



Minutes

October 13, 2024

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, Ken Mooney and Jeremy Boone
Administration - Shelly Shope, Angela Brooks, and Jeff Ziegler*

No members of the public were present.

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 Ken Mooney and 2nd by Jeremy Boone, all Approved.*

Approval of Minutes *Wes Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2024 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.*

Administration Reports -

Dean of Elementary Education Report to the Board of Directors Presented by Mrs. Wendy Clary

October, 2024

Action Items:

- None

Teacher Retention

- Beginning Teacher orientation took place on September 16th.

- Requisition orders for teachers have been completed, ordered, and received for items needed for student success.
- PLC have been held weekly to address goals and next steps as well as problem solving and brainstorming sessions.

PEAK

- There was a general meeting held on September 19th along with a chili cookoff. Parents voted for the top 3 pots of chili. Bragging rights were earned and awards were presented. ● The first dances were a success!
- PEAK had a board meeting on October 6, 2024 to discuss upcoming events.

Community/Parent Involvement

- Students had the opportunity to register for Boy/Girl Scouts this year at the K-3 campus. ● The Literati Book Fair took place October 7th-October 11th. Students were able to shop during media interdisciplinary and two after hours shopping days were scheduled on Tuesday, October 8th and Thursday, October 10th. Students were given the opportunity to purchase a book for students who were affected by Helene. These will be taken to West Jefferson in a few weeks.
- Our PEAK sponsored Fall Festival is scheduled for October 18th at the K-3 campus. This event is open to the community and is a great time to recruit new prospects for enrollment. ● Pinnacle will be represented at the 2024 Livermush Festival this year on October 19th. ● Helene Relief in the form of donations for West Jefferson and Old Fort will be collected and distributed.

Highlights

- Mrs. Jones, the K-5 Media Specialist has received the Crystal Apple from the American Association of School Librarians. The Crystal Apple is given at the discretion of the AASL to an individual or group who has had significant impact on school libraries and students.



- Mrs. Jones has received a Donors Choose award to help students protect library books. This project will help reduce the number of damaged library books.
- Ms. Warthen our K-3 Teacher of the Year was a guest and highlighted on Dare to Soar.

Data/Testing

- The newly created LLI Reading Coordinator position aims to support teachers and administrators in the area of English Language Arts (ELA). To achieve this, I will send monthly newsletters to the staff. These newsletters will focus on specific reading standards, providing teachers with an in-depth look at the standards and how they progress across grade levels. The newsletters will also include ELA-related academic vocabulary, sample activities, and reminders to help teachers enhance their reading instructional practices. To support teachers, struggling readers have been assessed to identify their weak areas. By administering the assessments, teachers were able to continue their normal instruction without pausing to assess and identify student concerns. The assessment data provided teachers with quick feedback, allowing them to intervene in a timely manner. In two cases, the assessment information determined that a new PCA student would be better served by moving back to 1st grade, while another student should move from kindergarten to 1st grade. During PLC meetings with each grade level,

teachers discussed the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program's plans and progression throughout the school year. The teachers were presented with an overview of the program's goals and lessons. They also discussed the leveling system and grouping process that would determine student eligibility for participation in the LLI program. The LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention) schedule provides all K-3 students with two dedicated intervention sessions per day. During these small-group LLI sessions, students receive fast-paced, systematic lessons targeting their reading and writing needs, including practice with sight words and reading fluency.

Upcoming Dates:

- Oct. 7th-11th: Book Fair
- Oct. 8th-Book fair after hours shopping
- Oct. 10th-Book Fair After hours Shopping
- Oct. 11th-Timesheets Due Oct. 15th-NC Check-In (Reading)
- Oct. 16th-K-3 Staff Lunch
- Oct. 17th-Math NC Check-In
- Oct. 18th-Senior Fundraiser Wear Orange
- Oct. 18th-PEAK Fall Festival
- Oct. 19th-Livermush Festival

K-3 News
Sept. 26, 2024

Important Upcoming Events

- Sept. 30th-File drill 1:00
- Oct. 4th-Timesheets Due
- Oct. 7th-11th Book Fair
- Oct. 8th-Book fair after hours shopping
- Oct. 10th-Book Fair After hours Shopping
- Oct. 11th-Q1 Report Card Grades Due at 4:00
- Oct. 11th-Timesheets Due
- Oct. 11th-NC Check-In (Reading)
- Oct. 16th-K-3 Staff Lunch
- Oct. 17th-Math NC Check-In
- Oct. 17th-Q1 Report Cards
- Oct. 18th-Timesheets Due
- Oct. 18th-Senior Fundraiser Wear Orange
- Oct. 18th-PEAK Fall Festival
- Oct. 19th-Livermush Festival

2024-2025 Goals

1. Professionalism
2. Increase student growth and proficiency (88%)
3. Communicating Classical Identity

General Reminders

- Pick up any remaining students to the office in the after noon. Do not send them alone.
- Do not collect your personal child(ren) until after all of your students have been dismissed.
- Be mindful of schedules.
- Respond to parent emails within 24 hours.
- We have a "no yelling" policy. Parents are in the building now, please exercise professionalism.
- Walk and monitor at recess. No one should be sitting. Please circulate and be super observant.
- Sign out in the office if you are leaving campus.

GOOD THINGS AHEAD

Potato Bar 10/16

Caffeine Monkey will return 11/4

4-8 Report to the Board of Directors

Presented by

Mrs. Laura Beth Richardson

October 2024

Curriculum/Academics/Data

- EVAAS Data
 - EVAAS has released student projection summaries. Mrs. Barnes and I are working to compile this data for teachers and will be meeting with teachers individually. In these

data meetings we help teachers set attainable proficiency goals for each of their classes and offer support based on individual teacher needs.

- iReady Data
 - All make-up diagnostics are being completed at this time. All i-Ready data for 4-8 students will be shared at the November board meeting.
- Classic Learning Test 6-8
 - Middle School students took the CLT on Tuesday, Sept 24. The CLT assessed language arts and mathematics corresponding to each grade level, including reading comprehension, writing, grammar, arithmetic and operations, geometrical reasoning, and overall mathematical reasoning. Reading passages on the CLT were intentionally taken from classic children's literature, poetry, and historical fiction and non-fiction.
 - This is the first year our middle school students have taken this test and it provided interesting insight into middle school student's top domain skills.
 - 6th Grade Top Domains: Writing Concepts and Skills, Reading Comprehension, and Arithmetic and Operations
 - 7th Grade Top Domains: Mathematical Reasoning, Textual Analysis (inferences, point of view, understand how verbal/quantitative evidence are used in passages), and Pre-Algebra and Algebra
 - 8th Grade Top Domains: Mathematical Reasoning, Grammar, and Textual Analysis (inferences, point of view, understand how verbal/quantitative evidence are used in passages)

Professional Development:

- The First Days of School by Harry Wong
 - The book study being conducted with intermediate teachers has proven to be rich in practical, logical strategies that improve classroom procedures and management as well as help our teachers strengthen their connections with our students. Teachers have embraced the best practices from the book study and shared helpful, insightful responses during our book study meetings. The book study will be concluded in March.
- KIDaccount
 - Training for KIDaccount has been concluded. Teachers have started implementing the hall pass feature and our front office staff are using KIDaccount to sign students and visitors in.

Beginning Teacher/New Hires:

- Ms. McGinnis and I are meeting with new hires to gain valuable feedback on how they are settling into their role at PCA. Conducting these individual meetings provides us with an opportunity to learn what is working well and what areas we can improve in moving forward. This feedback is especially valuable to have as we meet potential employees at job fairs. It also strengthens teacher retention at PCA.
- Beginning teachers are working well with their assigned mentors as they complete and submit their beginning of year professional development plan (PDP) and self assessment. Both of these documents will be revisited multiple times throughout the year by the beginning teacher and their mentor in order to keep track of progress and action steps.

4th-8th Grade Activities

- Middle school students thoroughly enjoyed attending the dance on September 20th. A special thank you to PEAK for their hard work!
- Unfortunately, the 4th grade field trip to Grandfather Mountain has been canceled due to the

impact of Hurricane Helene.

- 5th Grade will be visiting Discovery Place on November 1st.
- Letter Drive: Many of our 4-8 teachers are participating in the Letter Drive for Western North Carolina within their classroom. This is an opportunity for our students to write letters of encouragement to families who have been affected by Hurricane Helene. Our staff and students are always eager to be involved in service opportunities!

Recruitment/Personnel:

- Ms. McGinnis and I are eager to attend the following job fairs to represent PCA and encourage individuals to apply to work at PCA upon graduation.
 - Gardner Webb University- Wednesday, October 9th
 - Unfortunately, the Appalachian State University job fair has been canceled due to the impact of Hurricane Helene.

9-12 Report to the Board of Directors

Presented by

Mrs. Angela Brooks

October 13, 2024

Curriculum and Academics:

- On Wednesday, September 24th Cleveland Community College invited our students to participate in College Experience Day. This was an opportunity for juniors and seniors to visit with the CACRAO college fair or to visit a CTE area of interest. We had many juniors and seniors participate and we are very thankful for this opportunity for them.
- Dr. Martin has organized a CFNC day for seniors and their families on Thursday, October 3rd. This session will outline information needed for how to pay for college and steps seniors and families need to take concerning applications and scholarships. This workshop will give our families and students information on how to complete the residency requirement as well as what to do for FAFSA.
- The new members of the National Honors Society will be inducted on Thursday, October 24th at 6:00 pm. This is a wonderful evening for our students and families to celebrate academic achievements and we would like to invite each of you to attend as well if your schedule allows.

Extracurricular Activities:

- To assist high school students transitioning to Pinnacle Dr. Martin is hosting a New to PCA group for any high school students who entered PCA this year. She is meeting with the students during lunch multiple times throughout the semester to check in on students. This will give them an opportunity to learn more about the school, make connections with other new students, etc. We are hopeful that this will help with our retention of new students.
- We had the first Dessert with the Dean lunch on Friday, September 20th and it was a huge success. We will begin to do this twice a month to give students an opportunity to bring ideas, ask questions, etc. with the high school administration team.
- Homecoming
 - The Homecoming parade has been approved by the City of Shelby for Friday, Dec. 6th at 2:00. Preparations for the parade have started.
 - Homecoming Dance tickets will be going on sale soon for all high school students. The Homecoming dance will be held on Saturday, December 14th at The Earl Scruggs Center.

Special Awards and Recognitions:

- Marien Freeland, a junior at PCA, was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering over 50 hours in the community. We are very proud of Marien and her hours of service to our community.

Senior Activities:

- As of September 29th, the class of 2025 has had 33 college applications sent and 3 acceptances. To date they have received \$121,000 in scholarships. The Class of 2025 is well on their way this year and I am excited to see their accomplishments.
- Countdown to College is being planned now and will be held the week of October 16th. Seniors will have a special day on October 18th to submit applications, complete residency verification forms, work on interview skills, etc. This day and week has been a tremendous success in the past and we are excited about this year's opportunities as well.

Important Dates for the 2024-25 School year:

Friday, December 6th - Homecoming Parade

Friday, December 13th - Homecoming Game and Court in the Gym

Saturday, December 14th - Homecoming Dance at the Earl Scruggs Center

Friday, April 4th - Prom at Turkey Ridge Venue

Thursday, May 22nd - High School Awards

Friday, May 30th - Senior Scholarship Night at the Lyceum

Saturday, May 31st - Graduation at the Lyceum

Jeff Ziegler

School Testing Data

A Report to the Board of Directors of Pinnacle Classical Academy

October 7, 2024

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)

Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency

All Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2023-24	72.7%	52.9%	54.2%
2022-23	72.1%	52.5%	53.6%
2021-22	72.3%	53.6%	51.4%
2020-21	70.6%	48.4%	45.4%

2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	77.8%	60.9%	58.8%
2017-18	66.8%	59.6%	58.8%
2016-17	71.7%	58.2%	59.2%
2015-16	73.5%	58.1%	58.3%
2014-15	69.9%	57.4%	56.6%

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency
Economically Disadvantaged Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2023-24	65.5%	45.2%	40.9%
2022-23	62.5%	44.6%	39.7%
2021-22	61.8%	42.7%	35.1%
2020-21	58.3%	37.6%	28.8%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	68.2%	50.8%	44.6%
2017-18	53.6%	49.6%	43.6%
2016-17	59.5%	47.8%	44.2%
2015-16	NA	48.5%	43.7%
2014-15	66.1%	47.4%	41.6%

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
 Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency
 Black Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2023-24	65.9%	37.9%	37.9%
2022-23	57.4%	36.2%	36.1%
2021-22	65.4%	37.3%	33.4%
2020-21	53.8%	31.0%	26.3%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	68.4%	44.2%	40.9%
2017-18	52.8%	43.5%	40.4%
2016-17	59.1%	41.1%	40.3%
2015-16	57.6%	41.3%	39.5%
2014-15	40.4%	39.6%	37.3%

Combined State Testing Results (EOC, EOG)
 Percent of Students Who Demonstrated Grade-Level Proficiency
 Hispanic Students

Year	Pinnacle Classical Academy	Cleveland County Schools	State of North Carolina
2023-24	71.1%	49.4%	42.1%
2022-23	66.7%	51.1%	42.3%

2021-22	65.5%	53.1%	40.4%
2020-21	74.6%	47.7%	33.9%
2019-20	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	80.3%	58.4%	48.8%
2017-18	50.0%	57.4%	48.1%
2016-17	56.7%	54.5%	48.4%
2015-16	65.9%	54.4%	47.6%
2014-15	76.7%	51.1%	45.2%

Classical Foundations Program (CFP) Update October 2024

1. The Foundation for Economic Education is arranging our fall and spring CFP lecturers for 2024-25. The fall lecturer was Dan Sanchez, Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE). He shared the report he made to FEE on the day:

Yesterday, I got to spend the whole day representing FEE in the Classroom at Pinnacle Classical Academy in North Carolina talking to students and faculty about the “Revolutionary Ideas that Framed the Constitution” for Constitution Day. I delivered two lectures to a total of 128 high schoolers (grades 10-12), explaining how the Constitution can only be understood as an expression of the revolutionary ideas and founding philosophy of America, especially as inspired by the classical liberal political philosophy of John Locke.

We explored passages from the Constitution and Locke’s *Two Treatises of Government*, which fit well with Pinnacle’s “classical” emphasis on having students directly study source texts and great works. I sought to make the presentation interactive and engaging by walking the students through note taking techniques, including writing key words and drawing symbolic pictures (you can see them drawing in their notebooks in the first photo below). Many of the students responses during the talks and questions afterward were very impressive.

For more on the ideas I related to the students, see the FEE.org article I wrote based on my talk and published on the same day (Constitution Day) titled “[The Philosophy that Framed the Constitution](#).” The material I developed for this lesson was something of a sequel to the civics curriculum I developed for the Active Minds Conference and to my [Fourth of July article](#) about the philosophy of the Declaration of Independence.

I also had lunch with the senior class and talked with five of the friendliest teenagers I’ve ever met (second photo below). They expressed appreciation for how interactive and interesting my presentation was.

And I delivered a presentation to 74 faculty members (see third photo below), explaining the lessons I delivered and the methods I used with the students. Several teachers came up to me afterward expressing keen interest in the key word outline technique for teaching writing that I introduced.

The dean of academics (who interned for FEE in Irvington in 1989) interviewed me for their public access TV show, giving me a chance to talk about classical education and FEE (video recording forthcoming).

Finally I had dinner with a few key faculty members. I especially enjoyed talking Hobbes and Locke with Pinnacle's genial and scholarly civics instructor and listening to their youngest teacher (who is also a graduate of the school) talk about the creative ways she has been making history come alive for her students.

Everyone at Pinnacle was super welcoming and appreciative, so I'm optimistic that the visit will result in another engagement before too long.

Special thanks to @Marianna Davidovich for proposing and arranging the visit, to @Gabriel Mitchell for his outstanding and proactive logistical help, and to @Javier for always being so supportive and collaborative by trusting my curriculum ideas and giving me opportunities to put them into action.

2. 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. October's theme is reality.

3. Hadley Heath Manning, a Shelby native, has agreed to be our commencement speaker on Saturday, May 31, 2025 (the Saturday after Memorial Day). Her biography:

Hadley Heath Manning was, until recently, vice president for policy at Independent Women's Forum.

Hadley has testified before Congress and state legislatures on various policy issues. She also appears frequently in radio and TV outlets across the country and is a regular guest on the Fox Business Network. Her work has been featured in publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, POLITICO, and many others.

In 2016, Hadley was named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in Law and Policy.

Hadley graduated with distinction from the University of North Carolina as a Morehead-Cain Scholar with a double major in economics and journalism. She now lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband and children.

<https://www.iwf.org/people/hadley-heath-manning/>

○

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

October 2024

Action Items:

●

Curriculum and Academics:

● Goals for the year

- Increase Student Growth and Proficiency - 88% Proficiency
- Communicating Classical Identity
- Professionalism

● Testing

- Our middle school students recently completed the CLT 6, CLT 7, and CLT 8. Our sophomores are preparing for the PreACT. Our juniors are preparing for the PSAT. ● **AP**
- We are excited to offer more AP courses this school year. Students are registering

with CollegeBoard to prepare for the courses and testing.

- **Special Populations**

- We are so excited that our department has exceeded growth! We continue to work hard to provide appropriate services and accommodations to students.
- Ms. Ramsey is building her schedule and preparing to work with ELL students. We have 6 high school students, 13 intermediate students, and 7 elementary students for a total of 26 students in the program.

Finance:

- Financial information is attached. We continue to be in a strong financial position.

Legal / DPI:

- **EpiCenter**

- We are up to date with all submissions.
 - September
 - Board Meeting Schedule
 - Certificate of Occupancy
 - October
 - Board Membership List
 - LIEP
- School Safety Grant
 - Door Metal Detectors
 - HS entrance
 - MS entrance
 - Main Office
 - Gym
 - Radios
 - Vape detectors

Community Relations

- 2 teachers greatly impacted by Hurricane
- Monthly newsletter for parents is continuing.
- 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.
- Our “Dare to Soar” tv show continues to film monthly

Athletics

- Report is attached

Enrollment Report

- **Enrollment**

SEPTEMBER 2024			
	22-23	23-24	24-25
K	109	110	104

1	118	103	101
2	104	104	94
3	109	97	102
4	110	103	94
5	92	100	102
6	98	99	104
7	104	102	90
8	93	108	104
9	79	94	95
10	51	65	83
11	32	46	65
12	40	27	41
	1139	1165	1179

● **Enrollment Kick Off**

- Communicator Board - October - Last year: Top in county / Top 6% in Nation 15
- PCA and PCA Robotics Booth at the Livermush Festival October 19

Activity	Timeline	Cost			
			Day in the Life of Kinder	January	0
Livermush Festival - Robotics -Initial Apps -Swag	October 19	\$200	Videos of older students with younger - Why PCA	January	0
			Shelby Star	January	\$100.00
			Shelby Shopper	January	\$300.00
Social Media: Facebook Ads Facebook Post Boosts Instagram PCA Website	On-going	\$500	Community Board	October December Feb April	\$450/week

Information packets Daycares	January	\$200
Dare to Soar TV program	Monthly	0
Open Houses	March	

Prepared by: Department of Athletics

Mr. Brandon Gosey

- 2024-2025 PCA Athletics Business Sponsors:** The Athletic Department is pleased to partner with the following businesses this school year. Collectively their sponsorships have raised over **\$12,000** for PCA Athletics. We continue to partner with additional businesses and hope to bring you an updated list next month with additional names.

Arthur Services Incorporated
Shelby Dental Care Center
Caldwell Appraisals
Clary Construction Concepts
Steven Ray (FBI)
Christy Ray Fitness
Rejuvatour Primary Care
Westmoreland Printers
ABT Tax Services
Norris Merchandise
Shelby Alarm Co.

- Fall Sports:** A quick recap of what the Athletic Department is offering the fall!

- MS Men's Soccer
- MS Women's Volleyball
- MS Men's Cross Country
- MS Women's Cross Country
- JV Women's Volleyball
- Varsity Men's Soccer
- Varsity Women's Volleyball
- Varsity Women's Cross Country
- Varsity Men's Cross Country

- Facility Adjustments: Due to ongoing construction, the Athletic Department continues to partner with the following facilities for use/rental of athletic facilities.

- Dover YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- Landmark Baptist Church
- Zion Baptist Church
- Shelby Elite Cheer
- Idol Athletics

Upcoming Dates:

- 10/17/24 (PCA Spirit Night @ Jammin J's Pizza)

Stay Connected: PCA Eagles Athletics Weekly Newsletter

- [The Talon Times](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Brandon E. Gosey

Action Items:

1. *Motion was made by Wes Westmoreland to follow our normal policy and pay our teachers and staff for the days lost due to the hurricane. Jeremy Boone seconded the motion. Approved by all.*

Committee Updates:

1. *Facilities: An update was given about construction progress by Wes Westmoreland. There was also discussion about some damage that was done by Hurricane Helene. Initial estimates of around \$50,000. The drive was washed out near the baseball field, fence damage, etc.*
2. *Finance: An update was given by Debbie Clary on the finance of the school. Admin team was tasked to look back into notes and look at building minutes.*
3. *Enrollment Committee: Livermush festival will kick-off enrollment for the 2025-26 school year.*

Adjournment *Jeremy Boone made a motion to adjourn and Ken Mooney seconded. Meeting was adjourned.*

