

Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
6:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President McDonald. McDonald recited the School's Mission and Vision statements to start the meeting, with thanks to Healy for suggesting this action.

2. Roll Call / Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda. The following board members were in attendance: Balliet, Healy (remote), Sullivan, Pavlakovich, Reusswig, and Valego. The following staff members were present: Leonard (Principal), O'Connor (Operations Manager), and Ioannidis (CEO). Additionally, the following member of the public was in attendance: M. Valego (student).

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

By unanimous vote on motion by Valego, seconded by Reusswig, the Board approved the Minutes of January 20, 2026.

5. CEO/Administrative Reports

Leonard reported on the current enrollment (205). The projected enrollment for next year is 195 with one more audition date on February 21. The staff are working through the final

candidates and the wait list; an “intent-to-return” survey will be sent to current students to declare the status for the following year.

Information Items

Congratulations were shared to all of the CASA Theatre students that attended the Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre's 2026 "Shakes-Peers" Competition yesterday in Lancaster. CASA was not only a first-time participant, but we “*slayed*” the competition by taking four of the top nine monologue spots - Ella McKell and Ash Aguayo were in the mix - Lucy Tibbs took third and Thea Bevacqua took second place overall! Both students won cash prizes! Ash Aguayo's Shakespeare scene took second place and also walked away with a cash prize!

Additionally, two Apollo award honorees were acknowledged! For Outstanding Support Actress in a Play, the nominee is Caitlin Shorey as Marci in *Almost, Maine*. Honorable Mention went to Blair O'Neil as Rhonda in *Almost, Maine*.

Items Recommended for Approval

By unanimous vote on motion by Pavlakovich, seconded by Valego, the Board approved the Board Resolution regarding Charter Amendment Request No. 1, as noted in the Attachment.

By unanimous vote on motion by Reusswig, seconded by Balliet, the Board approved the following items:

- a. The agreement with Studio Dormi, Inc. to place a vending machine in the School cafeteria (Attachment)
- b. The Math Competition Field Trips (Attachment)
- c. The formation of the student Wellness Club (Attachment)

By unanimous vote on motion by Pavlakovich, seconded by Balliet, the Board approved the following items:

- a. The dual enrollment agreement with Immaculata University (Attachment)

- b. The CEO to contract with recommended agency for a One-to-One Special Education Classroom Assistant for the remainder of the year, with agreement to be ratified at the next meeting
- c. Designating April 2, 2026, as a virtual day for students to make-up the snow day from December 23, 2025

6. Board President / Committee Reports

President noted that Board members are planning a series of activities to show appreciation to the staff of CASA. Also, McDonald noted the need to plan ahead to name a slate of officers for the next fiscal year.

Strategic Planning/Curriculum Committee met last Friday and earlier, under the leadership of Brian Griffith to resume the strategic planning process. A timetable was developed for sending out surveys to stakeholders, gathering and analyzing the responses, and presenting a document to the Board in June.

Personnel/HR Committee met on February 4 to continue the review of the position descriptions which will be have a final review in March for presenting to the Board that month.

Communications Committee will continue to be available to support marketing and communication efforts in advance of the many events and the Foundation's fundraiser.

7. Treasurer's Report

By unanimous vote on motion by Reusswig, seconded by Pavlakovich, the Board accepted the January 2026 Financial Reports and approved the invoices presented for payment.

8. Budget Administration

O'Connor shared updates on employee-related costs that will be incorporated in the budget development. A first look at benefits' rates for next year are expected in April (health and dental). Vision rates proposed by NVA are increasing; MyBenefitsAdvisor will seek alternate proposals. Hartford rates (life insurance) renewed at no increase for next two years (!), and

PSERS rate for 2026-27 is 33.59% (down from 34%). A proposal for offering a Section 125 Plan along with employee-paid insurance products will be considered.

9. Other Fiscal Matters

By unanimous vote on motion by Pavlakovich, seconded by Valego, the Board authorized the CEO to pay down the line-of-credit to a \$0.00 balance and keep it open for future use.

10. Personnel Matters

The math position remains posted with limited results of qualified candidates.

11. Policies and Programs

Ioannidis noted the potential to ask parents to advocate for transportation equity between what is provided to students attending schools of residence vice charter schools.

12. CASA Charter School Foundation Report

On behalf of Foundation Board President Skerpon, Reusswig reported on the planning for this year's "A Taste of the Arts" event. The stretch goal is \$100,000. The Annual Appeal has raised \$23,605 to-date. EITC funds received are at \$7,500 with the majority of funds coming in February and March, in prior years. Communications will be going out to the CASA Community for the "Taste of the Arts" fundraiser.

13. Information Items

An updated calendar of events was shared.

Healy departed from the meeting at 7:19 PM.

14. Public Comment on non-Agenda Items

Student M. Valego asked about having the Prom Event note on the calendar on our website. Also, Valego reported on the election of the Junior Class officers; noting it could be helpful to have student representation formalized at Board meetings.

15. Next Board Meeting date

McDonald noted that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2026.

16. Adjournment

By unanimous vote on motion by Pavlakovich, seconded by Balliet, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.