Board Meeting Minutes
BONNIE CONE SCHOOLS
16105 Poplar Tent Road Huntersville, NC 28078
BCLA Upper School | 8-18-2026 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 Board 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 George Gately

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

Board Member	Title	Term	Attendance
Marty McCarthy	Chair	June 2028	Present
Brian Puckett	Vice Chair/Treasurer	June 2028	Absent
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	Present
Rebekah Deese	Director	August 2029	Present

VI. **Approval of the agenda:** A **motion** was made by Director George Gately to approve the agenda for 8/18/26. Second by Director Jeffrey Sich. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 6-0 all in favor at 4:46 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
  Abigail Strait said there wasn't anything major to report other than to confirm that the letter for BCS charter renewal was accepted by the office of charter schools. They have submitted the next steps to the campus leadership.

  Tina Letchworth, Director of Federal Programs, Grants & Compliance
  - **2026-27 BC Policy Manual for Board of Directors Information & Review**

  Tina Letchworth presented the 2026-27 BC Policy Manual to the board stating the only changes in the manual are indicated in red in the table of contents. The remaining items are the same as the 2025-26 Manual. This was an information item for review at the next board meeting.

  Secretary Stephanie Newbrough inquired if the manual/policies had been sent to the Board's attorney, Katie Cornetto, for review. Tina stated that Charter One's attorney had approved the policies but that she did not know if they had been sent to the Board's attorney. Board Chairman Marty McCarthy requested that a copy be sent to the Board's attorney. Katie Cornetto also requested the policy manual be sent to her. Jana Alevizatos said she would email a copy to Katie Cornetto.

- **Great Hearts Administrative Leadership:**
  Jason Doughty, Executive Director of Partnership
  Jerilyn Olson reported the academics plan is under way. They are starting academic analysis with some of the recent results creating an academic improvement plan with the directors. A team from Great Hearts will be traveling to the schools in order to walk classrooms and identify areas of instructional improvement in order to support directors. A team is coming out in mid September and again in October.

- **Campus Report:** (see also the linked report for additional information)
  BCLA Upper - Ramon Richardson, Upper School Director
  Events at BCLA Upper
  - 8/3: First Day of School (Seniors celebrated their "last" first day of school)
  - 8/4: All staff meeting - A Strong Launch: Focusing on Consistency
  - 8/5: 9th and 10th Grade Assembly School-wide expectations
  - 8/6: 11th and 12th Grade Assembly School-wide expectations

- 8/11: 7th Grade Assembly School-wide assembly
- 8/12: 8th Grade Assembly School-wide expectations
- 8/11-8/14: PLCs: Creating an Effective Testing Environment for All Students
- 8/12: Women's Varsity Volleyball Home Game against Mount Island Charter School (lost 0-3
-)8/14: Completed the sound round of quick teacher walkthroughs
- 8/17: Junior High and High School Student Government launched - campaigning begins

Announcements at BCLA Upper

- 8/18: Women's Varsity Volleyball Home Game against Jackson Day School
- 8/20: Varsity Cross Country Meet at Franke Liske Park
- 8/21: Fall Sports High School Pep Rally (4th block)
- 8/21: Varsity Football Away Game against Hickory Grove Christian
- 8/27: Collaboration Meeting with Temple Church
- 8/28: Senior Sunrise Breakfast 6:15-8:00 AM (back patio)
- 9/1: All Staff Meeting (EC, 504s, Schoolwide Data)
- 9/2: College and Career Exploration Workshop #1
- 9/8: Teacher Workday
- 9/9: College and Career Exploration Workshop #2
- 9/11: First Spirit Day
- 9/11: Patriot Day
- 9/16: Curriculum & Culture Night 5:00-6:30 PM
- 9/18: Parent/Teacher Conference (no school)

Director Marty McCarthy asked how it is going with getting new teachers up to speed with Classical Education? Ramon Richardson said he is continuing what they were doing last year, focusing on the launch of the lesson when grammar should be introduced building the foundational skills. Then leading to the logic phase from 7th-9th grade. Then once they get to the logic phase, really focusing the teachers on how they ask questions, talking about habits of discussion, and making sure they defend their points of view.

Director Marty McCarthy asked how they are doing in terms of discipline in the school? Ramon Richardson said the only issue they have seen so far are a few 8th graders with cell phones, uniforms are going fine, and a few students who have skipped have received detention.

Enrollment numbers at BCLA Upper are currently at 556 and they ended last year at 601.
Heads of school can no longer see how many pending offers there are on the new dashboard that they can see. They only see the current enrollment number.

BCLA Lower - Christy Williamsen, Lower School Director

Events at BCLA Lower

- 7/20-7/31: Two Weeks of teacher training were well received by staff with an intentional focus on GH academics with continued C1 involvement in operational and EC aspects of training, Curriculum, Culture, Connections
- 7/29: Meet the Teacher ; Well attended, most enrolled families attended
- 8/3: First Day of School
- 8/12: Team Lead GH connection
- 8/11: All Staff meeting: Flourishing Together: Eudaimonia
- 8/17 Instructional staff WOL Writing Meeting with GH
- 8/18: Faculty meeting:: Reading Focus PD from GH resources
- First Two Weeks of school observations of all teaching staff (ELA/Spalding) focus.

Announcements at BCLA Lower

- 8/25-8/27: Great Hearts Site Visit: Academics
- 8/28: First School-Wide Assembly: Wisdom
- Curriculum and Culture Night to be scheduled

Christy Williamsen holds all staff meetings once a week where she is doing professional development with staff. Once a month at the very beginning of the month all building staff attend the meeting and the following weeks are just teachers. Sessions have included Scarborough's Reading Rope, writing composition with well ordered language, and compositions like copy work, dictation and narration. Great Hearts is helping with resources.

Enrollment numbers at BCLA Lower are currently at 533 and they ended last year at 652. The issues with students being dual enrolled at BCCA and BCLA Lower has been resolved.

BCCA - Pamela Franklin, Lower School Director

Events at BCCA

- Two weeks of teacher training were a success; we successfully completed a Beginning Teacher training program daily during our Teacher Training.
- July 29th and July 30th- Meet the Teacher Orientation
- We are in our second week of observations. In week one, we focused on Literature and Spalding; in week two we are looking at Math.
- We have identified academic goals for the 2026 to 2027 school year. We are actively working towards these goals. (11 goals they are working on and the team meets about every other day to work towards these goals.)

Announcements at BCCA

- We are in the midst of our Boosterthan. As of today, we have raised $16,000 for this upcoming school year.
- We are now a CEP school- this means breakfast and lunch are free for our families regardless of income.

● Excited that in our first round of Classics to Keep novels, over 95% of scholars have purchased their materials.
● This year, we are partnering with two organizations to bring more clubs. Adding golf and Tae kwon do clubs.

Enrollment numbers at BCLA Lower are currently at 766 per C1 but Pamela Franklin stated her report has 776.

- **Charter One Financial Update:**
  Trevor Denham, Head of Finance, Charter One America
  BCS July Financial Report
    - **BCCA**
      - **BCCA Balance Sheet**
      - **BCCA Budget Remaining**
      - **BCCA Contracted Services**
      - **BCCA Statement of Cash Flows**
      - **BCCA Year-To-Date**
    - **BCLA**
      - **BCLA Balance Sheet**
      - **BCLA Budget Remaining**
      - **BCLA Contracted Services**
      - **BCLA Statement of Cash Flows**
      - **BCLA Year-To-Date**

Trevor Denham opened his report with, “Here is the summary, here is the report right here. Does the board have any questions related to this financial report?” The Board Chairman asked about the status of the days cash on hand? Trevor Denham reported 15 DCOH as of July 31, 2026. This is a continued trend downward throughout the year. Our debt coverage service ratio is essentially at zero There was negative EBITDA in July. As we generate positive EBITDA throughout the year the debt coverage service ratio should become positive.

Board Chairman Marty McCarthy asked if there is anything unusually in the report that the Board should be aware of. Trevor Denham said that there was nothing unusual to report, however the enrollment is lower than had been projected for this year. The proposed budget accounts for a total enrollment of 2125 students (BCCA 825 and BCLA 1300). Enrollment is only at 1885 currently. When asked by the Board Chairman why the enrollment is down so low Trevor Denham and Jana Alevizatos both stated they did not know why. Several board members asked how the project numbers were calculated. Trevor Denham stated that the numbers were based on average attrition over previous school years coming to 7%. However, BCS lost much higher numbers than 7% this year.

Board member Rebekah Deese requested to see a report that breaks down exactly what counties are being billed for students and how many students for each county for local funding. Trevor Denham said he could give the Board that information.

Board secretary Stephanie Newbrough brought up her concerns about the statement, “Labor costs will likely be higher than budgeted as the budget assumed labor reductions that have not been implemented” on the Financial Summary. Clarification was given that the new staff being approved for hire are replacement staff for those who moved/resigned at the end of last year.

Director William Mills asked about the budget for BCLA fiscal year 27. The proposed budget shows close to 16 million in revenue and under purchase services, contracted services are at 3.5 million. William Mills asked for a breakdown on contractual services to know exactly what that line item entails because 3.5 million is more than 15% of 16 million. Trevor Denham stated he could give a detailed accounting of the contractual services. He stated this includes management fee, custodial services, SPED providers, legal services, anything that is contracted. William Mills asked for an exact breakdown of everything that is covered under the management fee. William Mills is concerned that there are additional fees outside of the management fee that should be covered by the management fee. Trevor Denham said that would be outlined in the EMO agreement and Jana Alevizatos said she would send a copy of the agreement to William Mills.

Director Jeffrey Sich was concerned about accepting the financial report with the statement, “Labor costs will likely be higher than budgeted as the budget assumed labor reductions that have not been implemented.” Due to the wording in this statement and the concerns of the Board the directors gave a list of all the positions that were lost based on the recommendations in the spring. Following this discussion a motion was made to reject the report.

A **motion** was made to reject the financial report by Director William Mills. Second by Director Jeffrey Sich. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 6-0 all in favor at 5:34 pm.

Following this motion Jana Alevizatos from Charter One questioned why the Board was taking action. Board Chairman Marty McCarthy rebutted stating, “You were hearing from the Board. The Board has the opportunity to change directions if the Board feels it’s right to do so because the Board is in charge of the school. So, one of our Board members wants this report rejected until we get further clarification. So, it is rejected as of now.”

IX. Approval of the Consent Agenda: A **motion** was made by Secretary Stephanie Newbrough to approve the Consent Agenda for 8/18/26. Director Jeffrey Sich questioned the process of hiring staff prior to a Board approval. Following discussion the motion was Second by Director George Gately. There was no further discussion, Voice Vote 5-0 in favor with 1 absented at 5:41 pm.

August 2026 New Hires:

BCLA:

1. **Andrea Cordero, Science Teacher, 7-12**
2. **Anieta Black, Science Teacher, 7-12**
3. **Cherry Harris-Bayer, English Teacher, 7-12**
4. **Daniel Jerome Rhodes, History Teacher, 7-12**

5. **Fannie Spears, English Teacher, 7-12**
6. **Jaime Jackson, EC Teacher, K-6**
7. **Jocquez McFayden, Music Teacher, 7-12**
8. **Juneski Wright, Bus Driver, 7-12**
9. **Kerry Kelly, 1st Grade Teacher**
10. **Kirston Williams, 6th Grade Teacher**
11. **Octavia Sturdivant, EC Teacher, K-6**
12. **Terry Bruce Roney, Sub Bus Driver, 7-12**

BCCA:

1. **Ammari Morrow, 1st Grade Teacher**
2. **Chantel Grier, 5th Grade Teacher**
3. **Deanna Smith, Kindergarten Teacher**
4. **Dylan Davis, 4th Grade Teacher**
5. **Evelyn Hawkins, Receptionist**
6. **Jason Belal Hickerson, PT Specials Teacher**
7. **Joshua Hossler, Kindergarten Teacher**
8. **Renaldo Summer, EC Teacher Assistant**
9. **Taylor McNeil, 2nd Grade Teacher**
10. **Tyra Sweeney, 5th Grade Teacher**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

- June 16th, 2026
- June 23rd, 2026
- July 6th, 2026
- July 17, 2026

X. Discussion/New Business/Action Items A **motion** was made by Director George Gately to approve the annual documents that are required for federal grants to be submitted. Second by Director Rebekah Deese. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 6-0 all in favor at 5:43 pm.

Tina Letchworth, Director of Federal Programs, Grants & Compliance Seeking Board Action & Approval for:

- BCCA FY27 Debarment Certification
- BCCA FY27 NC Prayer Certification & Single Set of Assurances
- BCLA FY27 Debarment Certification
- BCLA FY27 NC Prayer Certification & Single Set of Assurances

XI. Closed Session: A **motion** was made to enter closed session by Director William Mills. Second by Director George Gately. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 6-0 all in favor at 5:43 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 the closed session was made by Director William Mills. Second by Director George Gately. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 6-0 all in favor at 6:37 pm.

No further discussion was had after exiting the closed session.

XII. Announcements:

The next regular scheduled Board meeting is Tuesday, September 15, 2026

XIII. Adjournment: A **motion** to adjourn was made by Director William Mills. Second by Director George Gately. There was no discussion, Voice Vote 6-0 all in favor at 6:38 pm.