Board Meeting Minutes
BONNIE CONE SCHOOLS
16105 Poplar Tent Road Huntersville, NC 28078
BCLA Upper School | 7-21-2026 at 4:45 p.m.

Board of Directors' Access:
Video call link: **https://meet.google.com/wsj-ybme-ydc**
Or dial: (US) +1 224-900-6823 PIN: 768 395 576#

I. **Call to Order:** by Chairman Marty McCarthy at 4:45 pm

II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** **IMAGE**

III. **Reading of the Mission Statement:** by Secretary Stephanie Newbrough
The Bonnie Cone Schools mission is to equip students with the tools of learning to think critically, reason effectively, and communicate persuasively through the rigors of a classical education.

IV. **Spoken Invocation** (Board volunteer) by Director William Mills

V. **Roll Call:** by Secretary Stephanie Newbrough

Board Member	Title	Term	Attendance
Marty McCarthy	Chair	June 2028	Present
Brian Puckett	Vice Chair/Treasurer	June 2028	Present
Stephanie Newbrough	Secretary	June 2028	Present
William Mills, III Esq	Director	June 2028	Present
George Gately	Director	April 2028	Present
Jeffrey Sich	Director	August 2028	Absent

VI. **Approval of the agenda:** A **motion** was made by Director George Gately to approve the agenda for 7/21/26. Second by Director William Mills. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 4:47 pm.

VII. Public Comment: There was no public present to comment.
(Limit 2 minutes. The board will not respond during the meeting.)

VIII. Management Reports:

- **Charter One Leadership**
  Abigail Strait, SE Regional Vice President, PreK-12 Operations: They have received the Board's request to send the BCLA Charter Renewal Letter to the Office of Charter Schools. The signed letter has been received and they will upload it to Epicenter. This is a 2 year renewal process. The process will begin this July with the submission of the letter. The School Leadership Report will go before the Charter School Review Board the fall of 2027 and a decision will be made in January of 2028.

- **Great Hearts Administrative Leadership**
  Jason Doughty, Executive Director of Partnership and Jerilyn Olson were both present to speak to the Board of Directors.

  Jason Doughty reported:
  - They have started the NFO and AFO training with teachers. Jason and Jerilyn both spoke today with new faculty and BCLA Lower's faculty. There was great engagement and conversations during and after today's seminar.
  - They still have a couple more weeks of intensive training still to go including Spalding instruction and Singapore Math.

  Jerilyn Olson reported:
  - As training wraps up the next focus is to work with the schools Directors on their Academy Continual Reviewal Process. They will sit down directly with the Directors and help them review their academic data and their annual goals for the year. The Great Hearts team will help the Directors review instruction and identify areas of weakness so they can make improvements throughout the year.

- **Campus Report** (see also the linked report for additional information)
  BCLA Upper - Ramon Richardson, Upper School Director
  - Current enrollment is at 684 and continuing to enroll (with 2 today and 5 yesterday). End of year enrollment numbers for 25-26 SY were 589. This is a continuation of their registration week (7/13-7/16) that had about 130 families that came through.
  - 7/14: Qualified Evaluator Training at Monroe

- 7/16: Student and Family Sports Meeting
- 7/20-7/31: Faculty Summer Professional Development
- 7/30: Back to School Night (5:00-7:00 PM)
- 7/31: Welcome Back event Cannon Ballers Game
- 8/3: First Day of School for students

BCLA Lower - Christy Williamsen, Lower School Director

- Current enrollment is at 650, and had about a dozen new students this past week. (End of year enrollment numbers for 25-26 SY were 637.) There is an issue with students who are double enrolled at both BCLA Lower and BCCA. Christy is working with Pamela to make parent calls and determine exactly which campus the student will attend.
- BCLA is fully staffed with just putting out their last offer for their final open position for the 26-27 school year.
- 7/13-7/16 uniform sales and registration drop-off successful
- 7/14 Skate Night at Fryes Huntersville
- 7/20 Teacher Summer Book Club
- 7/20-7/31 Teacher Training : all staff attending GH NFO
- 7/29 Meet the Teacher Night 5-6:30
- 7/31 Cannon Ballers Game Bonnie Cone Schools
- 8/3 First Day of School

BCCA - Pamela Franklin, Lower School Director (Pamela was in a meeting and the report was given by Ramon in her absence.)

- Current enrollment is at 869, Pamela is concerned about some of the grade level numbers. Kindergarten is currently at 152 students which is an average of 31 students per class and 3rd grade currently has 96 students which is an average of 32 students per class.
- **July 7–9:** Uniform Sales and Registration Drop-Off
- **July 14:** Kindergarten Testing
- **July 20:** Launch of the 2026–2027 school year with our theme, *"Becoming"*
- **July 20–31:** Teacher Training in partnership with Great Hearts
- **Beginning July 20:** Beginning Teacher Orientation and Training, daily from 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- **July 29:** Sixth Grade Eagle Night
- **July 30:** K–5 Eagle Night
- **August 14:** BCCA Fun Run

- **Charter One Financial Update**

Trevor Denham, Head of Finance, Charter One America: Trevor was not present at today's meeting. No one else from Charter One was present at the meeting to present the financial report to the Board. The Board Chair Marty McCarthy stated that the board would not receive this month's report until it can be presented to the board. (At 5:03 pm.)

BCS Financial Information Report

- **BCCA Board Information Report**
- **BCLA Board Information Report**

IX. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Upon request of Stephanie Newbrough, Item (DRAFT Meeting Minutes) was removed from the consent agenda and placed under New Business for separate consideration.

A **motion** to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Secretary Stephanie Newbrough. Second by Vice Chair/Treasurer Brian Puckett. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 5:05 pm.

July 2026 New Hires:

1. **BCLA**
   a. **Orlando Gordon, K-6 Teacher**
2. **BCCA**
   a. **Elizabeth Anderson, Teacher**
   b. **Immani Harewood, Teacher**
   c. **Keyana Jackson, Assistant Director**

~~**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**~~

- ~~**June 16th, 2026**~~
- ~~**June 23rd, 2026**~~
- ~~**July 6th, 2026**~~

X. Discussion/New Business/Action Items:

Seeking Board Approval:

- **Released Time Religious Instruction Policy**
  Tina Letchworth, Federal Programs, Grants & Compliance Director: Due to recent legislation that was passed and signed into law requiring all schools in NC to adopt a Released Time Religious Instruction Policy. Upon Board approval Tina Letchworth will embed the policy within our Policy Manual in the Operational Section above Admission and Enrollment Policies.

  There was a **motion** by Vice Chair/Treasurer Brian Puckett to adopt the new Released Time Religious Instruction Policy. Second by Director George Gately. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 5:06 pm.

- **DRAFT Meeting Minutes:** After a Board discussion it was determined that the DRAFT Meeting Minutes for June 16, June 23, and July 6, 2026 are not complete and therefore will be tabled until the next Board meeting.
    - **June 16th, 2026**
    - **June 23rd, 2026**
    - **July 6th, 2026**

- **Rebekah Deese:** Presented by Stephanie Newbrough to the Board for consideration for membership

XI. Closed Session: A **motion** was made to enter closed session by Director William Mills. Second by Vice Chair/Treasurer Brian Puckett. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 5:13 pm.

Pursuant to **§ 143-318.11(a)(3)(a)(6) Closed Sessions** To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

A **motion** to exit Closed Session was made by Director William Mills. Second by Director George Gately. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 6:15 pm.

A **motion** by Director William Mills was made to elect Rebekah Deese to the Bonnie Cone Schools Board of Directors for a standard two-year term, effective July 22, 2026. Second by Vice Chair/Treasurer Brian Puckett. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 6:16 pm.

XII. Announcements:

The next regular scheduled Board meeting is Tuesday, August 18, 2026

XIII. Adjournment:

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Director William Mills. Second by Secretary Stephanie Newbrough. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 all in favor at 6:16 pm.