



MARJORIE WILLIAMS ACADEMY

129 Allen Circle | Newland, NC 28657

P: 828.733.5241 F: 828.737.7915

www.williamsacademy.org

Board of Directors' Meeting

Marjorie Williams Academy

Conference Room

September 15, 2026

1:30

Link: <https://meet.google.com/wab-nnzs-vnt>

Call to Order: Williams called the meeting to order at 1:33

For Action Items:

- Elect a secretary - Austin explained the need to fill the secretary position. She discussed the responsibilities of the position and the desire for the position to be near the Academy for signature purposes – Dellinger expressed his willingness to serve. Barnhardt made a motion and Burnett seconded – all were in favor.
- Approve Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP): Austin explained the need for the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) – No questions or comments from the board. Dellinger motioned to accept and Barnhardt seconded – all were in favor.
- Approve: handbook update: Austin explained the required language needed to be updated in both the student and employee handbook. Dellinger motioned and Barnett seconded – all in favor.
 - *Code of Student Conduct*: "The Code of Student Conduct prohibits discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism as defined in G.S. 12-3.2." This should go at the introduction of your Code of Conduct.
 - *Employee conduct policy*: "[School]'s policies governing the conduct of employees prohibit discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism as defined in G.S. 12-3.2." Place this in your Equal Employment Opportunity Statement.
- Approve: submission of amended restated Bylaws to DPI – Austin explained the need to update the original bylaws that were grandfathered in but didn't align with the charter agreement. She expressed that although the updates were not called on by the State, she felt it was best practice to update and align them before the state may or may not require it.
- Approve: Opt-In Parent Leave – Austin explained that the board has to opt-in yearly for the Parent Leave funds provided from the state to cover maternity and paternity leave. Austin suggested that it is good practice to opt-in because the need may not be known until after the deadline. Dellinger motioned and Barnhardt seconded – all were in favor.
- Review the NCOS Guidance for Charter School Boards – Austin reviewed the NCOS Guidance for Charter School Boards focusing on Governance and the process for board meetings. Austin explained the steps taken before during and after the meeting to be in compliance.

For Information Items:

- Austin announced that Scholastic arrived yesterday and the bookfair will begin Friday if not sooner. The bookfair will run until next Thursday. Austin stated her appreciation to the Williams Family Foundation that donated money for each student to receive a credit of \$15 to get at least one book.
- Dates to know: Austin review the following monitoring visits in the upcoming years
 - BTSP Monitoring visit next July – pre-visit in October
 - BTSP will be completed in 2027 for a 5 year term (2032)
 - Consolidated Federal Programs – 2027-2028 monitoring visit
 - IDEA – 2027-2028 monitoring visit
 - Charter renewal 2024 – for 7 years (2031) will reach out in 2029 – visit 2030 and vote for approval of 2031 renewal 3, 5, 7 or 10 years.
 - Cognia Accreditation – 2032 – will reach out in 2029 for mid-term review – contact in 2031 to start reaccreditation process.
- Austin was very excited to report the school report card grade of a 65 = C – up 12 points from last year, 5 points from the year before, the highest report card grade since the inception of the report card in 2014 (60-C), 5 points from a B. Austin expressed her excitement that the faculty and staff are committed to achieving a B for the 2026-2027 school year
- Board meeting dates: Third Tuesday of the month @1:30 – Hybrid – Location Marjorie Williams Academy Conference room and link will be sent. Austin reminded of the upcoming meeting date
 - **October 20, 2026**
 - **November 17, 2025**
 - **December – no meeting**
 - **January 19, 2027**
 - **February 16, 2027**
 - **March 16, 2027**
 - **April 13, 2027**
 - **May 18, 2026 – Annual -** (Possible motion to move to May 20)
 - **July 1, 2026 – Close Out - e-meeting**
- Budget – expenses to date – Austin reviewed the month financial at-a-glance and focused on the local funds and the need to increase those funds to 900K
- Updates – no updates – Austin reviewed the upcoming events
- Enrollment – Austin reported enrollment to be 129 students - 81 Community 48 Residential – and the decrease in residential numbers in the past 2 weeks.
- Public Input - None
- Adjourn – no further questions or comments. Barnett motioned to adjourn and Dellinger seconded – all were in favor. Williams adjourned at 2:29

Meeting minutes approved and submitted by Tommy Dellinger, Secretary – 9-16-26

Upcoming Events

Sept. 28 - Picture day

Oct. 7 - OWD

Oct. 8-12 - Fall Break

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Holiday

Nov. 23-27 - Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 11-17 - EOC Testing

Dec. 18-31 - Christmas/Winter Break

Jan. 1 - New Year Holiday

Jan. 4 - 5 - OWDs

Jan. 6 - First Day 2nd Semester

Jan. 18 - MLK Holiday

Jan. 28 - Make up Picture Day (not posted)

Feb. 15 - OWD

March 15 - OWD

March 25 - Early Dismissal (11:15)

March 26 - OWD

March 29 – April 2 - Easter/Spring Break

April 23 - Early Dismissal (11:15)

April 24 - Prom

May 10–21 - EOG/EOC Testing

May 20 - Incentive Prize Picks (1:00) Process change possible

May 20 - Capping and Pinning (4:00)

May 21 - Last Day/Awards Day (8:30)/Early Dismissal (11:15)

May 21 - Graduation (1:30)

Mission Statement: The mission of Marjorie Williams Academy is to offer *a stable, emotionally supportive, educational environment* for children with a goal of empowering each child *to achieve his or her real academic and social potential.*

Vision: The vision of Marjorie Williams Academy is to become a model school for academic achievement.

BELIEFS:

- Academic growth of all students is the priority of the school
- Students learn best in an environment that promotes student active engagement using a variety of strategies that accommodate diverse learning styles and intellectual levels
- Healthy, safe, orderly and caring environments promote student learning
- Parent, community, and school collaboration are vital to the success of school's mission
- Students will develop a respect and responsibility for community through active participation in service oriented opportunities
- Opportunities and exposure to experiences beyond the school will influence students towards setting positive goals for future

- On-going and meaningful professional development is crucial to teacher growth and ability to provide quality instruction.