



Minutes

January 11, 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, Wes Westmoreland, Amy Dulin, and Jeremy Boone attended in person and Dr. Christine Boor and Amy Dulin attended virtually.

Administration - Dr. Shelly Shope, Jeff Ziegler, Monica Dellinger, and Kendra McGinnis.

Special Guest:

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 Amy Dulin, all approved.*

Approval of Minutes *Dr. Boor made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2026 meeting, Wes Westmoreland 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

Action Items:

Motion was made by Wes Westmoreland to approve the 2026-27 school year calendar as presented. Jeremy Boone seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Motion was made by Amy Dulin to approve the Budget Adjustments as presented. Jeremy Boone seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Committee Updates:

Finance: An update was given by Debbie Clary gave an update on the CD's and notification that the budget committee will be meeting in the next couple of months to work on the budget for the 2025-26 school year.

Facilities: An update was given about the mobiles being moved and irrigation being installed.

Adjournment *Wes Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn and Jeremy Boone seconded. Meeting was adjourned.*



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

K-3 Events / Activities

- This month the staff will be treated to a hot chocolate bar.
- An Open House will be held for rising kindergarten students on Thursday, January 29, at the K-3 campus from 5:30pm-7:00pm.
- Information regarding PCA is currently being prepared and will be delivered to daycares on January 20, 21, and 22. This will give us the opportunity to reach rising kindergarteners with quality resources.

Community & Parent Involvement

- The next PEAK board meeting will be Sunday, January 11, at 1:00 in the K-3 conference room.
- PEAK hosted The Penguin Patch Holiday Shop Monday, December 8 through Friday, December 12, at the K-3 campus. PEAK raised \$5,012.08 from the sales (this total is K-5). It was a huge success!
- PEAK will host a kindergarten/1st grade dance on Friday, January 30 and a second/third grade dance on Saturday, January 31. Both will be held at the K-3 campus, in the gym, from 6:00-8:00pm.
- The K-3 guidance counselor, Miss Spurling, identified several families at the K-3 campus who were in need of help at Christmas time. The wants/needs of the students were put on the tree in the Student Center, at the 4-12 campus. Miss Spurling coordinated pick up of the items with parents.
- The Kid Tips program for 1st grade will begin this semester. These 30 minute, weekly, sessions are directed by a Registered Nurse at Atrium Health Cleveland, who is also the Trauma Prevention Specialist and the Safe Kids Coordinator for Cleveland County. The sessions will continue for eight weeks.

Highlights

- Teachers who are ranked in the top 25% of the state, based on the EVAAS scores in grade/subject as determined by DPI, will receive a bonus (from the state) this month. Kodi Bowen, third grade teacher, will receive a check.

Important December/January Dates

Jan. 5th: Teacher Workday - No School for Students
Jan. 12th: Caffeine Monkey @ K-3 Campus 9:00- 12:00
Jan. 12th: iReady MOY Diagnostic window opens for K-2
Jan. 13th: in-person Classical PD option @ K-3 campus 3:30-4:30
Jan. 15th: PEAK meeting @ 6:00 in the K-3 Gym
Jan. 16th: Thyroid Disease Fundraiser - wear teal or pink

Jan. 19th: Martin Luther King Jr. day - no school



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

Curriculum/Academics/Data

- This data shows the approximate percentage of students who would place in each state test level if they had taken the EOG at the same time as the middle of year diagnostic. For example, we can say that 65% of our 4th grade students would pass the EOG at this point in the school year.

Reading Overall

	2024-25 EOG Proficiency	1st Diagnostic Proficiency	2nd Diagnostic Proficiency		3rd Diagnostic Proficiency		2025-26 EOG Proficiency
4th	62%	53%	65%	+12			
5th	50%	41%	47%	+6			
6th	70%	54%	53%	-1			
7th	63%	72%	75%	+3			
8th	75%	69%	60%	-9			

Reading Achievement Level by Grade

Diagnostic 2	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2-1
4th	21	38	16	25
5th	16	22	14	48
6th	4	26	28	43
7th	12	34	32	22
8th	4	36	24	36

Math Overall

	2024-25 EOG Proficiency	1st Diagnostic Proficiency	2nd Diagnostic Proficiency		3rd Diagnostic Proficiency		2025-26 EOG Proficiency
4th	64%	31%	62%	+31			
5th	57%	46%	58%	+12			
6th	79%	53%	59%	+6			
7th	52%	67%	72%	+5			
8th	64%	42%	49%	+7			

Math Achievement Level by Grade

Diagnostic 2	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2-1
4th	20%	33%	13%	35%

5th	10%	24%	14%	53%
6th	4%	22%	28%	47%
7th	12%	30%	33%	25%
8th	4%	33%	24%	40%

- All 4-8 teachers are using iReady as a tool to help students grow. iReady is a research based tool that has been proven to grow students in math and reading when it is used correctly. Teachers, along with the help of our parents, are to ensure our students spend 45 minutes in math and 45 minutes in reading each week. When that occurs, our students hit their typical growth goal as well as their stretch growth goal by the end of the year- if not before.
- Data Meetings- Our teachers conference with their students to discuss where they are currently and set goals for the future. The phrase teachers and students are using often this year is “Stretch growth is king!”
- During the second semester of the school year Mrs. Barnes and I will be providing intermediate students with the opportunity to earn an incentive when weekly iReady usage is met. This will increase student engagement with the program and raise proficiency and growth by the end of the school year!

If students meet their typical growth goals (which PCA students typically do), the current projected proficiency percentages are the following:

- 4th Reading: 75%, Math: 88%
- 5th Reading: 52%, Math: 69%
- 6th Reading: 57%, Math: 63%
- 7th Reading: 78%, Math: 80%
- 8th Reading: 64%, Math: 57%

Professional Development:

- iLEADR is returning to the 4-12 campus to provide math support. An iLEADR representative, Allison Kiser, is modeling in our middle school math classrooms. This is an excellent opportunity for our middle school math teachers to witness a seasoned professional teach a lesson to their own students! Specifically, Mrs. Kiser is modeling purposeful questioning using the current math standard students are learning. Mrs. Kiser is also providing 4th and 5th grade teachers with strategies to help our students be more successful in their current math units involving fractions. Fractions take up a large portion of the EOG starting in 3rd grade. Her support in this area will greatly benefit our teachers and students!

Beginning Teacher Support Program

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



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

Curriculum and Academics:

- Our second semester classes began on January 6th and everything seems to be off to a great start.
- We had 12 seniors graduate early this year. This option allowed us to maintain the enrollment of these students and represents about 18% of the senior class. These students will still have the opportunity to participate in the spring graduation ceremony and the majority are continuing their studies at Cleveland Community College.
- Data from Fall EOCs.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 First semester only
Biology	57%	53%	67%	71%	51%	72%
Math III	52%	70%	81%	72%	69%	58%
English II	90%	83%	80%	82%	82%	74%

Extracurricular Activities:

- Homecoming was a great success! The students really enjoyed participating in spirit week, the homecoming dance, and ceremony. Homecoming is really a highlight of the school year and Homecoming 2025 did not disappoint. This year's Homecoming King and Queen are seniors, Braylon Gentry and Kinsley Byrd.

Senior Activities

- As of December 20th, the class of 2025 has over over 75% of the seniors have applied to at least one college or university and so far and 40% have been accepted to at least one college or university. The Class of 2026 is well on their way this year and we are excited to see their successes.
- Beginning in January, as part of the senior privileges they will be able to begin wearing t-shirts and sweatshirts from any colleges/universities they have been accepted into. This is something that the seniors look forward to each year and we are excited to be able to help them celebrate.
- We will be hosting Scholarship day for the Senior class of 2025 on January 21st. We will be organizing mock interviews, helping them with applications, introducing some local scholarships etc. Our hope is that this will get students interested and applying for scholarship money in addition to working on interview skills, applications, etc. Dr. Martin is organizing this event and I am sure it will be a success.

Enrollment Trends
A Report to the Board of Directors of Pinnacle Classical Academy
January 2026
Jeff Ziegler, Dean of Academics

Historic Enrollment Trends

	25-26	24-25	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15	2013-14
Pinnacle Classical Academy	1213	1177	1169	1131	1077	1083	987	891	736	581	469	370	308
Cleveland County Schools	13862	14024	14249	13872	13746	13674	14196	14293	14520	14737	14968	15118	15064
private school enrollment	NA	346	289	217	153	153	135	149	154	153	143	136	130
home school enrollment	NA	1784	1623	1630	1546	1927	1678	1560	1540	1454	1374	1259	1144
total K-12 students in county	NA	17331	17330	16850	16522	16837	16996	16893	16950	16925	16954	16883	16646
Pinnacle Classical Academy's market share of students educated in the county	NA	6.79%	6.75%	6.71%	6.52%	6.43%	5.81%	5.27%	4.34%	3.43%	2.77%	2.19%	1.85%

Source (2025-26):

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/demographics-and-finances/student-accounting-data>

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update

January 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. January's theme is productivity.
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
January 11, 2026

Curriculum and Academics:

- **Classical Focus**
 - This year we are really working on striving for Excellence, Engagement, and Excitement. Administratively we are reminding, reinforcing and encouraging our school's foundation in classical education. Our administrative team has visited a few classical institutions and we have offered to host a few sites as well. We are working on learning, growing, and building with those around us who have a similar focus and mission. This has been a great opportunity for our administrative team thus far and something we hope to continue in the future.
- **Scheduling**
 - We have also met with Cleveland Community College several times to work on courses for next year and years to come. We are in the process of working on a plan for courses offered at PCA for the coming years.
 - This semester we have had a couple of students take advantage of the dual enrollment program being offered through Gardner-Webb University. We are excited about this partnership and can't wait to see how this continues to develop in the years to come.

Community Relations:

- **Business Education Alliance**
 - On Jan. 28th PCA has been invited to attend the Business Education Alliance meeting to see how we can partner with local businesses and industry. 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**
 - This past month LCC toured healthcare institutions in the area. We were able to visit Atrium, learn about the Healthcare Foundation, visit the Department of Social Services and more. This was a very informative session on health in our county and the effects of poor health on the workforce.
- **Campus Tours:** Over the next month, Pinnacle will welcome several distinguished guests to campus for meetings and tours. We want to ensure the Board is aware of these visits in advance. As always, we are happy to address any questions you may have about these visits.
 - **January 20** – *Dr. Mary Stratton and Christine Boor, Belmont Abbey College*
Dr. Stratton, Chair of the Education Department at Belmont Abbey College, along with Ms.

Boor, will visit campus to explore potential collaboration and engage in discussions related to educator preparation, classical education needs, and partnership opportunities.

- **January 28** – Dr. *Anthony Negbenebor*

Mr. Negbenebor will be on campus to plan specific details related to the ASAP program. He will be accompanied by several representatives from Gardner-Webb University.

- **Date TBD (January)** – *Kristine Urrutia*

Ms. Urrutia, Executive Director of the Catawba Nation Foundation, will visit our campus to tour Pinnacle and to learn more about our students, classrooms, families, etc.

Student Support:

- Exceptional Children (EC): Our high school EC students are actively engaged in new partnerships with Cleveland Community College (CCC) and local community organizations to strengthen transition planning and prepare for successful life after high school. Across grade levels, EC students continue to make meaningful academic and behavioral growth. Recent i-Ready assessment results reflect notable gains, highlighting the effectiveness of targeted instruction and ongoing support.
- English Language Learners (ELL): English Language Learner students will begin the annual ACCESS for ELLs assessment, which measures progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to monitor language development and guide instructional support.

Testing:

- Fall semester testing has been successfully completed and proceeded smoothly. Kindergarten through second-grade students are currently completing i-Ready midyear diagnostic assessments to monitor academic progress. In March, the school will administer the SAT and ACT, along with the National Latin Exam, National French Exam, and National Spanish Exam, which will be conducted throughout the month.

Athletics: Special Items to highlight:

- Winter Sports
 - Coach Todd Tongel was recognized for his establishment and leading of the archery team at Pinnacle. He is retiring as head coach and we are extremely grateful for all his and his family has done for PCA athletics in their time here.
 - Braylon Gentry also scored 1,000 points in basketball and we were happy to celebrate this achievement with him.



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

Action Items:

- Budget Adjustment - Requesting approval to adjust the budget to reflect additional funds received under Rural & Low-Income Schools, and transfer within the budget from substitute line to instructional supply line.
- School Calendar 2026-27- Requesting approval of the recommended 2026-27 School Calendar

School Calendar:*

- Attached you will find our recommended calendar for the 2026-27 school year.
 - 1092.5 instructional hours (state mandate is 1025)
 - 67.5 hours above mandate
 - Over 10 days for inclement weather

Finance:*

- Financial information is attached.
 - Requesting approval to adjust the budget to reflect additional funds received under Rural & Low-Income Schools, and transfer within the budget from substitute line to instructional supply line.
 - The finance committee will begin meeting soon to begin the initial discussions for the 2026-27 school year.

Legal / DPI:

- Legal and DPI requirements for the month:
 - Charter School Annual Report
 - Wireless Communication Policy Report
 - Cursive Writing Report
 - Multiplication Report
 - Annual Audit

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 January 8th, we have received 155 Initial Applications for the 2026-2027 school year. This is higher than where we were last year with 127 Initial Applications at this time.

Grade Level	January 2025	January 2026
K	81	82
1	7	8
2	4	5
3	6	8
4	6	9
5	3	3
6	8	14
7	1	6
8	3	8
9	2	7
10	3	3
11	2	2
12	1	0

Historical Data:

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Total Applications	115	141	131	155
Kindergarten	76	91	81	82

Attachments:



Athletic Department Update Submitted by Brandon Gosey

Informational Item: Winter Athletic Season Update

The Athletic Department is in full swing for the Winter Athletic Season. We are excited to offer the following teams:

Middle School and Varsity Teams:

- A. MS Girls Basketball
- B. JV Girls Basketball
- C. Varsity Girls Basketball
- D. MS Boys Basketball
- E. JV Boys Basketball
- F. Varsity Boys Basketball
- G. Co-Ed Pep Band
- H. MS Co-Ed Swimming
- I. Varsity Co-Ed Swimming
- J. MS/JV Cheer
- K. Varsity Cheer

Informational Item: New Business Sponsor:

The Athletic Department is proud to partner with Steffes as a new Athletic Business Sponsor. Please see their introduction below:

Steffes specializes in manufacturing and steel fabrication for a wide range of industries. While they proudly joined the Shelby area four years ago, Steffes brings more than five decades of manufacturing excellence to every project. Backed by a skilled team of engineers and manufacturing experts, they are known for innovative problem-solving and the ability to tackle complex challenges with precision and quality. The Shelby facility also features a state-of-the-art paint line spanning more than 1,300 linear feet, just one part of their comprehensive fabrication and finishing capabilities.

Informational Item: 50/50 Sponsorship

B. We are proud to partner with **Cleveland Community College** for the second year as our annual 50/50 ticket sponsor.

Informational Item: Winter Senior Night & Archery Recognition

The Athletic Department recognized our winter athletic seniors and the Archery program on January 7, 2026, during our home basketball game against Highland School of Technology. It was a wonderful evening of recognition for Coach Tongel and the entire archery program. A special thank you to Senator Westmoreland for delivering such warm and meaningful remarks.

We also extend our appreciation to Dr. Shope and Mr. David Clary for their creative efforts with the signage and presentation during the ceremony. A special thanks as well to Mr. Jeff Terry & Mrs Heather Fouts, who are some of the most giving and tireless individuals I know. Their help this evening was invaluable.

We were honored to celebrate 15 seniors and their families across all winter sports on Senior Night. This evening was a true testament to the continued growth of our athletic program.