BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL MEETING DATE: July 31, 2025
5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063

A meeting has been called to discuss and approve operation and budget matters, the resignation of Board Members, Bonnie Clemon and Michael Moore and the appointing of new Board Member, Angel Gomez.

Dr. Pierandozzi began the meeting with an overview of Academic goals and projects to enhance the appearance of the school. She explained how we achieved an increase in the graduation rate to 52% and how we will build specific goals for the 30 "super seniors" who will return in the fall for one more semester and ensure their graduation.

Vincent Alessi thanked Dr. Pierandozzi and her staff for all of their hard work. He went over a brief overview of school history and the growth over the years. Our newest Board Member Angel Gomez was welcomed and Mr. Gomez introduced himself with an overview of his experience and qualifications.

Vincent Alessi, as Chairman of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 9:22AM Roll call was taken with the following members on the call: Board Chair Vincent Alessi, Board Members Sharon Airaghi, Matt Ferrelli and Angel Gomez (pending approval)

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

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 Vincent Alessi second.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

EXHIBIT: Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2025 Board Meeting

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved__X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

II. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approval of SY 25/26 Operating Budget and salaries

REQUESTED ACTION: Detailed review of all monthly operating expenses, current cash position and projected revenue. Approve salaries and 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: At the moment, we have about 200 students registered for the first day count. Vince explained that the school breaks even at about 300 students and that is the goal for the school. The projected budget was reviewed with a projected growth to 270 by the end of February.

The budget was reviewed line by line. Salaries represent 60% of the budget and we end with a surplus of approx. 50k given our enrollment increases to the projected numbers.

Changes were made with our Guardian and Facilities maintenance. We will be hiring a full-time certified guardian and full-time custodial and maintenance worker to replace our contracted services. We will also hire a part time social worker instead of contracting through Venture Design.

Dr. Pierandozzi will ensure that the Guardian is qualified and certified.

Sharon Airaghi approves this item with Angel Gomez second.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: SY 25/26 Annual Budget w/ proposed salaries

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

III. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Resignation of Board Members Michael Moore and Bonnie Clemon

REQUESTED ACTION: The board accepts the resignation of Board Members Michael Moore and Bonnie Clemon.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The board is responding to the resignation of the current Board Members Michael Moore and Bonnie Clemons effective immediately.

DISCUSSION: The board accepts the resignation of Bonnie Clemon and Michael Moore. They were not available for the meeting. Vince has reached out to thank each of them for their dedication and commitment to Ascend Academy, its students and families. Sharon approves this motion with Vince second.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

EXHIBIT: N/A

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

IV. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Requesting approval to appoint Angel Gomez as a new Board Member for ACA.

REQUESTED ACTION: Discussion to approve Angel Gomez as a qualified replacement for the board.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The Governing Board will review and assess the qualifications of the candidate, Angel Gomez, for Board Member of ACA.

DISCUSSION: Vincent Alessi welcomed Mr. Gomez to the board. He thanked him for his contribution to the school. All Board Members were in favor and Sharon approved with Vince second.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

EXHIBIT: N/A

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved ___X___

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

V. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approve Vendor Contracts for SY 25/26

REQUESTED ACTION: Discuss and review the following vendor contracts

- **Educated Meals (NSLP Food Service Provider)**
- **Champion Principal Services (Enrollment Services)**
- **Elevate K12 (Curriculum)**
- **Edmentum (Curriculum)**
- **Florida Insure (GL Insurance renewal)**
- **King & Walker (School Audit Services)**

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The Board will need to discuss the renewal for the 2025-2026 school year.

DISCUSSION: All of the vendor contracts were reviewed for accuracy. Students' needs were addressed, and the Vendors were chosen based on these decisions. We will continue with our current providers for curriculum, food service, community outreach, General Liability insurance and Audit service. Sharon Airaghi approves this and Angel Gomez seconds.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: Renewal Quotes for the vendors referenced above.

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

VI. 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: Assistant Principal, Ms. Neisha Billy and ESE Specialist, Ms. Robyn Fulford are working to complete the SIP before the State deadline of August 8th. The Board has approved the final draft for submission to the District.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

EXHIBIT: School Improvement Plan

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

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

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

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Due to a delay in permitting, construction did not begin until 7/25. The classrooms may not be completed by the first day of school and safety protocols are being discussed. Additional work has been added to the original construction bid and will require board approval.

DISCUSSION: Board is voting on the total cost of the project $189,990 and $43,990.00 for the first change order. Total: $233,980.00

We have paid 1st deposit

C0 1: $10,997.50

Permitting: $14,916.77

We will continue to monitor the construction and make payments as they are due. Safety and Security remains the highest priority. Sharon approved the update and future payments towards the project. Angel second the approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approx $233,980k

EXHIBIT: Original invoice with Change order for additional work

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: July 31, 2025

Approved_X__

Disapproved_______

Tabled______

VIII. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ACA has received a commendable school rating

REQUESTED ACTION: N/A

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: In the Florida Accountability System, a "Commendable" school rating indicates that a school has demonstrated strong performance, particularly in student learning gains. Specifically, schools must meet certain criteria related to student testing and learning gains to earn this rating. The rating is part of the broader Florida School Recognition Program, which provides awards to schools that demonstrate high performance or improvement.

DISCUSSION: The Board congratulates Dr. Pierandozzi and her staff on their achievement. No action requested.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

EXHIBIT: N/A

Signed By: Vincent Alessi

(Governing Board Chair)

Sharon Airaghi

(Governing Board Member)

Matt Farrelli

(Governing Board Member)