**MEETING MINUTES**
**ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**
**SPECIAL MEETING DATE: April 20, 2026**
**5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063**

**A meeting has been called to discuss and approve operation and budget matters at ACA.**

**Vincent Alessi, as Chairman of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 9:09AM**

**Roll call was taken with the following members on the call: Board Chair Vincent Alessi, Board Members Sharon Airaghi, Matt Ferrelli and Angel Gomez.**

**The Board Meeting was open to the public. The following 7 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

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Alessi reviewed the previous Board Meeting minutes and asked the Board if there were any questions, concerns or amendments needed. The Board agreed unanimously that the Board minutes were clear and correct with no changes needed.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

**EXHIBIT:** Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2026 Board Meeting

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20 2026**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

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

**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 revenue for planning of the upcoming school year.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Garcia presented the budget information to the board including our current cash position, expected revenue and current expenditures. We have a current monthly deficit of approx. 20k based on a funded enrollment of 178 students and approx. 145k in monthly expenditures. Given the current financial pattern, the current account balance of 355k will be reduced to 295k by July 31, 2026. ACA will receive a final Referendum Payment in July for 213k. ACA will start the upcoming school year with an operation balance of 523k. The goal will be to increase enrollment to at least 200 by the first day count. This will bring the deficit to a positive balance. It was determined ACA has enough in rolling capital to rehire the Campus Monitor for the upcoming school year to address safety and security issues on campus and the Board has approved this decision.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT: SY** 25/26 Monthly Revenue/Expenses spreadsheet

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20, 2026**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**III.** **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Enrollment/Marketing Strategies

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The board will discuss current enrollment and marketing strategies to increase enrollment for the upcoming school year.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: ACA is expecting approx. 58 graduates this year. A marketing plan needs to be established to replace the loss to enrollment.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Billy presented the enrollment tracker to the Board. We have increased from 171 students to a current enrollment of 194 students. We captured an enrollment of 178 students during February FTE and received an increase of 18k in funding. The Board presented many enrollment ideas including capitalizing on the poor reputation of surrounding schools and hosting and end of year open house. Ms. Billy will attempt to cross promote with West Broward Academy and will reach out the owner of the new construction apartments in the plaza. ACA will also host an end of the year BBQ in the front parking lot to celebrate graduates and promote enrollment. Ms. Maribel will determine the cost to send mailers in June and work with Ms. Billy and Jim Neer on creating new flyers that best represents the environment of ACA and is appealing to local families.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD**

**EXHIBIT: N/A**

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20, 2026**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**IV. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Graduation updates

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Discuss logistics and expenses related to graduation

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: ACA will have their graduation ceremony on May 30th at 2pm. The ceremony will take place on campus and ACA will need to plan for the safety and security of students and families.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Maribel led the discussion and invited the Board to attend graduation on May 30th. Governing Board Chair, Vincent Alessi, will be the Guest Speaker and ACA will implement a marketing opportunity at the graduation entrance. Approx. 60 students are expected to graduate. The total cost for graduation is budgeted at 5k.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** $5,000

**EXHIBIT:** N/A

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20, 2026**

**Approved_**X**__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**V. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Staffing discussion for SY 26/27

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The board will review all positions and address staffing needs for the upcoming school year.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: Current Math teacher, Cecilia Hammett will be retiring this year and ACA will need to fill the position. The board will also review letters of intent and decide on contract renewals. Ads will be posted for all open positions.

**DISCUSSION:** Ads will be posted for Math, Social Studies and a full-time ESE specialist who will also assist with literacy. The Board has approved current and projected salaries. A final budget will be approved at the next Board Meeting where we will also address additional staffing based on enrollment counts.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT:** Staffing spreadsheet

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20, 2026**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**VI. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** 30/60/90 projections

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The board will discuss school plans and needs moving forward in the next 30, 60 and 90 days.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: Principal, Neisha Billy, will discuss the current and future needs of students and staff. Planning discussions will relate to enrollment, staffing, curriculum, safety, security, equipment, supplies, etc.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Billy discussed the increase in enrollment from January to April from 179 to 194. The school is working on creating mailers with a local company to send out to various cities to increase enrollment for the 26-27 school year. As of April, Ascend had 50 12th graders who were on target to graduate, 2 early graduates, and 7 midyear graduates for class of 2026. Ms. Billy discussed the upcoming vacancies in reading, math, and ESE. Ms. Billy's 30-60-90 plan for the 26-27 school year included building relationships with staff, students, parents, and local community, monitoring data regularly key to determine school or student needs and trends, and adjust strategies where needed, address priority areas in literacy, attendance, and college & career readiness, and increase student participation through incentives and recognition for performance improvements.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD

**EXHIBIT:** N/A

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20, 2026**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

**VII. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Construction update for additional classrooms

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Board will discuss the classroom expansion project including timelines, requirements and financial impact.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**: ACA is currently waiting for final inspections and certificate of occupancy.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Billy updated the board on the construction of the new classrooms. The update included moving to a new contractor to complete the job. Some of the work that needs to be addressed is electrical, plumbing, and final inspections, with a tentative deadline of July for all work and inspections to be finalized.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD**

**EXHIBIT: N**/A

**Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 20, 2026**

**Approved_X__**

**Disapproved_______**

**Tabled______**

Signed By: ______________________

(Governing Board Chair)

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(Governing Board Member)

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(Governing Board Member)

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(Governing Board Member)