was advertised on the Pinnacle Classical Academy website and the front doors of the school building were open.

In attendance:

Attending: Board Members - Debbie Claryl, Wes Westmoreland, and Jeremy Boone attended in person. Administration - Shelly Shope, Jeff Ziegler, Laura Beth Richardson, Angela Brooks, Kendra McGinnis, and Monica Dellinger were in attendance.

Conflict of Interest Statement In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. If any board member has any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict at this time, and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

Adoption of Agenda Motion made by Wes Westmoreland and seconded by Jeremy Boone, all Approved.

Approval of Minutes Wes Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2025 Meeting, Jeremy Boone seconded the motion, all approved.

Public Comments Persons wishing to appear before the Board during this portion of the meeting should register their name and the subject they wish to address with the Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each presentation will be limited to three (3) minutes. The Board is interested in hearing your concerns, yet speakers should not expect comment, action, or deliberation on subject matter brought up during the public comment segment. Topics requiring further investigation will be referred to the appropriate board committee.

No members of the public were present.

Administration Reports -

K-3 Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Ms. Kendra McGinnis August 2025

Enrollment

- Kindergarten Cookout was a success!
 - o 200 hot dogs grilled chips, and cookies served
 - o Trackless train and inflatable slide
 - PEAK recruited new parents and answered questions
 - Officer Montgomery K-3's SRO gave out stickers, greeted families
 - Chelsea Upton and Dana Woods school nurse and assistant answered questions

- Kindergarten Open House August 18 at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 Welcome letter sent to kinder families regarding orientation and staggered entry with link to Kinder Sign Up
- First/Third Grade Open House August 18, 2:00-6:00 Sign Up Genius link sent out first third grade link is also available on the PCA website

Recruitment/Personnel

- Third Grade position has been filled.
- New Teacher Training/Orientation was conducted on August 6th and 7th.
 - Nine new staff members participated in the orientation.

PEAK

- PEAK Uniform Sale Saturday, July 26th at the K-3 campus.
 - o Total profit \$2,122

Community/Parent Involvement

- Saturday, August 2 Moving and Grooving Back to School event at Cleveland Mall
- Sunday, August 24 Hope Community Church will spread mulch on the K-3 playgrounds as part of their Labor of Love project.

Maintenance

- Summer has provided us with time to make small improvements to the K-3 campus.
 - o hallways painted
 - o bathroom painted / installation of stalls
 - o trees taken down
 - o brush cleared out

Upcoming Dates:

- August 18th Open House/Kindergarten Orientation
- August 20th First Day of School for Students
- Staggered Entry for Kinder:
 - Wednesday, August 20 Last names A–F
 - Thursday, August 21 Last names G–M
 - Friday, August 22 Last names N–Z

4-8 Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Mrs. Laura Beth Richardson Aug. 2025

Curriculum/Academics/Data:

- New Teacher Induction will take place on August 6th and 7th. During this time new staff members will gain a firm grasp of who PCA is as a whole, be able to identify other new staff members as well as key staff from each campus, understand specific PCA policies (more will be covered during the full staff orientation), understand expectations and details about Infinite Campus, create Google Classroom(s) and Google Websites, and leave with a list of 'next steps' to complete prior to school starting.
 - K-3 Teachers attending
 - Kelsey Church, Melissa Gerstenberg, Haley Hollis, Mariah Bumgardner
 - o 4-12 teachers attending

■ Taylor Hull, Brian Finnegan, Crystal Childers, Jessica Huber, Julie Rubin, Hunter Bumgardner

Professional Development:

- New Teacher Induction
 - All new staff to PCA will receive Securly training, Google Classroom/Website training, and Infinite Campus training. Joseph Hurdt, Steve Putnam, and Audrey Deaton will assist with these training sessions.
 - New staff members who teach math and reading in grades K-8 will receive i-Ready and Ready Math training. These trainings are designed to help new teachers know how to navigate available resources, read and understand student data, gain a better understanding of diagnostic assessments, and implement content-specific plans and resources into their daily instruction.
 - Infinite Campus training from Mrs. Audrey Deaton will be conducted throughout the staff work days for all K-12 teachers.
 - KIDaccount training will be conducted by Mrs. Barger (current employee with extensive knowledge about the program) throughout the staff work days for new 4-12 staff.
 - SchoolNet training will also be conducted by Mrs. Barger as she used it frequently in her classroom. SchoolNet is a standards-focused resource that helps students master standards and prepare for end of grade tests.

Beginning Teachers and Mentors

- All teachers who are still within their first three years of teaching have been assigned mentors for the 2025-26 school year. Orientation for BTs and their mentors has been scheduled for 11:00 on Tuesday, August 12th.
 - All areas of mentor selection and orientation are in compliance with PCA's approved BTSP plan (beginning teacher support program).

Intermediate Activities/Important Dates

- On August 14th K-8 English teachers will attend a PD session hosted by iLEADR to review the upcoming changes with ELA state standards.
- AI Training will be given to all staff on August 15th.
- Open House will be held on August 18th Students and families will find out teacher assignments and schedules at that time.
- The first day of school is August 20th.
- 6-8th PEAK Dance is scheduled for Sept 19th at the K-3 campus.
- On September 25th our 6-8th grade students will take the CLT.

McKinney Vento

• Our K-12 staff will receive McKinney Vento training during our full staff orientation on Tuesday, August 12th. This keeps PCA in compliance with the McKinney Vento requirements from the state. This training will be conducted by Mrs. Campbell, our McKinney Vento liaison.

9-12 Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Mrs. Monica Dellinger August 2025

Curriculum and Academics:

- Advanced Placement Courses
 - AP scores were released on July 7. The overall results, along with individual course data, are summarized below. A score of 3 or higher is considered passing. We are especially proud of strong performances in areas such as Mrs. Alexander's AP Pre-Calculus class and saw growth in seven courses.

Course	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Percent Change
English Language	75%	67%	50%	50%	0	25%	34.6%	+9.6
English Literature	n/a	58%	37.5%	50%	77.8%	57%	66.7%	+9.7
Env. Science	5%	43%	n/a	n/a	46.2%	14%	50%	+36%
Biology	n/a	n/a	n/a	33.3%	50%	83	70%	-13%
US Gov't Pol	5%	54%	50%	0%	n/a	50%	60%	+10%
US History	77%	54%	40%	50%	50%	19%	57.1%	+38.1%
Computer Science Principles	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a	100%	38%	100%	+62%
Computer Science A	n/a	n/a	n/a	87.5%	n/a	n/a	0%	-87.5%
Statistics	n/a	n/a	40%	7.7%	18.2%	40%	5.9%	-34.1%
Pre Calculus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%	90.9%	-9.1%
Calculus AB	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40%	0%	50%	+50%
European	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.4%	n/a
Psychology	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a

- The following students were named with distinctions and honors based on their Advanced Placement achievement scores. We are excited and proud of each of these students and their accomplishments.
 - AP Scholar with Distinction (Granted to students with an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on at least four of those exams.)
 - Chesnee Stewart
 - AP Scholar with Honor (Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.)
 - Madison Gettys

- Madelyn Hicks
- Rachel Liljestrand
- AP Scholar(Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.)
 - Carli Bivins
 - Lily Brown
 - Braylen Gentry
 - Alayna Hudson
 - Daniel Whitaker

Personnel:

• We are actively hiring for High School science and High School history. Available and qualified candidates for each area have been provided a soft offer and we are awaiting their response.

Professional Development:

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a robust college-preparatory learning environment rooted in classical education, our faculty and staff are embracing the "Three E's"—**Excellence, Engagement, and Excitement**—as guiding pillars for instructional culture and student growth.

Excellence: We define excellence as **habitual**, **intentional**, **and visible**—evident in our instruction, professional presence, and academic rigor.

- Teachers model content mastery, Socratic dialogue, and thoughtful assessment.
- Students are expected to move beyond rote learning toward articulate reasoning and persuasive rhetoric.
- Excellence extends to appearance and conduct, reflecting the dignity of the academic vocation.

Engagement: True engagement begins by anchoring learning in purpose. Asking "Why does this matter?" ignites student curiosity and connects learning to classical wonder.

- Instruction is driven by strong essential questions and intentional vocabulary development across all disciplines.
- Faculty use shared planning tools and collaborate across departments to make content relevant and meaningful

Excitement: Excitement is the natural byproduct of meaningful work done with passion. Teachers are encouraged to share their joy and personal investment in their subjects.

- Creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm invites students and stakeholders alike to value the educational journey.
- Initiatives like the "Name It, Claim It" wall/newsletter celebrate the joy of teaching and learning.

Together, these Three E's shape not only what we teach, but how and why we teach—laying a foundation of virtue, wisdom, and purpose in all we do

Senior Activities:

• The Class of 2025 was on campus Friday, August 8th to take their senior portraits. Carolina Photography will be here to take the traditional tux/drape pictures. This will be the first of many senior activities.

• We have also already planned to have a senior sunrise breakfast on the first day of school for our senior class. Information about this event has already gone out to the senior class of 2026. All board members are welcome to attend.

Important Dates for the 2024-25 School year:

Friday, December 5th - Homecoming Parade

Friday, December 12th - Homecoming Game and Court in the Gym

Saturday, December 13th - Homecoming Dance at The Laboratory Mill in Lincolnton

Friday, April 17th - Prom at Turkey Ridge

Thursday, May 21nd - High School Awards

Friday, May 29th - Senior Scholarship Night at the Lyceum

Saturday, May 30st - Graduation at the Lyceum

Presented by Jeff Ziegler Enrollment Patterns, 2018-2025 A Report to the Board of Directors of Pinnacle Classical Academy August 2025

Enrollment Pattern, 2024-25

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2024-25	Membership Last Day 2024-25	Month 1 ADM 2025-26	fall vs. fall
Pinnacle Classical Academy	1174	1127 -4.0%	TBD	TBD
Cleveland County Schools	13909	13777 -0.9%	TBD	TBD
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1334	1277 -4.5%	TBD	TBD
Lincoln Charter School	2302	2289 -0.6%	TBD	TBD
Piedmont Community Charter School	1964	1878 -3.2%	TBD	TBD

Enrollment Pattern, 2023-24

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2023-24	Membership Last Day 2023-24	Month 1 ADM 2024-25	fall vs. fall
Pinnacle Classical Academy	1157	1103 -4.7%	1174	+17
Cleveland County Schools	13878	13762 -0.8%	13909	+31
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1432	1361 -5.0%	1334	-98

Lincoln Charter School	2265	2234 -1.4%	2302	+37
Piedmont Community Charter School	1941	1878 -3.2%	1964	+23

Enrollment Pattern, 2022-23

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2022-23	Month 9 ADM 2022-23	Month 1 ADM 2023-24	fall vs. fall
Pinnacle Classical Academy	1131	1081 -4.4%	1157	+26
Cleveland County Schools	13865	13756 -0.8%	13878	+13
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1359	1324 -2.5%	1432	+73
Lincoln Charter School	2268	2214 -2.4%	2265	-3
Piedmont Community Charter School	1907	1814 -4.9%	1941	+34

Enrollment Pattern, 2021-22

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2021-22	Month 9 ADM 2021-22	Month 1 ADM 2022-23	fall vs. fall
Pinnacle Classical Academy	1077	1011 -6.1%	1136	+59
Cleveland County Schools	13731	13623 -0.8%	14139	+408
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1330	1281 -3.7%	1371	+41
Lincoln Charter School	2207	2145 -2.8%	2273	+67
Piedmont Community Charter School	1883	1794 -4.7%	1914	+31

Enrollment Pattern, 2020-21

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2020-21	Month 9 ADM 2020-21	Month 1 ADM 2021-22	fall vs. fall
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Pinnacle Classical Academy	1083	1008 -6.9%	1077 +6.8%	-6
Cleveland County Schools	13671	13518 -1.1%	13731 +1.6%	+60
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1359	1271 -6.5%	1330 +4.6%	-29
Lincoln Charter School	2218	2136 -3.7%	2207 +3.3%	-11
Piedmont Community Charter School	1823	1754 -3.8%	1883 +7.4%	+60

Enrollment Pattern, 2019-20

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2019-20	Month 9 ADM 2019-20	Month 1 ADM 2020-21	fall vs. fall
Pinnacle Classical Academy	983	947 -3.7%	1083 +14.3%	+100
Cleveland County Schools	14061	13988 -0.5%	13671 -2.2%	-90
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1363	1335 -2.1%	1359 +1.8%	-4
Lincoln Charter School	2156	2126 -1.4%	2218 +4.3%	+62
Piedmont Community Charter School	1355	1330	1823	+468 (new high school building)

Enrollment Pattern, 2018-19

Public School Unit	Month 1 ADM 2018-19	Month 9 ADM 2018-19	Month 1 ADM 2019-20	fall vs. fall
Pinnacle Classical Academy	891	830 -6.8%	983 +18.4%	+92
Cleveland County Schools	14278	14134 -1.0%	14061 -0.5%	-217
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	1339	1304 -2.6%	1363 +4.5%	+24
Lincoln Charter School	2113	2070 -2.0%	2156 +4.2%	+43
Piedmont Community Charter School	1342	1301 -3.1%	1355 +4.2%	+13

source: NC DPI, ADM report

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update August 2025

- 1. Students in middle school and high school watch a brief presentation each month by T.K. Coleman; each presentation is devoted to one of the school's ten values. August's theme is honesty.
- 2. At the time of the drafting of this report (late July), the August 2025 meeting of the CFP advisory board had not taken place. The board was scheduled to discuss the fall 2025 and spring 2026 speakers, and I expect the fall speaker will be scheduled by the time of the September report.

K-12 Curriculum Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Angela Brooks August 10, 2025

Curriculum and Academics:

- School Goals
 - As a team we have decided that our three goals for the 2025-2026 school year will be Excellence, Engagement, and Excitement. We will be presenting these goals at the opening faculty meeting. We are looking forward to a spectacular school year!

Professional Development

- Miss McGinnis and Mrs. Richardson have worked very diligently and ran our New Teacher Induction Program. Our new staff was introduced to PCA and were introduced to various faculty members, began work to set up their websites, and began developing curriculum maps and lesson plans. The schedule for <u>New Teacher Training</u> is linked.
- Our full faculty and staff will return on August 12th and there are several trainings planned for our faculty. In addition to required trainings by the state this year we are also planning a training on Classical Education and the use of AI in classrooms. Winthrop will be conducting the AI training at no cost to PCA. This training is usually \$10,000. We are excited to see what we can learn and implement from all the professional development sessions this year. The workdays for teachers are linked to this document.

• Partnership with Gardner-Webb University

• We are very excited to announce our partnership with Gardner-Webb University and the ASAP program that we will be able to offer students beginning in the summer of 2026 on PCA's campus. We are set to have a signing at the university on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 2:00pm. Our board members are of course invited to attend and both PCA and GWU would like to announce this partnership publicly.

Testing

- The beginning of the year will be very busy with our initial exams taking place in several areas. Miss Frazier is working now to develop a plan for these assessments and we expect that they will run smoothly.
 - Third grade students will take the Beginning Of Grade (BOG) reading test. This will be the first state exam for these students and will help us make a plan for 3rd grade growth and achievement this year.
 - Grades K-8 will take their initial iReady diagnostic test in both reading and math in the first few weeks of school.

- The WIDA screener will be given the first thirty days to our English Language Learners as well. After these results are released Miss Frazier will make a plan and we will begin instruction to our ELL students.
- We have made the decision as an administrative team not to give the state check-ins this school year. We feel the elimination of these six additional days of testing will be better used on instruction as the results have not been indicative of performance the past several years.

• Special Student Populations

 Miss Frazier has been requesting Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students that are new to Pinnacle from their previous school. In addition, she has been working in conjunction with the various Deans and EC teachers in making schedules for EC students schedules.

Community Relations:

- Leadership Cleveland County
 - This year I have been accepted into the Leadership Cleveland County program put on by the Chamber of Commerce. I am looking forward to this opportunity and representing Pinnacle well.
- Kings Mountain Rotary
 - On July 17th Brandon Gosey presented to the Kings Mountain Rotary about PCA Athletics. He
 did an amazing job and had a great presentation. The Rotary members were most impressed and
 had great questions for Mr. Gosey.
 - o I am honored to be serving as the President Elect this year for the KM Rotary club.
- Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association
 - This weekend the GCCBA is sending a team of community members to conduct a prayer walk around the schools. We are grateful for their commitment and appreciate the kindness they are showing to PCA.

Athletics:

- Mr. Gosey has been busy planning games, interviewing coaches, and looking for creative ways to
 market and promote Pinnacle Athletics. His board report is attached, but we could not be more pleased
 with the direction of our athletic director.
- Special Items to highlight:
 - Mr. Gosey and a team of his volunteers hosted a free physical night at the PCA gym. So any students needing a sports physical could participate in athletics this school year.
 - o In September our soccer team has the opportunity to attend a major league soccer game at Bank of America Stadium. While at this game the PCA soccer team will be able to participate in opening ceremonies and take photos with the teams after the game.

Special Items:

- Grant Writing
 - A part of our admin team worked to write a grant for a 15- passenger van. Unfortunately we
 were not awarded this grant, but we will continue to look for various opportunities like this in the
 future.
- Scholarship Committee
 - Pinnacle will be hosting our third golf tournament to raise money for the Dare to Soar Scholarship fund. The golf tournament will be held on Friday, October 17th. We are looking for sponsors and teams. For more information or to register for the tournament please visit: www.pinnacleclassicalacademy.com/golf

Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Dr. Shelly Shope CEO August 2025

Finance:

- Financial information is attached.
 - Current budget surplus is \$273,284.97
- July started our new fiscal year.
- MM / CD
 - Carter Bank (13 months at 4%)
 - Bank OZK (7 months at 4.5%)

Human Resources:

- Positions open at this point for 2025-2026
 - Middle School English
- Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. Jackson are looking into some additional job fairs for us to attend in the upcoming year.

Legal / DPI:

- Submissions to DPI
 - All submissions to EpiCenter were approved for the year.
 - The following reports have been submitted
 - Federal Programs Survey
 - Media Survey
 - Parents Bill of Rights Report
 - Health Services Report
 - APEX / ESSR Report
 - Safe Schools Report
 - The Federal Program grant applications have opened and will be brought to the September meeting for approval.

Community Relations

- Charter School Review Board
 - I was appointed to the Charter Schools Review Board for another term. I truly enjoy sitting on this Board.
- Boiling Springs Rotary
 - o I will be joining the Boiling Springs Rotary, and have attended 2 meetings as a guest
- NC Coalition for Charter Schools
 - o I was honored to be voted again as Vice-Chair of the board for NC Coalition for Charter Schools.
- "Dare to Soar" TV Show
 - We will continue taping our "Dare to Soar" tv show for the upcoming year.

o A priority will be doing more publicity and making this a focus for our social media accounts

Marketing

- o Social Media
 - We are building a strong social media presence through our Athletics Facebook page as well as the school's pages.
- o Focus for this year:
 - Posting more to the K-3 Facebook page
 - Concentrating on bringing light to the tv show
 - Continue the gains we are getting with the school Facebook page
 - Keeping a tight focus on our branding within postings

Roundabout

Construction of the round-about connecting 180 and 198 is set to begin on August 11th. We have been in contact with DOT to discuss school start date and times for arrival and dismissal. They are looking into getting maps for us to distribute at open house for alternative routes. They are also checking to see if they can provide flashing lights to help encourage drivers to slow down in this area.

Enrollment Report

• 2025-26 Enrollment

- We have received 391 Initial Applications for the 2025-2026 school year.
- o ADM for last year was 1177
 - We ended at 1126
- We will be adding approximately 90 students at the 4-12 campus this year.

		Current	Offered	Final Apps	Withdrawals	Total #s for 25-26	Waitlist
8/8/25	K	0	141	125	12	125	4
	1	93	3	13	4	102	2
	2	93	10	14	8	99	7
	3	90	11	9	2	97	10
	4	97	10	13	5	105	11
	5	91	8	9	5	95	0
	6	99	10	12	6	105	15

7	98	9	9	6	101	7
8	89	12	10	7	92	2
9	96	1	2	14	84	13
10	92	1	1	2	91	12
11	83	0	0	5	78	7
12	65	1	1	1	65	3
	1086	217	218	77	1239	93

Attachments:

Athletic Department Update Submitted by Brandon Gosey

August 2025

Fall Sports:

- Fall sports (practices) are officially underway. This season, we're offering:
 - o MS Boys' Soccer
 - Varsity Men's Soccer
 - o MS Girls' Volleyball
 - o JV & Varsity Women's Volleyball
 - o Co-Ed Cross Country (MS & Varsity)
- Volleyball is excited to be practicing in the new gym. Cross country is thankful to have continued access to the on-campus trail, and soccer is looking forward to all the updates taking place on the home field.
- Special thanks to Mrs. McGinnis at the K-3 Campus for allowing our varsity soccer team to use their field for conditioning during this time of transition.

Free Physical Clinic:

- We recently hosted a successful Free Athletic Physical Clinic for our student-athletes. With the support of our amazing volunteers, 40 additional student-athletes are now game ready for the fall season.
- A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the following individuals for donating their time and expertise:
 - Dr. Michael DeArment
 - Tanzza Bowman, NP
 - Lisa Kistler, RN
 - Laura Weaver, RN
 - Mrs. Jenny Huffman
 - Mrs. Monica Dellinger

2025-2026 Athletic Business Sponsors:

- Below is a list of confirmed business sponsors
 - o Pink Paradise Spa
 - o Shelby Dental Care Center
 - Caldwell Appraisals
 - Christy Ray Fitness
 - Arthur Services Inc.
 - o ABT Tax Service
 - Clary Construction Concepts
 - Westmoreland Printers Inc.
 - Steven Ray FBI
 - Rejuvatour Medical Spa
 - Hoke Enterprises Inc.

Major League Soccer Opportunity for PCA Soccer:

- In September, our soccer program will attend an evening MLS match at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, NC. This special outing includes an incredible opportunity for our athletes to:
 - Be on the field during the opening ceremonies
 - o Participate in post-game photos with players

We're thrilled for our student-athletes to experience professional soccer up close and show off our Pinnacle pride!

Upcoming Spirit Nights

- Dairy Queen: August 26, 2025 (Time TBD)
- Pelicans Snoballs: September 10, 2025 (Boiling Springs)
- Jammin J's Pizza: September 30, 2025 (Time TBD)

Field Updates:

• As mentioned earlier, the athletic department has temporarily avoided use of our home soccer field to allow water from the recent irrigation installation to soak in and to give new grass time to grow. This past Monday, our soccer players gathered at the field to help with rock removal and general cleanup. After speaking with Trey, he reports promising signs of new grass growth — a great step forward. We are hopeful the field will be ready for play later this month, pending continued progress. We greatly appreciate the patience and support of our families during this process.

Action Items:	
1. None at this time	
Committee Updates:	

1. Facilities: Strickland Construction is working on the punch list for construction.

Adjournment Jeremy Boone made a motion to adjourn and Wes Westmoreland seconded. The meeting was adjourned.