



Minutes

Feb. 8, 2026

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 Clary, Pauline Cahill, Wes Westmoreland, Amy, and Dr. Christine Boor

Administration - Laura Beth Richardson, Kendra McGinnis, Monica Dellinger, Jeff Ziegler, Angela Brooks and Dr. Shelly Shope

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 Pauline Cahill and seconded by Amy Dulin, all Approved.*

Approval of Minutes *Wes Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan. 2026 Meeting, Pauline Cahill 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.

K-3 Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Ms. Kendra McGinnis February 2026

K-3 Events / Activities

- PEAK will host a kindergarten/first grade dance, as well as a second/third grade dance February 27 and 28 in the K-3 gym from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.
- February PEAK board meeting will be held Sunday the 8th, at 1:00 in the K-3 conference room.
- Parent/Teacher conference day was held Friday, February 6.
- Peer observations will take place in February. These observations give beginning teachers the opportunity to observe a colleague, teaching a lesson of their choice. ● Dr. Lauren Massey Williams (mother of

London Williams, 4th grade PCA student) reached out interested in scheduling dental health presentations for our kindergarten and first grade students. The presentations have been scheduled for Wednesday, February 11.

Lottery

- Lottery preparations are underway. The March 9th event will be held at the K-3 campus at 6:00, in the gym.
- Student Letters of Intent have been collected to help determine numbers for next year. • The kindergarten teachers and teacher assistants hosted an open house for prospective families on Thursday, Jan. 29th. We had a great turnout, and this was a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the community.
- K-Day 2026 is scheduled for March 13.

Data

- K-3 iReady Results 2025/2026 - Standard View

Reading Standard View

	24-25 EOG Proficiency	BOY Diagnostic Proficiency		MOY Diagnostic Proficiency		EOY Diagnostic Proficiency		25-26 EOG Proficiency
K	N/A	42%		84%	+42%			
1st	N/A	20%		51%	+31%			

2nd	N/A	44%		64%	+20%			
3rd	61%	60%	-1%	68%	+8%			

Math Standard View

	24-25 EOG Proficiency	BOY Diagnostic Proficiency		MOY Diagnostic Proficiency		EOY Diagnostic Proficiency		25-26 EOG Proficiency
K		22%		64%	+42%			
1st	N/A	5%		25%	+20%			
2nd	N/A	13%		39%	+26%			

3rd	68%	15%	-53 %	37%	+22 %			
-----	-----	-----	----------	-----	----------	--	--	--

Important December/January Dates

- Feb. 2nd: Groundhog Day
- Feb. 3rd: 100th day of school
- Feb. 4th: grades due for Q3 progress reports by 8:00 A.M.
- Feb. 5th: Progress Reports go home
- Feb. 5th: In-person Classical PD option @ 4-12 campus from 3:30-4:30
- Feb. 6th: Parent/teacher conferences - No school for students
- Feb. 9th: Caffeine Monkey at the K-3 Campus 9:00-12:00
- Feb. 11th: K/1 Dental Health Presentations with Dr. Lauren Massey Williams Feb. 11th: Third grade in house field trip - Devine Reptile
- Feb. 16th: President’s Day
- Feb. 17th: Half Day Planning
- Feb. 18th: Half Day Planning
- Feb. 19th: Vertical Planning
- Feb. 27th: Kinder and First Grade Dance
- Feb. 28th: Second and Third Grade Dance

**4-8 Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by Mrs. Laura Beth Richardson
February 2026**

Curriculum/Academics/Data

- Due to recent inclement weather, teachers are making the necessary adjustments to their pacing guides in order to cover all parts of their curriculum before end of year testing. ● Intermediate teachers are using all data points collected so far this year to make informed decisions about the level of support each student needs. Struggling students will move closer to proficiency and proficient students will be challenged through purposeful questioning during whole group lessons and organized small group lessons.

Professional Development:

- We are continuing to implement the Harry Wong book study with our new hires. ● Ms. Kiser’s (iLEADR representative) time on campus modeling math lessons in our middle school classes was extremely beneficial! Ms. Kiser focused on purposeful questioning to increase engagement. Not only did our middle school math teachers learn effective teaching strategies, but our students had the opportunity to engage in activities that challenged their problem solving skills. Ms. Kiser was specifically impressed with the amount of academic vocabulary our students are using as well as their courteous behavior.
 - Teachers are requesting additional sessions with her to help them sharpen their skills further. We look forward to our next session with Ms. Kiser later this month.

Beginning Teacher/New Hires/Personnel:

- The monthly meeting with beginning teachers will continue. Our mentors are working hard to support them with curriculum, management, communication, and deadlines.

4th-8th Grade Activities

- Parent Teacher Conferences are being held Friday, February 6.

- 4th and 5th grade students are looking forward to their Dancing Through the Decades dance on February 21.
- Middle School students are looking forward to their Dancing Through the Decades dance on February 20.
- 5th grade will be showcasing their annual Living Wax Museum on March 11 in the 4-12 gym.
- 4th grade is looking forward to their field trip to Raleigh on Friday, March 20 ● 8th grade is looking forward to their overnight field trip to Atlanta on March 26-27.

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

Curriculum and Academics:

- The administrative team is actively working on the master schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. There will be minimal changes in course offerings.
- High school students have several upcoming field trips. 9th grade students will be attending a trip to Asheville on Wednesday, March 18 to view the Biltmore House and Estate. In addition, March 9 - 11, our seniors will be enjoying a trip to Pigeon Forge where they will visit several museums and will visit/tour UNC Asheville on the trip home. We are excited for these opportunities our students are getting to experience.
- The junior class will take the ACT on March 10. Miss Frazier will be coordinating the testing schedule for that day.

Extracurricular Activities:

- **Ring Ceremony**
 - Friday, March 20 at 2:00 pm we will be hosting our annual ring ceremony program. This is a wonderful tradition for our students and each of you are invited to attend. This year, the event will be hosted in the downstairs media center.
- **Career Day**
 - Cleveland Community College has invited our juniors to participate in a Career Day event on February 24 from 8:30 -11:00. The purpose of this event is to provide students the opportunity to explore various careers, speak with professionals about their line of work and find out what employers look for in future employees.
- **Prom**
 - The Prom committee has started meeting and planning this year's prom. This year's theme is: Midnight Elegance. Students will enjoy prom at The Venue at Turkey Ridge in Shelby. Prom is April 17, 2026 from 7:00pm until 10:00pm.

Community Outreach:

- The Phi Rho Eagles Robotics team will be hosting the Robotics Qualifier February 7 and 8. We are thrilled to have such a great representation of Pinnacle in the community.

Senior Activities

- The brick order for seniors has been completed and the senior class has also adopted their class motto. The senior voted and selected the following motto: Tribulatio patientiam operatur, Suffering produces endurance -- or loosely, "it builds character."

**Demographic Trends
Births to Cleveland County Residents**

Dean of Academics

February 2026

Year	Births
1915 (1920 not available)	1,138
1931 (1930 not available)	1,213
1940	1,296
1950	1,821
1960	1,559
1970	1,484
1980	1,174
1990	1,361
2000	1,334
2005	1,144
2006	1,166
2007	1,200
2008	1,240
2009	1,200
2010	1,127
2011	1,088
2012	1,095
2013	1,052
2014	1,055

2015	1,084
2016	1,059

2017	1,065
2018	1,162
2019	1,146
2020	1,079
2021	1,160
2022	1,100
2023	1,154
2024	1,069
2025, first three quarters	822 (2025 projection: 1,096)

1915 and 1931: births in Cleveland County; all other years: births to Cleveland County residents

Cleveland County Early College High School Application Process

Students who wish to attend Cleveland Early College High School can apply during the spring semester of their 8th grade year. CECHS staff and students will make visits to all four CCS zone middle schools at the beginning of the spring semester. The enrollment process is as follows:

Students and parents are invited to attend one of our interest meetings held in February.

Students will then submit an application to CECHS via their middle school counselor.

Once applications have been processed, applicants will then attend a 1-on-1 interview to discuss why they would like to attend CECHS

Student names will be sent to a lottery system in Greensboro, NC. CECHS will accept between 55 and 65 students for each incoming cohort.



Chosen

few

Once an application is complete, potential students are interviewed by Cleveland County Schools representatives and asked to submit an essay before having their name entered in a lottery for one of 55 seats in next year's freshman class.

“We put their info in a spreadsheet and send it off to Listserv at (University of North Carolina Greensboro) and they send us a list back, this is your 55,” said Hopper.

–[*Shelby Star*](#)

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update
February 2026

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. February's theme is teamwork.
2. Our spring CFP lecturer will be Sam Weaver of the Ayn Rand Institute, who will speak on Rand's novel *Anthem* on Monday, March 16. His biography:

Sam Weaver writes, speaks and teaches for ARI. As the first recipient of the Conceptual Education Fellowship, Mr. Weaver works to apply Ayn Rand's philosophy to issues related to the field of education.

He has written and spoken about the reading crisis in American schools, controversies over indoctrination in public schools, and the value of educational freedom, among other issues. He also works on applying Objectivism to other areas, most notably literature. His work regularly appears on New Ideal and The Ayn Rand Institute Podcast. For ARU—ARI’s distance-learning program—Mr. Weaver worked as co-lead instructor and as a teaching assistant for courses on writing, literature, and Objectivism. He has also played a leadership role on other educational initiatives. In addition to being a graduate of ARI’s education program, Mr. Weaver holds a BA in English from Davidson College and is currently pursuing an MA in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College, Annapolis.

3. Our graduation speaker on Saturday, May 30, will be Jeremy Tate, CEO of the Classic Learning Test. His biography:

Jeremy Wayne Tate is the founder and CEO of the Classic Learning Test and a national leader in the revival of classical education. He has been featured on Fox News, MSNBC, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Inside Higher Ed, and the New York Times. Prior to founding CLT, Jeremy served as Director of College Counseling at Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, Maryland.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Louisiana State University and a Masters in Religious Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary. Jeremy and his wife, Erin, reside in Annapolis, Maryland with their six children. You can find Jeremy on Twitter @JeremyTate41.

**K-12 Curriculum Report to the Board of Directors
Presented by Angela Brooks
Feb. 8, 2026**

Curriculum and Academics:

- Our winter testing has concluded and we have evaluated our data and made some plans to strengthen our gains in the coming months. Our deans have done a wonderful job of digging down into these numbers and coming up with ways to continue to grow our students. We are very proud of the work they are doing in this area.

Personnel:

- Faculty Letter of Intent
 - We have two faculty members that do not plan to return next year. We have posted and started interviews for those positions.
- Our administrative team has started the interview process for the 2026-27 school year. We have already interviewed several candidates and are in the process of setting up others.
- Job Fairs
 - We are planning to attend multiple job fairs this year as recruiting quality candidates is becoming more difficult. We have registered for the following job fairs this winter.

Date	School	Location	Staff Attending
1/30	Belmont Abbey	Gastonia	Jackson, Ziegler, Huber
2/9	North Greenville	Greer Campus, South Carolina	Brooks and Jackson
	3 Hillsdale	Hillsdale, Michagan	Brooks and Dellinger
2/11	Bob Jones Career Fair	Greenville, SC	Jackson and Hartsfield
2/27	Christendom College	Front Royal, VA	Huber

3/23	Western Carolina	Cullowhee	Jackson and Welch
3/27	UNCC	Charlotte	Jackson and McGinnis

Community Relations:

- Our K-3 staff have been hosting open house nights for prospective parents. These have gone over well and give us a chance to open our doors to the community.
- Business Education Alliance
 - PCA has been invited to attend the Business Education Alliance meeting to see how we can partner with local businesses and industry. Due to weather, the event was rescheduled, but we will try to have representation at this meeting once the new date has been finalized. The purpose of this session is to bring together a diverse cross-section of local leaders from manufacturing, education, nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and corporate partners to engage in a focused, solution-driven conversation around current essential workforce and community concerns.
- Leadership Cleveland County
 - On Feb. 5th I will attend the Economic and Workforce development session. I am most excited about this opportunity and will be able to explore various industries in Cleveland County including Greenheck, Sofidel, Walker Woodworking and others. This will be a wonderful way to begin fostering some relationships with these organizations and see how we can potentially partner together to make Cleveland County even stronger.
- Campus Tours:
 - On **January 20** – Mr. Ziegler and I were able to host *Dr. Mary Stratton and Christine Boor, from Belmont Abbey College*. The conversations went very well and we believe that there are several opportunities for our two institutions to partner together. Potential ideas that were discussed include the following:
 - Supportive PD for teachers in the areas of classroom management and pedagogy
 - Use of Pinnacle Classical Academy as an intern placement for education majors
 - BAC Admissions participation in College Day and Scholarship Day at Pinnacle Classical Academy
 - Connection between our graduates of the Masters in Classical and Liberal Education with possible employment opportunities at Pinnacle Classical Academy
 - Possibility of utilizing BAC facilities for Pinnacle Classical Academy faculty and student events
 - Exploration of Dual Enrollment partnership in the areas of Humanities, STEM, Education
 - BAC Education Intern participation in school events such as Science Night, Literacy Night

Testing:

- Our English Language learners are participating in the annual ACCESS for ELLs assessment, which measures progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to monitor language development and guide instructional support.
- Ms. Frazier is currently registering spring semester Advanced Placement (AP) students for their AP exams that will take place in May.
- In March, PCA will administer the SAT and ACT, along with the National Latin Exam, National French

Exam, and National Spanish Exam. As always we are hopeful about the results of these exams and will report back the results as soon as they are released.

Athletics: Special Items to highlight:

- Winter Sports
 - Winter sports will be concluding soon and we are happy to report the following winning teams:
 - **The following High School teams advanced to the WPAC Conference Tournament**
 - JV Boys Basketball
 - Varsity Boys Basketball
 - JV Girls Basketball
 - Varsity Girls Basketball
 - **The following Middle school teams advanced to the Carolina Beltway Conference**
 - Boys Basketball
 - Girls Basketball
 - **Middle School Swimming:**
 - McKenzie Oliver became the first PCA Middle School swimmer to medal in our new athletic conference.
 - McKenzie is the first MS athlete in the conference to be named All-Conference.

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

Action Items:

-

School Calendar:

- We are working on a plan to make up hours missed due to inclement weather. Options include:
 - Adding 16 minutes to the instructional day
 - Using a planned workday as an instructional day

Finance:

- Financial information is attached.
 - Looking at the budget, we are just past the mid-way point of the year. ■ Call attention to Facility Maintenance and Utilities
 - Over with Staff Development
 - Our cash balance projected for the end of the year is \$9,786,581.34
 - The finance committee will meet February 18 to begin the initial discussions for the 2026-27 school year.

Legal / DPI:

- Legal and DPI requirements for the month:
 - We are up to date on all required reports

Community Relations

- Monthly newsletter for parents.
- Weekly Events Update is posted on Facebook each Friday to highlight events and important dates for the next week.
- Weekly Newsletter / Updates sent to all faculty every Friday.

Enrollment Report

- **2025-26 Enrollment** - 1215
- **Enrollment for 2026-2027**
 - Marketing
 - PCA Booth at the Livermush Festival
 - Daily posts on Facebook
 - Communicator Board
 - August - Top 9% High Schools in Nation
 - November - Top 10% in all grade-levels in the State / Apply Now
 - January - Apply Now
 - Letters of Intent
 - Student Letters of Intent for current students are sent home in January with report cards. This process not only lets us know if students are planning on returning next year but also notes if they have siblings with whom they would like to enroll. We are then able to double-check our Initial Applications to be sure we have received the sibling application.
- As of February 6th, we have received 199 (up 44 from January 8) Initial Applications for the 2026-2027 school year.

Grade Level	Initial Apps
K	105
1	11
2	6
3	8
4	11
5	8
6	17
7	9
8	9
9	8
10	3
11	4
12	0

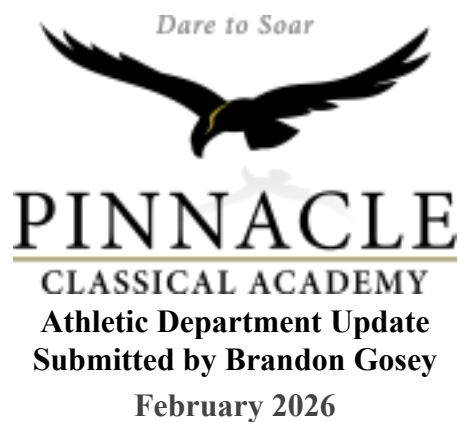
- **Lottery**

- Our Lottery will be held Monday, March 9 at 6:00pm.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

12 0 0		Expected LOI	Initial Apps	Classes 25-26	Offer	Total	Class Avg
	<i>K</i>	0	105	5	125	120	25
	<i>1st</i>	115	11	5	5	120	24
	<i>2nd</i>	98	6	4	2	100	25
	<i>3rd</i>	95	8	4	5	100	25
	<i>4th</i>	88	11	4	12	100	25
	<i>5th</i>	95	8	4	9	104	26
	<i>6th</i>	93	17	4	15	108	27
	<i>7th</i>	102	9	4	6	108	27
	<i>8th</i>	102	9	4	6	108	27
	<i>9th</i>	85	8	4	0	85	21.25
	<i>10th</i> <i>h</i>	86	3	4	0	86	21.5
	<i>11th</i> <i>h</i>	86	4	4	0	86	21.5
	<i>12th</i> <i>h</i>	76	0	3	0	76	25.3
			199		185	1301	

Attachments:



The Athletic Department will be concluding the Winter Athletic Season over the next few weeks. This season, PCA offered the following teams

Middle School and Varsity Teams:

- MS Girls Basketball
- JV Girls Basketball
- Varsity Girls Basketball
- MS Boys Basketball
- JV Boys Basketball
- Varsity Boys Basketball
- Co-Ed Pep Band
- MS Co-Ed Swimming
- Varsity Co-Ed Swimming
- MS/JV Cheer
- Varsity Cheer

Winter Sports Highlights (as of 2/4/2026)

MS Swimming:

- McKenzie Oliver became the first PCA Middle School swimmer to medal in our new athletic conference.
- McKenzie is the first MS athlete in the conference to be named All-Conference.

MS Boys Basketball:

- Advanced to the CBC Quarter-Finals

MS Girls Basketball:

- Advanced to the CBC Quarter-Finals

JV Boys Basketball:

- Advanced to the WPAC Conference Tournament

Varsity Boys Basketball:

- Advanced to the WPAC Conference Tournament

JV Girls Basketball:

- Advanced to the WPAC Conference Tournament

Varsity Girls Basketball:

- Advanced to the WPAC Conference Tournament

50/50 Sponsorship

- PCA is proud to partner with **Cleveland Community College** for the second year as our annual 50/50 ticket sponsor.

Spirit Night – Red Bridges BBQ Lodge

- The Athletic Department held its January Spirit Night at **Red Bridges BBQ Lodge**. ● The event raised **\$350** for the Athletic Scholarship Fund.

Spring Sports Preview

The Spring athletic season will kick off later this month. PCA will offer the following sports: ● MS Boys Baseball

- Varsity Boys Baseball
- MS Girls Softball
- Varsity Girls Softball
- MS Girls Soccer

- Varsity Girls Soccer
- MS/Varsity Golf
- MS Track
- Archery

Action Items:

1. *None at this Meeting*

Committee Updates:

1. *A discussion was had about lost instructional time due to inclement weather. We will be using Feb. 26th and March 12th as make-up days.*
2. *Facilities: An update was given about the facilities.*
3. *Curriculum: The committee will be meeting after the board meeting and an update will be made at the next board meeting.*
4. *Finance: The budget will be given next month so that all board members will have time to review prior, ask questions, make recommendations for changes prior to the vote that will be at the April board meeting.*

Adjournment *Wes Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn and Pauline Cahill seconded. Meeting was adjourned.*