

The College Preparatory & Leadership Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual via Zoom Platform

January 27, 2026 @ 10:00am

Members Present: Marcus Brandon (chair), Eugene Slocum, Dr. Tamara Turner, Dr. Michelle Meggs, Dr. Benita Varnado, Dr. Linda McRae, Dr. Michelle Johnson (non-voting)

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Tacuma Johnson

Public Comments: None.

Minutes

Dr. Meggs moved, E. Slocum seconded to approve the minutes from November 8, 2025.
Approved

Superintendent Report

Charter Renewal

Dr. Johnson iterated that the school is in Year 1 of the 3 years that lead up to the review for renewal.

ADM

The school's official ADM is 912, including 42 high school seniors. This is the largest ADM and largest senior class.

Academics

Due to the school scoring in the top 5% of growth in NC, NCDPI recognized several CPLA teachers with funded bonuses.

Dual Enrollment: High School Dual Enrollment is growing significantly. In Fall 2025, CPLA scholars took 230 courses, passing 217 of them for a 90% passing rate. The school is providing increased support, including a dedicated faculty member for GTCC students. The school also provided transportation and meals for students who so choose.

NC Virtual Public School: CPLA scholars have taken 79 courses at the NC Virtual Public School, with 73 courses passed. CPLA high school administrators are finding that the online classes are preparing students for the online aspects of college classes. The Director of NCVPS has asked Dr. Johnson to serve on their Advisory Board because CPLA is a model of how to successfully gain value from their platform.

GTCC President's List, Dean's List, and Honors List: CPLA has students on all these achievement lists at GTCC for the fall semester, including at least four students on the President's List which recognizes students who carry at least 12 credit hours and a 4.0 GPA.

New Hires: Dr. Johnson shared the list of new hires for Board ratification, including two Reading Specialists who retired from WS/FC Schools.

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Finance Report

Budget v. Actual Report

Dr Johnson shared the Budget v Actual report in detail and answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Johnson also reported that Guilford County Schools has not reimbursed CPLA for all its students. The school's Business Office is working with GCS to receive the reimbursements.

T. Johnson shared that the school received 2 quarters of ERC funding from the IRS. The school is awaiting funds for 2 additional filed quarters.

CPLA was not accepted into the Great Schools cohort. Chairman Brandon and Dr. Johnson shared their experiences with the process and is satisfied with the outcome. They noted that the experience seemed extremely invasive for the amount of grant money offered.

T. Johnson shared that the school was awarded two competitive grants through NCDPI: Behavior Support grant and Feminine Hygiene grant.

Approvals:

Dr. Varnado moved, Dr. Meggs seconded to ratify the new hires. Approved.

E. Slocum moved, Dr. Varnado seconded to approve the Superintendent and Financial Report as presented. Approved.

Adjournment

Dr. McRae moved, E. Slocum seconded to adjourn at 10:49. Approved.