

**MINUTES**  
**ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MEETING DATE: September 29, 2023**  
**5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063**

**Conference Call - 9:30AM**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by the Chairman. In attendance were board Members DuMont, Alessi and Leonti and Ms. Johnson, ACA Principal.**

**I. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Ratification of May 23rd, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes**

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Ratify items and actions taken from the last Board Meeting.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:** Review, approval, and comments

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

**EXHIBIT:** Meeting Minutes from May 2023, Board Meeting

**DISCUSSION:** Final Minutes of the aforementioned Board Meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. With all Board Members having reviewed them and there being no comments, Board Chair DuMont motioned for their approval. Mr. Alessi seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Board Action:**

**Approved:**   X  

**Disapproved**     

**Tabled**     

**II. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Review of final audit draft and draft audited financial statements**

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Review the final annual budget as disclosed in the financial statements and address any control matters noted as a part of the financial audit.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:** Each year all charter schools must compare the preliminary budget to the final budget and perform an annual financial audit by an independent certified public accountant.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Cost for audit is \$8000.00.

**EXHIBIT:** Draft of audited financial statements and management letter

**DISCUSSION:** All financial budgets have been approved and have been issued. Mr. DuMont and Ms. Johnson confirmed the completion of the audit, with internal controls considered adequate and no weaknesses identified by the independent auditors, King & Walker. McCrady & Associates, consistent with previous years, assisted in ensuring compliance with all GAAP and GAAS, and governmental reporting requirements and other control measures for the audit and disclosures. Mr. Alessi and Ms. Leonti confirmed that they had reviewed the draft and had no comments. Mr. DuMont emphasized the Board's requirement to approve final financials, aligning them with the presented budget for the 2023/2024 school year. Mr. DuMont motioned to approve the financials, inclusive of the final budget as was presented therein. Mr. Alessi seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Board Action Taken:**

Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

### III. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve the FCPCS evaluation system for use by the school.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:** The school must identify which teacher and administrator evaluation plan the school will use.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Annual fee of \$4.00 per student for FCPCS membership

**EXHIBIT:** Administrator and Student Services Personnel Evaluation Forms

DISCUSSION: Ms. Johnson recommended that ACA should continue to use the same evaluation process provided by Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools, as in previous years. Ms. Johnson provided background information and the advantages of ACA continued partnership with the FCPCS. It was agreed that ACA will continue to use the FCPS evaluation system. Mr. DuMont motioned to approve this item and Ms. seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Board Action Taken:**

Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** 2023-2034 Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) Proposed Salary Distribution Plan and Employee Compensation Plan

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Review and approve the 2023-2034 Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) Proposed Salary Distribution Plan

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:** The governing board must approve the proposed plan and use of funds. The estimated distribution amount is \$72,087.00.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

**EXHIBIT:** TSIA Proposed Salary Distribution Plan and All Charter School Distribution Plan Chart

DISCUSSION: Ms. Johnson stated that ACA does not have a formal employee compensation plan. Instead, the annual budget serves as documentation, outlining positions, salaries, and any additional stipends, and recommendations for raises reviewed annually, review of benchmarked salaries within Broward County, reviewed as independent need requires based upon candidate qualifications. Ms. Johnson assured compliance with the use of the TSIA grant proceeds and adherence to teacher salary standards. Furthermore, Ms. Johnson confirmed the completion and

submission of the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation plan to Charter Tools. Based upon the information provided, Mr. DuMont recommended approval of the plan presented and the use of funds, all being compliant with TSIA standards. Mr. Alessi seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Board Action Taken:**

Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**V. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: 2023/2024 Mental Health Plan**

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Review and approve the 2023/2024 Mental Health Plan

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:** Charter schools must establish a Mental Health plan which outlines the program and planned expenditures to establish or expand school-based mental health care consistent with the statutory requirements for the mental health assistance allocation.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT:** Mental Health Plan

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Johnson presented the mental health plan, highlighting Ms. Azuero as the current mental health counselor at ACA. Additionally, this year, ACA entered a partnership with Venture Design to introduce a social worker. The social worker is on campus once a week and Ms. Johnson indicated that her presence and impact has proven to be highly beneficial for both students, guardians, and staff. With no questions raised, Mr. DuMont motioned for the approval of the mental health plan. Mr. Alessi seconded, and the motion was carried out unanimously.

**Board Action Taken:**


Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

**Tabled \_\_\_\_\_**

**With there being no further actions or matters for the Board, Mr. DuMont, adjourned the meeting at 10:35AM.**

**Signed by:**



Mr. Dumont (Jan 12, 2024 08:41 EST)

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**Mr. Greg DuMont, Governing Board Chair**



Cheryl Leonti (Jan 12, 2024 08:22 EST)

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**Ms. Cherly Leonti**

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**Mr. Vincent Alessi**