

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ASCEND CAREER ACADEMY

SPECIAL MEETING DATE: February 12, 2026

5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063

Conference Call

A special meeting has been called via phone conference to discuss and approve immediate issues regarding the resignation of Principal, Kathrine Pierandozzi.

Vincent Alessi, as Chairman of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

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 not open to the public. 3 agenda items were discussed (1) resignation of Kathrine Pierandozzi (2) approval of Neisha Billy, current Assistant Principal, to serve as Interim Principal and Miguel Mowatt, current Positive Support Specialist, to serve as Interim Assistant Principal for the remainder of the school year (3) Immediate construction issues

I. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Resignation of Kathrine Pierandozzi

REQUESTED ACTION: The board accepts resignation from Kathrine Pierandozzi on February 12, 2026. The resignation will be effective immediately.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The board is responding to the verbal resignation of the former principal, Kathrine Pierandozzi, and has appointed Assistant Principal, Neisha Billy, as principal in the interim. The Board has requested Ms. Pierandozzi to provide a formal written resignation before February 16, 2026.

DISCUSSION: The board has approved Kathrine Pierandozzi's resignation and has approved her removal from the school's operating account, Denovo Inc. She will be replaced by interim Principal Neisha Billy along with Governing Board chair Vincent Alessi as joint account holders. Neisha Billy will have authorization for all Denovo Inc operating accounts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: February 12, 2026

Approved X

Disapproved

Tabled

- II. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Approval of Neisha Billy, current Assistant Principal to serve as Interim Principal and Miguel Mowatt, current Positive Support Specialist, to serve as Interim Assistant Principal.

REQUESTED ACTION: Appoint Neisha Billy as the interim principal and Miguel Mowatt as Interim Assistant Principal with further discussion for permanent replacement in the upcoming school year.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Due to the resignation of Kathrine Pierandozzi, Neisha Billy will be appointed Principle of ACA with Miguel Mowatt serving as Assistant Principal for the remainder of the school year. The board with discuss permanent positions at the next Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Neisha Billy will earn the Interim Principal salary and Miguel Mowatt will earn the Interim Assistant Principal salary for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Billy and Mr. Mowatt will be responsible for corresponding with SBBC and the appropriate login information will be assigned.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Ms. Billy will receive a 15% increase of base salary plus health stipend.

Current base salary: \$86,836.21 x 15%

New base salary: \$99,861.64

Total w/ Health Stipend: \$107,433

Mr. Mowatt will receive 15% increase of base salary plus health stipend.

Current base salary: \$63,000.00 x 15%

New base salary: \$72,450.00

Total w/ Health Stipend: \$80,020.50

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: February 12, 2026

Approved X

Disapproved

Tabled

III. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approval of construction payment plan

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of a negotiated settlement payment plan for a subcontractor of Eagle Brick Construction.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Ascend Academy has been notified by a subcontractor of the current Eagle Brick construction project that a construction lien will be submitted against Denovo Inc. in the amount of 40k for failure to pay. Upon review it was found that Eagle Brick Construction company failed to pay an invoice for a subcontractor of the project. In an effort to avoid a lien being placed on the property, the board will approve a payment plan to the subcontracted company.

DISCUSSION: The Governing Board has voted unanimously to make a payment of 24k as a negotiated settlement for the outstanding construction invoice. Payments will begin on April 1 @ 4k per month over the next 6 months with final payment being made on September 1, 2026. The Board will reserve any payment action until invoices are provided that indicated the 40k was not paid by the former contractor. Upon final payment, the subcontractor has agreed to provide an affidavit that he has no rights to file any liens against the property, Denovo Inc or Ascend Academy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$24,000.00

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: February 12, 2026

Approved X

Disapproved

Tabled

Signed By:

Vince Alessi

(Vinee Alessi --Governing Board Chair)

[Signature]

(Governing Board Member)

Matt Ferrell

(Governing Board Member)

[Signature]

(Governing Board Member)