AGENDA
ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL MEETING DATE: July 28, 2026
5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063

Governing Board Chair, Vince Alessi, started the meeting at 1:00pm. In attendance were Board Members Sharon Airagi and Matt Ferrelli, Principal of ACA, Neisha Billy, Principal's Secretary, Maribel Garcia and Operations Director, Denise Garcia.

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: After review, the 4/20/26 Meeting Minutes were ratified and Mr. Alessi asked for comments and/or approval. Sharon Airagi motioned to approve and Matt Farrelli second this approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

EXHIBIT: Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2026 Board Meeting

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 28, 2026

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

II. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approval of SY 26/27 Operating Budget and salaries

REQUESTED ACTION: Detailed review of all monthly operating expenses, current cash position and projected revenue. Approve salaries for employment contracts of new and existing employees.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The Governing Board would like to review operating expenses and revenue for the upcoming school year and review salaries to determine the impact to the budget.

DISCUSSION: The Annual Budget was reviewed and approved. Mr. Alessi has requested a review/update of enrollment and projections in November. Based on the current projections, Ascend should end the 26/27 school year with a positive cash balance.

Proposed staff salaries with a 2% raise have also been approved. We will continue to monitor enrollment and if we exceed our projection goals the Board will meet to discuss a staff bonus. The amount is TBD depending on enrollment and revenue. We will revisit the discussion in November.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: SY 26/27 Annual Budget w/ proposed salaries

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 28, 2026

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

III. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Resignation of Board Member Angel Gomez

REQUESTED ACTION: The board accepts the resignation of Board Member Angel Gomez

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The board is responding to the resignation of the current Board Member Angel Gomez

DISCUSSION: The Board accepts the resignation of Angel Gomez. He will be transitioning into a vendor role where he will be providing professional services to the school. This resignation is effective immediately and his services will begin on 8/1/2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

EXHIBIT: N/A

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 28, 2026

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

IV. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approve Vendor Contracts for SY 26/27

REQUESTED ACTION: Discuss and review the following vendor contracts

- **Educated Meals**
- **K&A Success Strategies**
- **CQ Creative Solutions**
- **GL Insurance Renewal**
- **King and Walker (School Audit)**

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The Board will need to discuss the Vendors/Service Contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.

DISCUSSION: All vendor contracts have been reviewed and approved. The Board has agreed for the sake of continuity and positive relationships with the current vendors, that Educated Meals and King and Walker contracts will be renewed. If the Board can find a more competitive Insurance quote, ACA will proceed another company.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: Renewal Quotes and/or Service Contracts for the vendors referenced above.

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 28, 2026

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

V. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approval of School improvement Plan

REQUESTED ACTION: Review and approval of the School Improvement Plan

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The Board needs to approve the School Improvement Plan before it is submitted to the district.

DISCUSSION: The school improvement plan has been approved and will be uploaded to the District on or before August 3, 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: School Improvement Plan

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 28, 2026

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

VI. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approval of Neisha Billy, current Interim Principal to serve as Principal to ACA and to approve the return of Ross Lopatin who will serve as the Assistant Principal to Ms. Billy effective 7/30/2026.

REQUESTED ACTION: Appoint Neisha Billy, interim principal, to permanent Principal of ACA and appoint Ross Lopatin as Assistant Principal.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Due to the resignation of Kathrine Pierandozzi during the 25/26 SY, Neisha Billy was appointed Interim Principal of ACA for the remainder of the school year. The board would like to approve her permanent position effective 7/1/2026. Ross Lopatin will be rehired as Assistant Principal.

DISCUSSION: Neisha Billy will be the Principal of ACA effective 7/1/2026. She will remain at the Interim Principal salary until certain enrollment goals are met. Ms. Billy and Mr. Lopatin will be responsible for corresponding with SBBC and the appropriate login information will be assigned.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: N/A

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 28, 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)