



July 16, 2026

Section	Purpose	Time
1. Welcome & Framing	Reconnect to mission, name outcomes for the meeting	5 min
2. EP Progress Report	Samantha shares updates on goals, data, and priorities	15–20 min
3. Committee Reports	Each committee chair gives a concise update - Exec/ governance - Finance	15 min
4. Strategic Discussion / Deep Dive	1. AI Priority Update 2. Board Composition Update	20–25 min
5. Closing & Next Steps	Confirm follow-ups, appreciation, and next meeting cadence	5 min

Promise Academy Board Meeting Notes

Date: July 16, 2026

Duration: 1 hour 42 minutes

Facilitators/ Guests: Amy Galloway, Andre Warren

Attendees: Samantha Buford, Charles Gerber, Diana Burton, Colenzo Hubbard, Katherine White, Emily Woodside, Anthony Branch, Candis Dawson

Promise Academy Board Meeting Summary

The Promise Academy Board convened on July 16, 2026, for a strategic midsummer update focused on school readiness, leadership capacity, academic systems, and innovation initiatives ahead of the 2026–27 school year.

Mission & Vision Reflection

Board members opened by reconnecting to Promise’s mission and vision, naming the continued importance of nurturing the mind, cultivating lifelong learners, and preparing worldready leaders. Members also highlighted the school’s commitment to holistic development—mind, body, and spirit—and the role of innovation in advancing student outcomes.

School Leader Update



Principal Samantha Buford shared significant progress toward a strong school year launch:

- **Staffing & Leadership:** The leadership team is fully hired, with new instructional coaches and a literacy coach in place. Nearly all teaching positions are filled, with only one remaining vacancy (3rd grade math). Strategic role adjustments were made to strengthen technology support and socialemotional services.
- **Academic Systems:** The master schedule has been redesigned to improve intervention and specials. Curriculum maps, coaching plans, and a detailed First Six Weeks Plan—aiming for 95% student engagement—are complete.
- **School Culture:** A new *Heart Room* has been established as a restorative reset space, supported by clear documentation systems and strengthened morning meeting and celebration routines.
- **AI Pilot:** The thirdgrade AI pilot is on track for launch. Summer diagnostics showed strong student engagement, and staffing adjustments will ensure reliable technology support.
- **Compliance:** Family, student, and staff handbooks have been fully updated. Charter Commission feedback aligns with areas already in progress.

Committee Reports

- **Finance:** Budget tracking remains strong; updated reporting will be shared next week.
- **Executive Governance:** The committee begun drafting a datadriven evaluation framework for the school leader, emphasizing academic achievement, coaching effectiveness, culture, and innovation.

Board Development & Recruitment

The board reviewed its updated roster and identified priority recruitment needs, including legal expertise, financial leadership, marketing/communications, and instructional experience. New Memphis provided a slate of potential candidates for cultivation.

Action Items

- Launch an 11day kindergarten enrollment plan
- Provide full-year AI pilot success metrics at the next meeting
- Submit updated board bios and headshots by July 31
- Continue targeted board recruitment aligned to identified skill needs

Next Meetings



- Executive Governance Committee: July 30
- Full Board Meeting: August 13

Promise Academy enters the 2026–27 school year with strong momentum, a fully staffed leadership team, and clear systems designed to elevate academic excellence, strengthen culture, and advance innovation for students.