

**ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER SCHOOL  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**HELD March 2, 2026**

**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Alain Locke Charter School**

**3141 W. Jackson**

**Chicago, IL 60612**

Directors Present: Catherine Burns, Chair  
Nora Ligurotis  
John McLaughlin  
Steve Perlman  
Shabree Todd  
Robert Horne (video)  
James Palos (video)

Directors Absent: Patrick G. Ryan, Jr.  
Nosa Ehimwenman  
Carla Black

Staff Present: Patrick Love  
Judy McGarvey (video)  
Vonyell Foster  
Erin Gilmore

Chairperson Burns called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm.

Vonyell Foster presented the Mission Moment and highlighted several recent student experiences and academic showcases. Seventh- and eighth-grade students participated in a History Fair in which they created original websites as part of their submissions. A total of 22 students advanced to the Chicago Metro History Day Competition scheduled for March 7, 2026, with entries including exhibits, documentaries, research papers, and original websites.

In celebration of Black History Month, 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade student studied Black inventors and innovators, and then presented a gallery walk for the Pre-K through fourth-grade students. The younger students engaged with presentations delivered in character by older students portraying historical figures. Additionally, eighth-grade students participated in the Heritage Bowl, a Family Feud-style trivia competition. A special guest, the first Black president of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Chicago, attended the event.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The Board expressed appreciation to Carla Black, Nora Ligurotis, Steve Pearlman, and Dr. Catherine Burns for their continued contributions and support.

The Board also recognized the 22 seventh- and eighth-grade students who will represent ALCS at the Chicago Metro History Day Competition on March 7, 2026.

Principal Love shared his report, noting that the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will take place during the weeks of March 9 and March 16.

He also provided a mid-year update on NWEA assessment results. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade achieved a 2.8-point increase in overall reading and math proficiency from the previous year. He also shared that student growth data indicates strong performance trends, including significant math growth in grades K–4, notable reading growth in grades K–3, and 77% of eighth-grade students performing in the high-average quartile in reading. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also demonstrated above-average growth in math. Principal Love shared that he has collaborated with each grade-level team to develop targeted action plans to address identified strengths and areas for growth.

Vonyell Foster presented the higher education report and shared information on key initiatives for the semester to increase parent engagement, expand high school exposure, strengthen academic monitoring, and enhance literacy, cultural enrichment, and youth empowerment programming. At the present time, the ALCS team has received 62 applications, and 98% of participating students have indicated their intent to return for the 2026-27 school year.

Nora Ligurotis, Steve Pearlman and Principal Love shared an enrollment update, reporting that the SY27 enrollment campaign is fully underway. Updated marketing materials, including car magnets and flyers, have been developed and distributed. Digital outreach efforts are active, including Google Ads, the Bloom parent website, and social media platforms. The admissions lottery is scheduled for April 24.

The next board meeting will be held on April 27, 2026, from 4:30pm-6:00pm at Alain Locke.

Chairperson Burns adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Gilmore  
Board Secretary