Faith Academy Charter School Board Minutes
August Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2026 6:00 PM
Location: Upper Campus Media Center

Members present: Chair Dennis Ingold, Vice-Chair Allen Cress, Secretary Bonnie Holder, Treasurer Robert Leslie, Mike Efird, Sheri Halpin, John Hudson. Members Stephen Cowan and Allyson Summit were not present.

School Mission:

Faith Academy Charter School will prepare a diverse student body for college and career through Project Based Learning, life skills courses, and College and Technical Education pathways. Through this challenging and supportive learning environment, students address real-world problems to become successful citizens and community leaders in a rapidly changing world.

Agenda

1. **Meeting called to order & Welcome guests**
   Chairman Ingold called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. **Recitation of Mission**
   Vice Chair Cress
3. **Pledge of Allegiance - Group**
4. **Announcements and Acknowledgements**
5. **Consent Agenda**
   a. Approval of August 17, 2026 Agenda
      Robert Leslie moved to approve the Agenda as written. Vice Chair Cress seconded. Approved.
   b. Approval of July 13, 2026 Minutes
      Robert Leslie moved to approve the minutes of July 13, 2026 as presented. Mr. Efird seconded. Approved.
   c. Approval of July 29, 2026 Minutes
      Mr. Leslie moved to approve the minutes of Jul 29, 2026 as presented. Vice Chair Cress seconded. Approved.
6. **Public Comment - LINK TO FULL POLICY**
   Public comment is a time for the community to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. For in-person meetings attendees must sign up at the start of the meeting in order to give public comment. Each community member is limited to

3 minutes of comment, with a total time allotted to public comment of up to 30 minutes. During remote meetings, attendees may add their public comments to the chat feature which will be sent directly to the Board of Directors. Board members will then share the comments with the meeting attendees for up to 10 minutes.

Public comment is also a time for the Board of Directors to listen to the feedback of the community. Board members can not respond to public comments during the meeting. However, the Board recognizes that each stakeholder is a vital part of our community and will take comments into consideration when making decisions, planning, providing feedback to administration, and completing committee work.

BOARD GUIDELINES DURING THE 30 MIN. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- The designated Board Moderator of comments will end a comment at 3 minutes, or recommend to the chair that they move on from public comment after 30 minutes of total comment.
- Board members are to listen and not respond or engage in conversation during the 30 minutes of the comments portion of the Board Meeting. They are only to thank the community for the feedback.
- During the meeting or committee follow up, board members can reference comments made by the community, if appropriate in board discussion about agenda items.
- New agenda items should not be added to the current meeting due to public comment. They should be added to board committee agendas or future board meeting agendas.

New Business

7. Eagle Scout Project Presentation -

Rathbun, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church Troop 443 and sophomore at FACS requested approval to build two Gaga pits on the lower campus. He stated the project would be built by his troop and volunteers from his class. Mr. Leslie asked where the funding would be obtained. Rathbun explained he would raise the money through fundraising efforts and private donations. He said the project would cost approximately $1600. Mr. Street said he was in favor of the idea as students enjoyed this activity.

Chairman Ingold moved to approve the Eagle Scout project of two Gaga pits at the lower school, Vice Chair Cress seconded. Approved unanimously.

8. Ex-Officio Role (VOTE)

Chairman Ingold reminded the board that this issue was discussed at the previous meeting. Ms. Holder moved to approve the appointment of Nick Lefko and George Wilhelm as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Halpin seconded. Approved unanimously

9. Secretary Role and Training

Kelly Holland reviewed the role of the Secretary and how to access the information from the shared drives.

10. Committee Schedule and Members FY27 (VOTE)

Chairman Ingold acknowledged Kelly Holland who presented a list of Board committees. Members selected their committee assignments.

Stephen Cowan joined the meeting at 6:28 p.m.
Allyson Summit joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Leslie moved to approve the committee assignments. Mr. Cress seconded. Approved Unanimously.

A schedule of committee meetings was discussed. Ms. Holder moved to approve the schedule of meetings, seconded by Mrs. Summit. Approved Unanimously.

11. Bus Discussion and Family Survey Status (Update)

Mr. Mitchell gave an update and said a survey will be sent to families in the next couple weeks to obtain parent preferences. Mr. Mitchell explained that the survey results should be ready for the board review in December. Discussion followed.

12. Salaries and Bonuses FY27 (Present)

Mr. Mitchell stated that the State budget passed and included salary increases and bonuses. Following discussion, Mr. Leslie moved to approve a bonus for every employee as presented by Mr. MItchell, as well as the addition of a $1000 bonus to Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Summit. Approved unanimously Mr. Mitchell stated the administration would be requesting salary increases in local supplement at a later date.

13. Prayer Certification FY27- Title I Application (VOTE)

Mr. Mitchell explained this was a federal requirement in order to receive federal dollars for Title I, and in summary states we cannot require students to participate in prayer at school. Vice Chair Cress moved to approve the FY27 - Title I Application, seconded by Mrs. Summit. Approved Unanimously

14. Duke Energy Survey and Easement Deed

Mr. Wilhelm updated the board on the progress of the surveyor, Summit Contractors, and Duke Energy. Chair Ingold explained that temporary power does not look possible at this time. Mr. Wilhelm was given approval to discuss the need of moving the lines with the appropriate parties.

Policy:

a. Student Code of Conduct

Mr. Leslie moved to approve the Code of Conduct with updates, seconded by Vice Chair Cress Approved Unanimously.

b. Released Time Religious Instruction

Mr. Mitchell explained that State policy allows a student to attend religious instruction a minimum of one hour and/or a maximum of four hours per week as an excused absence. Mr. Leslie moved to allow one hour per week for religious attendance, seconded by Mr. Hudson. Approved unanimously.

c. Draft- Family Handbook

Mr. Leslie moved to approve the Family Handbook per Amy Hobgood's updates. Vice Chair Cress seconded.. Approved unanimously.

d. Draft- Staff Handbook

Mr. Leslie moved to approve the Staff Handbook per Amy Hobgood's updates. Vice Chair Cress seconded.. Approved unanimously.

Reports

15. Lead Administrator Report

a. E-Rate Update - Technology

Mr. Mitchell stated that the school would most likely be receiving less funding for technology (classroom computers) in the future.

b. Enrollment Update

Mr. Mitchell stated that enrollment was at 1192, and our ADM allotment was 1190. Therefore, we stand solid with funding.
Mr. Mitchell explained the budget as it stands currently.
As far as the start of school, Mr. Mitchell said it has been successful. However, improvements continue to the car rider line.
Mr. Mitchell said that roof repair and improvements are successful, and with the last rains we have gotten, there were no leaks.

Mr. Mitchell continued his summary by informing the Board that the AC had gone out in a 300 sq. ft. room next to the Media Center, and there is a need to replace it. However, the approximate costs would be $15,000, and other options don't seem to be plausible. Discussion followed. More information will be provided to the Board as obtained.

16. Questions (if any) from the Board for Lead Administrator (regarding Administrator Report)

Mr. Leslie asked about the fundraising being done by the band. Mr. Mitchell explained that it was being done, and the company chosen by Mr. Kirk is used by many schools for fundraising. Mr. Mitchell continued that the Jr. Civitan will be doing a Cheerwine sale soon as well.

17. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee- June Financials- initial final report

Mr.Mitchell reviewed the end of year report. He explained the school finished last school year at $670,000 surplus, which is a satisfactory amount. Mr. Mitchell stated that the year ended with cash $2.29M or about 70 days, and our key metric is 60 days. Mr. Mitchell explained that July 2026 shows Instructional supplies used 13% of the supply budget, which is typical for the start up for the beginning of school, but 8% is what we want to get at. Mr. Mitchell reiterated that the budget is in good shape. Mr. Leslie noted that we want to encumber a graduation expense. Mr. Mitchell advised that budget amendments will
be brought in September.

b. Personnel & Governance Committee

No report

c. Facilities, Grounds & Maintenance

Chairman Ingold explained he had been approached by Mayor Barger in the Town of Faith regarding water concerns in the town. He said there was discussion of working jointly to assist with the solution. Discussion followed The Board agreed to pursue the issue and approved Mr. Wilhelm to follow up.

d. Transportation, Traffic, Safety

No report.

e. Capital Campaign
No report

18. Club Business

a. PTO
No Report

b. Booster
Mr. Lefko stated that he attended the Booster meeting to introduce new athletic director, John McNeil. He also informed the Board he had raised $20,000 via Facebook for a new scoreboard and has other prospective donor resources to do other athletic needs. Mr. Lefko asked for approval to allow him to work on special athletic projects. The Board was in agreement to allow Mr. Lefko to pursue outreach opportunities for the athletic programs.

Closed Session
Mr. Leslie made a motion to move into Closed Session at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Vice Chair Cress. Approved

Pursuant to NC GS 143.318.11 (a1, a6)

Final Items After Closed Session:
Mr. Leslie moved to approve the personnel list as presented. Vice Chair Cress seconded. Approved unanimously.

Adjournment
Mr. Leslie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Mrs. Summit seconded. Approved.