**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
**ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**
**SPECIAL MEETING DATE: November 10, 2025**
**5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063**

**A meeting has been called to discuss and approve operation and budget matters.**
**The meeting began with an overview of enrollment and current funding.**
**Vincent Alessi, as Chairman of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 8:55AM**
**Roll call was taken with the following members on the call: Board Chair Vincent Alessi, Board Members Sharon Airaghi, Matt Ferrelli and Angel Gomez, Principal, Dr. Kathrine Pierandozzi and Operations Administrator, Denise Garcia. The Board Meeting was open to the public.**
**The following 8 agenda items were discussed:**

**I.** **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Ratification of previous 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 July 31, 2025 Board Meeting

**DISCUSSION:** After a review of the previous Board Meeting minutes, all Board Members agreed, and Mr. Alessi motioned for approval. Sharon Airaghi approved the motion with Matt Ferrelli second.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**II.** **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Review of SY 25/26 Operating Budget and Enrollment

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Detailed review of all monthly operating expenses, current cash position and projected revenue.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: The Governing Board would like to review operating expenses and reduction in revenue due to a significant drop in enrollment to determine the impact to the budget.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT: SY** 25/26 Annual Budget and expense/revenue spreadsheet

**DISSCUSSION:** ACA is currently facing a decline in enrollment. The board is working closely with Dr. Pierandozzi to increase enrollment and reduce expenses. The Board has approved budget cuts and a plan has been created to monitor revenue/expenses to ensure proper fiscal responsibility and positive cash flow.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**III.** **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Marketing/Community Outreach Plan for increasing enrollment

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Board would like to discuss the principal's detailed outreach plan for increasing enrollment.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: The Governing Board will review the plan for ACA's Marketing and Outreach.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD**

**EXHIBIT: Community Outreach Plan**

**DISSCUSSION:** Dr. Pierandozzi stated that enrollment efforts have been ongoing. Mailers have been sent out to the community as well as involvement in local community events. We have been losing and gaining students each month which results in slower enrollment growth. We have gain approx. 20 new $9^{th}$ graders, however, we have lost quite a bit of students to other local High Schools. Angel Gomez has a concern regarding our low enrollment and would like explore the root causes including academic sufficiency. Kathy has held regular staff meetings to address enrollment issues.

Outreach plan - We will begin an enrollment fundraiser which involves the students and parents. ACA will host a Spring Open House and offer gift cards to families who refer registering students.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved _X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**IV. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Construction update and timeline for additional classrooms

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Board will discuss the classroom expansion project including timelines and remaining invoice balances

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: The construction project has not been completed and additional work has been added to the original construction bid. This will require board approval.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD**

**EXHIBIT: Change orders for additional work**

**DISCUSSION:** CO 1 will be paid once Kathy confirms all work has been completed. Vince will negotiate CO 7 and request approx. 20% reduction to the cost. CO 12 and 13 will be negotiated.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved _X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**V.** **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Legal notice related to the Educational Program Design for Ascend Career Academy.

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Board will discuss the notice received from the Charter Department of Broward County Public Schools

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: BCPS has sent a Legal notice related to the Educational Program Design for Ascend Career Academy. The notice applies to virtual instruction for credit recovery as it relates to our Charter Agreement.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT:** Legal notice from BCPS and Charter Agreement for Ascend Academy

**DISSCUSSION:** Vince will reach out to Donte to gain clarity on the situation and where we are non compliant. Once he speaks with Donte, he will draft a formal response letter for the district.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved _X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**VI. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** ACA Survey to staff, students and parents

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Board is requesting to conduct the following surveys:

- School Culture Survey
- Student/Parent Survey
- Staff Survey

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: The Governing Board would like insight into the culture of Ascend Academy. The Board will develop and conduct a survey for students, parents and staff to see what we can do better to increase enrollment.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

**EXHIBIT:** N/A

**DISSCUSSION:** Survey was approved by Sharon and Matt.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**VII. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Holiday Plans/Staff Incentives

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Board would like to approve holiday plans and an amount for staff holiday incentives.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: The Board would like to give the staff gift card(s) for Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays. An amount needs to be approved and budgeted.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT:** N/A

**DISSCUSSION:** $100 gift card for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The school will serve and thanksgiving style meal for students and the staff will participate in a potluck lunch.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved _X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

VIII. **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

**DISSCUSSION:** FCPCS renewal for membership will be due in November. Mr. Alessi recommended that the FCPCS evaluation and process be utilized consistent with prior years, it being adequate for Ascend Academy, and motioned to approve utilization of the FCPCS evaluation for SY 25/26. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved _X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

IX. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approval of expenditures for CAP Grant**

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve purchases related to CAP Grant

**SUMMARY EMPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:** All proposed plans and expenditures must be approved before a budget narrative can be created and submitted for approval.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Approx 35-40k

**EXHIBIT:** Proposed expenditures for CAP Grant

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved __X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**X.** **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Employee Compensation Plan

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Discussion of employee compensation plan.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: All charter schools are required to have a sustainable compensation plan for its employees.

**DISCUSSION:** We do not have a formal Employee Compensation Plan. ACA follows the annual budget to ensure that we are compliant with meeting state standards and our within our budget limits. ACA maintains a spreadsheet listing each position with title and their salary with any additional stipends which serve as a formal employee compensation plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT:** Board Approved Annual Budget With Salaries

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: November 10, 2025**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**Signed By:**

Vincent Alessi
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**(Governing Board Chair)**

Matt Farrelli
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**(Governing Board Member)**

Angel Gomez
___________________________________________

**(Governing Board Member)**

Sharon Airaghi
___________________________________________

**(Governing Board Member)**