

AVIATION TECHNICIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2026

The Aviation Technician Education Council held its quarterly board meeting via Teams. Those in attendance included—

Attended	First	Last	ATEC Title	Company
X	Jared	Britt	Vice President	Aviation Education Academy
X	Sean	Gallagan	Director	Aviation Workforce Solutions
X	Jim	Hall	President	WSU Tech
X	Mark	Holloway	Director	Aviation Institute of Maintenance
O	Gary	Hoyle	Past President	Consultant
X	Crystal	Maguire	Exec Director	ATEC
X	Tarra	Ruttman	Ops Manager	ATEC
X	Michael	Sasso	Secretary/Treasurer	Aims Community College
X	Sheryl	Oxley	Director	Tulsa Technology Center
X	Scott	Sykes	Director	U.S. Aviation Academy
X	Greg	Emerson	Director	American Airlines
X	Suzanne	Markle	Director	Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics
X	Scott	Ferris	Director	United Airlines
X	David	Blanton	Director	Liberty University
X	Archie	Vega	Director	Launch
X	Gillette	Samms	Director	Alabama Community College System
X	Jeremy	Rangel	Director	Duncan Aviation
X	Denise	Hensley	Director Elect	Putnam City Schools
O	Kelly	Filgo	Guest	Choose Aerospace

President J. Hall called the meeting to order at 11:00am CT. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2026, meeting. The motion passed without objection.

Finance

The Board reviewed ATEC's financial performance and noted that the association remains ahead of budget with strong cash flow heading into the summer months. Accounts receivable remain low, and staff continue to actively follow up on outstanding balances.

Conference revenue exceeded projections for both exhibitor sales and attendee registrations. Sponsorship commitments will continue throughout the summer and is expected to reach year-end targets. The presenting sponsorship of \$50,000 has been secured with Bombardier and will be invoiced before fiscal year end.

Membership renewals reached 85%, surpassing the 80% retention target established following the recent dues increase. Exchange agreement revenue from Ekanos is expected later this summer.

The Board also reviewed the strong performance of the ATEC Academy, which generated revenue above budget despite originally being projected to operate at a deficit during its launch phase. Academy expenses remain under budget even as the program expands to four cohorts this fiscal year, exceeding the three cohorts originally budgeted. Based on current performance, leadership believes the Academy can serve as a sustainable revenue-generating program moving forward.

Conference expenses concluded on budget, further contributing to the organization's positive financial outlook.

Looking ahead to FY27 budget planning, leadership discussed ensuring additional funds are available to support continued work on ACS recommendations and handbook development after the NASA grant funds expire. Crystal will rename the current "Contractors" line item to "Professional Services." The proposed budget for next year will focus on stabilizing revenue streams and building reserves for the future.

Annual Conference

Planning continues for upcoming ATEC conferences and events. Wichita remains the host site for the 2027 Annual Conference, with a site visit scheduled next week to finalize the agenda and hotel arrangements. Denver is the tentative location for the 2028 conference, with proposed dates of April 2–5 and a site visit planned for July 29–30. Future conference locations under consideration include Miami, Tulsa, and Mobile.

Operations

The Board was reminded that board nominations are due July 15 and that one A&P school representative seat is available to fill.

The annual member survey achieved its highest participation rate to date, with responses from more than half of all schools surveyed. Preliminary findings indicate that A&P certification rates increased by more than 20 percent during the first quarter of 2026. A draft report is expected in August, with final publication planned during the September Fly-in.

The Board reviewed three proposed bylaw amendments that will be presented for approval in September. These amendments would allow Additional Training Locations to maintain separate memberships when enrolling students independently, establish an Affiliate Membership category for partner trade associations, and create an Individual Membership category to support strategic initiatives related to Choose Aerospace.

Choose Aerospace

Leadership reviewed the performance of the Choose Aerospace program during the 2025–2026 academic year. Enrollment reached 1,237 students across 23 states. Outcome survey results from approximately 100 program completers indicated that roughly one-third plan to attend an A&P school, one-third intend to enter MRO employment directly, and approximately 15% are already employed within the aviation industry.

The ATEC Credential achieved a 58% overall pass rate, while students enrolled through participating part 147 schools demonstrated a 96% pass rate.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the program is transitioning to a new funding model that includes increased school licensing fees, a goal of securing \$200,000 in industry contributions from at least ten organizations, and continued pursuit of federal grant opportunities through the Department of Labor and FAA.

Additional curriculum development efforts will focus on expanding hands-on learning through project kits for high schools and launching a paid subject matter expert program to support curriculum review, content development, and teacher training.

Regulatory

ATEC plans to file its Choose Aerospace petition for exemption with the FAA by the end of the month. The exemption strategy relies on creating an Individual Membership category that would allow qualifying Choose Aerospace students to become ATEC members and therefore meet eligibility requirements under the petition.

The ACS working group is finalizing recommendations and meeting with FAA representatives for feedback before submitting formal recommendations later this summer.

Discussion also focused on delays affecting ODA applications and the concerning FAA requirement that ODA unit members attend training in Oklahoma City, which already faces capacity constraints without adding the additional seats that would be required for ODA unit members.

Additionally, ATEC submitted a Freedom of Information Act request seeking DME testing data to assist prospective DME applicants in demonstrating local testing demand.

An updated to FAA Order 8900.95 is expected to publish by month's end, including potential changes that would permit schools to pay DMEs directly for testing conducted during business hours, while acknowledging concerns regarding ethics and oversight.

ATEC plans to draft a recommendation for the FAA to consider as a response to FAA reauthorization mandate in Section 426 and 605 regarding military transition and early testing. That recommendation will support the creation of a "general rating" to improve pathways for military personnel transitioning into civilian aviation maintenance careers.

Leadership also discussed the inactivity of the FAA rulemaking advisory committee and opportunities for ATEC to provide recommendations directly to the agency while reconstitution of that body and associated working groups are pending.

Legislative

Registration and hotel reservations are currently open for the September Fly-in.

The Board discussed ongoing advocacy efforts related to FAA reauthorization and workforce development.

Legislative efforts will continue to focus on workforce development funding and implementation of FAA reauthorization provisions that affect aviation maintenance training programs. The Board also discussed workforce grant advocacy efforts and ATEC's intention to support clean appropriations for future grant dollars to ensure funding remains accessible to aviation maintenance schools.

ATEC Academy

The Board reviewed continued growth of the ATEC Academy and supported plans to transition the program to a quarterly delivery model. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for Atlanta in September and Texas in January.

Leadership also discussed the potential creation of a Leadership Academy track specifically designed for part 147 school administrators to address leadership turnover and preserve institutional knowledge within the industry.

Membership

Membership performance remains strong, with renewal rates reaching 85% despite the recent dues increase. Board members were encouraged to continue outreach efforts to non-member schools and support membership recruitment and retention initiatives.

Membership invoices will also be issued to LAUNCH where Director Archie Vega is now the VP of MRO Services and Aviator College that was recently purchased by US Aviation Academy as part of ongoing membership development activities.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM CT.