



Minutes

March 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 attended in person and Dr. Christine Boor attended virtually.

Administration - Laura Beth Richardson, Kendra McGinnis, Monica Dellinger, Angela Brooks and Dr. Shelly Shope attended in person, Mr. Jeff Ziegler attended virtually.

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 Amy Dulin and seconded by Wes Westmoreland, all Approved.*


Approval of Minutes *Pauline Cahill made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 2026 Meeting, Amy Dulin 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 March 2026

K-3 Events / Activities

- K-3 teachers were given a half day of structured planning in February. Coverage was secured for each teacher so they could plan together and look at pacing guides/standards.
 -  Half Day Planning Dates 2025/2026
- A Vertical Planning Day was given to K-3 teachers on February 28th. Vertical planning is a tool principals can use with their grade level teams to align curriculum, standards, and goals to help students to successfully transition to the next grade.

-  Vertical Planning Dates 2025/2026
- Teachers were provided with iReady professional development on Wednesday, March 4 - with a focus on typical and stretch growth.
- There will be a bake sale Thursday, March 19 from 8:30 - 11:30 at the K-3 campus. All proceeds will support the Dare to Soar scholarship fund. Parent volunteers will send in treats and sign up to work the event.

Lottery

- The lottery will be Monday, March 9th at the K-3 campus. Please stop by and meet some of our new families!
- K-Day 2026 is scheduled for March 13th. This is the Friday after the lottery. Parents will be notified via email to sign up for a time to bring their child for the Kindergarten Brigance Screening.

Parent Involvement

- Our 3rd grade teachers will hold an EOG information meeting for parents on the evening of Thursday, March 19th. They will share information with parents about the North Carolina End of Grade Test that students will be given in May. This meeting happens every year and typically receives positive feedback. Parents are always grateful for the information shared and often have a better understanding of what is expected at the state and school level.

Important Dates

Mar. 9th: Lottery @ 6pm in K-3 gym
 Mar. 10th: Caffeine Monkey @ K-3 Campus 9-12:00
 Mar. 11th: 3rd Grade in-house field trip - Camp Flintlock
 Mar. 11th: Report Cards go home
 Mar. 13th: K-Day
 Mar. 16th: Classical Lecture
 Mar. 23rd: Spring Picture Day
 Mar. 25th: First Grade Fairy Tale Day

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

Curriculum/Academics/Data

- iReady Data Talks and Incentives
 - Studies show that hosting data talks with individual students results in significant academic growth. During data talks our teachers discuss the student's current performance, an attainable goal for the future, and ways to make progress towards the set goal. They also remind students of the incentive for growth moving forward.
 - All incentives are attainable for each student based on their previous data points and growth trends. Some incentives students can earn are snacks and homework passes. While meeting weekly goals is expected, it is common for students to need extra motivation at this point in the school year. We are very pleased with the growth trends we are seeing!

Professional Development:

- Ms. McGinnis and I are continuing to work together with iLEADR to plan useful professional development sessions for next school year.
- This month Mrs. Kiser, an iLEADR representative who has worked closely with our middle school math team, returned to the 4-12 campus. The goal of her previous visit was to model a lesson for teachers. The goal of this month's visit was to co-teach with each middle school math teacher. Teachers shared their plans and activities ahead of time. Ms. Kiser was then able to prepare and provide support and strategies in real time. Similar to other professional development sessions she has provided, our staff was very complimentary and are excited to implement what they learned!

Beginning Teacher/New Hires:

- Beginning Teacher meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th. Our focus will be on using the testing specification documents provided by DPI to effectively implement a solid, purposeful review plan prior to end of year testing.

Hiring/Personnel

- Ms. McGinnis and I will be attending job fairs at App State and GWU to build connections with prospective employees.

4th-8th Grade Activities

- 4th-8th grade Decades Dances hosted by PEAK were a great success! We are very thankful for all of PEAK's hard work. Their assistance with enforcing dress code expectations is an excellent way to prepare our intermediate students for high school events such as homecoming and prom. A special thank you to PEAK members who were responsible for the arrangement of tables, chairs, and decorations. They created the perfect space for our students!
- 4th Grade will be attending a field trip to Raleigh on March 20th.
 - Representative Scott spoke with Pinnacle Classical Academy's 4th grade students on Monday, March 2. Students were invited to propose a bill (kids should not have a set bedtime) and went through the process of debating, supporting, amending, and voting until it became a law. Needless to say, the ayes had it. When 4th grade students go to Raleigh later this month, they will tour the state capital and legislative buildings, see the old and current state/house chambers, and explore the museum of natural sciences.
- 8th grade will be attending a trip to Atlanta on March 26-27.
- The Classical Foundations Wax Museum is planned for 5th grade students on March 12th!

Secondary Education Board Report

March 8, 2026

Prepared by Mrs. Dellinger

Curriculum and Academics:

- Four high school students (Stella Navey, Judah and Silas Rummel, and Ashton Sikes) have been accepted to attend the Charlotte Metro Area Charter Honor Band April 17 & 18. The Charlotte Metro

Area Charter (CMAC) Honor Band is a nomination-based honors ensemble for middle and high school students who attend charter schools in the greater Charlotte area. Founded in 2018 by local band directors, it was created to provide charter school students with an "all-county band" style experience that they often miss because they are not part of the standard county school systems.


- Registration meetings are in progress with students in grades 8 - 11. A parent meeting for rising 9th graders is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 to discuss high school course offerings and how selections impact beyond 9th grade.
- High school students will be participating in several important tests during the month of March.
 - 9th and 10th grade students will participate in the National Latin exam Tuesday, March 10.
 - 11th grade students will take the ACT on Tuesday, March 10th.
 - 9th and 10th grade students will participate in the PSAT Tuesday, March 31.
- Teachers are actively participating in the statewide Teacher Working Conditions Survey.

Extracurricular Activities:

- **Ring Ceremony**
 - March 20, 2026. Invitations are to be mailed out soon. We look forward to any of you participating.
- **Prom**
 - April 17, 2026 at The Venue at Turkey Ridge. We look forward to this exciting event called Enchanted Evening.

Special Awards and Recognitions:

Pinnacle Classical Academy has been awarded the Bronze AP Honor Roll Award. The Bronze AP School Honor Roll, awarded by the College Board, recognizes high schools for building a strong, accessible college-going culture. To earn this designation, schools generally need at least 40% of their seniors to take at least one AP exam, 25% of students to score a 3 or higher on an exam, and 2% to take five or more exams

AP School Honor Roll Metrics	Bronze Criteria	Silver Criteria	Gold Criteria	Platinum Criteria	Your School	
					 BRONZE Your school achieved all Bronze criteria!	
College Culture	40%	50%	65%	80%	52% (26/50)	Silver
College Credit	25%	30%	35%	50%	26% (13/50)	Bronze
College Optimization	2%	5%	10%	15%	6% (3/50)	Silver

- The College Board has announced that 12 Pinnacle Academy students have qualified for its National Recognition Programs. The students are: Holden Austin, Jon Gavin Dellinger, Rebecca Briceno, Andrew Byrd, Yuleisi Giron Guzman, Mason Kistler, Maddox Johnson, Sam McDaniel, Lucian Parker, Aidyn Smith, Gracie Whitworth, and Cooper Wesson. Students were recognized in the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program and in the National First-Generation Recognition Program. "Recipients are strong academic performers," the College Board stated in its announcement of the programs. "Students who take eligible administrations of the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams and meet the score requirements are considered for awards. Many colleges intentionally recruit

awardees." I am thrilled for these students and their accomplishments and can't wait to see what the future has in store for them. PCA had 8 students recognized last school year.

Senior Activities

- As of March 4th, 52 of the 67 students in the class of 2026 have submitted over 325 applications to 98 colleges. As of this submission, seniors have been awarded 77 scholarships for a total of **\$4,571,624**. Students are now beginning to commit to various colleges and universities and it is a joy to be able to celebrate with them.

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update March 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. March's theme is justice.
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 March 8, 2026

Curriculum and Academics:

- **Summer Reading and Math Camp**

- Again this year, Mrs. Jackson is working to finalize the plans for the summer reading and math camps we will be offering at the conclusion of the 2026 school year. She is designing this learning opportunity to support students in grades K-5, particularly those who are performing right at or slightly below grade level to assist them in maintaining academic progress and help prevent summer learning loss.
- The two-week reading camp (June 8th-18th) will engage students in rich, classical literature and each grade level will study a featured novel and receive a personal copy to take home.
 - Kindergarten and 1st grade students will read *Nate the Great* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat;
 - 2nd and 3rd grade students will enjoy *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Seldon; and
 - 4th and 5th grade students will explore *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.
- The two-week Math Camp (July 13th-23th) will utilize Mango Math Small Group Kits to provide targeted, small-group instruction. Students will work within their grade level to strengthen and enhance their understanding of North Carolina math standards, building confidence and skill for the upcoming school year.
- These camps offer a focused, engaging opportunity to keep students learning, growing, and prepared for success. Invitations for students to attend will be going out this month so that families can plan accordingly.

Scholarships:

- Rachel Liljestrand, senior, has been named a finalist for the flagship scholarships at both North Greenville University and Palm Beach Atlantic University. This is an exceptional honor recognizing outstanding achievement and character and we wish her all the best as she anxiously awaits the determination for these two institutions.
- Ignite Scholarship
 - Additionally, three students have been selected as finalists for the prestigious Ignite Scholarship at Gardner-Webb University. Addie Yates, Kizzy Terry, and Lilly Wellmon have all interviewed for this prestigious award and we wish them all the best as the committee makes their final decision.
- Beyond national and university awards, our community continues to invest in Pinnacle students, and we are grateful for their continued support. As of today, we will be awarding more than \$30,000 in local scholarship funds. This is a large community contribution and we are thankful for each of our donors.

Professional Development:

- **National Symposium for Classical Education**
 - Mrs. Jackson and I recently attended the 2026 National Symposium for Classical Education, which this year highlighted the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and its connection to the principles of classical education. We participated in a number of workshops and lectures led by respected leaders in the field, including Christopher Perrin and Doug Lemov, among others. The ideas and insights gained will be valuable as we continue to thoughtfully build and strengthen classical education at PCA.

Athletics: Special Items to highlight:

- Our spring athletic season is now fully underway. Below is a list of sports currently being played by PCA within each of our athletic conferences:
 - Carolina Beltway Athletic Conference (Middle School)
 - MS Baseball
 - MS Softball
 - MS Soccer
 - Western Piedmont Athletic Conference (High School)
 - Varsity Baseball
 - Varsity Softball
 - Varsity Soccer
 - Varsity Golf
 - NCS3DA
 - PCA Archery
 - Non-Affiliated
 - Varsity Track

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

Action Items:

- None

Finance:

- Financial information is attached. We continue to be in a strong financial position.
 - Our percent of revenue used should be at 67% of the budgeted amount. We are in great shape as we move into April. A few lines to review:
 - Books & Supplies
 - Student Activities
- 2026-2027 Budget Proposal
 - Presentation

Human Resources:

- **Positions for 2026-27**
 - Positions for the 2026-27 school year are posted online, and we have started to recruit and interview to find the best possible candidates for our school.
 - We are not adding any additional positions for the 2026-27 school year.
 - We are continuing to attend job fairs for recruitment.

Community Involvement

- **Chamber Luncheon**

- We attended the “Women on Fire” Chamber Luncheon this month. Pinnacle was well-represented by the fantastic group of ladies who attended.

Legal / DPI:

- **EpiCenter**
 - We are up to date with all submissions.

Athletics:

- Report is attached

Enrollment Report

- Lottery
 - Our Lottery will be held March 9 @ 6:00.
 - Ms. McGinnis and her team have everything ready for a great night, welcoming the newest members to the Pinnacle family.
- **Retention of new students**
 - Ms. McGinnis and her team will reach out to the new kindergartners each month between now and August with something from the school. It is our goal to make them feel as part of the Pinnacle family from the lottery until the first day of school.
- **Enrollment**
 - As of March 4th, we have received 253 Initial Applications for the 2026-2027 school year. This is up from last year (226)
 - Big thanks to Ms. McGinnis for the adorable kindergarten videos for marketing. The first video received over 13,000 views in the first 24 hours, and was shared 53 times.
 - Based on the data below, we are recommending the following take place at the lottery on March 9.

	Expected LOI	Initial Apps	Classes 25-26	Offer	Total	Class Avg
<i>K</i>	0	123	5	all	120	25
<i>1st</i>	115	15	5	10	125	25
<i>2nd</i>	98	8	4	2	100	25
<i>3rd</i>	95	11	4	5	100	25
<i>4th</i>	88	14	4	12 (all)	100	25
<i>5th</i>	95	13	4	9	104	26
<i>6th</i>	93	19	4	15	108	27
<i>7th</i>	102	14	4	6	108	27
<i>8th</i>	102	12	4	6	108	27
<i>9th</i>	85	13	4	0	85	21.25
<i>10th</i>	86	7	4	0	86	21.5

- Varsity Softball
- Varsity Soccer
- Varsity Golf

NCS3DA

- PCA Archery

Non-Affiliated

- Varsity Track

Annual 50/50 Fundraiser:

The Athletic Department is currently running its annual 50/50 raffle fundraiser. The drawing will be held on Tax Day.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Cleveland Community College for once again serving as our ticket sponsor again this year. Their continued support is greatly appreciated.

Spirit Nights:

The Athletic Department recently hosted its sixth Spirit Night of the year at Jammin J's Pizza. We plan to return to Dairy Queen later this month.

Through these events, we have raised a total of \$1,200.00, which will go toward establishing a future athletic scholarship. The Athletic Department plans to continue working hard to grow this fund, with the goal of awarding its first recipient to the Class of 2028.

Social Media Growth:

As shared in previous reports, the Athletic Department continues to focus on expanding our social media presence. Below are our most recent engagement metrics:

Facebook (Feb. 3 – March 2)

- 105,272 Total Views
- 1,731 Reactions
- 220 Shares
- 252 Comments

2025–2026 Athletic Participation Overview:

With all teams officially rostered for the 2025–2026 school year, we reviewed our overall athletic participation:

- Total Entries (Roster Spots Filled): 363
- Unique Athletes (Individual Students Reached): 268
- Duplicate Entries (Multi-Sport Participation): 95

As always, thank you for your continued support of our growing Athletic Department. I look forward to sharing additional spring updates in future board reports.

Action Items:

1. *None at this Meeting*

Committee Updates:

1. *College Partnership: Amy Dulin gave a brief presentation on the Making It Work Day that is occurring on March 25th and the Electrical opportunity occurring in April. There is also a summer program that several Pinnacle students have already registered for and we are happy with the continued relationship between Cleveland Community College and Pinnacle Classical Academy.*
2. *Facilities: Drawings and ideas on Phase III are continuing; we are currently in a waiting period.*
3. *Finance: The budget for 2026-27 was presented at this board meeting. There were no immediate questions, but board members will have a month to review, question, and make recommendations for changes prior to the vote that will be at the April board meeting.*
4. *Curriculum: We are looking at options to enhance our curriculum and offer something unique to Cleveland County. Dr. Cahill is developing a plan to be presented at a future meeting.*

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