



Meeting of the Board of Directors of ARIZONA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.
Board Meeting

Meeting Thursday, August 28th, 2025
1414 E. Indian School Rd. Suite 200, Phoenix AZ 85014

----- MINUTES -----

Board Members Present:

Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, via virtual link
Keisha McKinnor, via virtual link
Matt Simon, via virtual link
Ross Meyer, via virtual link
Lorenzo Romero, via virtual link
Monica Alvarez, via virtual link

Board Members Absent:

Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez

Others Present:

Ron Harrison, AZACS Co-Founder & Interim CEO
Paul Pucino, AZACS CFO
Dan McCarty, COO
Myla Goyne, AZACS Chief of Schools
Annie Loftis, Director of Compliance & Strategic Initiatives
Claudina Douglas, ADI
Hannah Moody, ADI
Alexa Shiplett, AZACS

General Matters:

A quorum was determined to be present on the virtual Zoom link. Lorenzo Romero called the meeting to order at approximately 5:06 p.m. Lorenzo Romero called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Matt Simon made a first, and Monica Alvarez seconded the motion. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the agenda, and the motion passed.

Public Comment:

Lorenzo Romero asked if any members of the public were present for comment on the Zoom virtual link or in person. Alexa Shiplett was present to observe. There were no other members of the public in person or on the virtual link.

Meeting Minutes:

Lorenzo Romero moved to the next portion of the board meeting, which was the minutes. He asked if the board had reviewed the minutes from the July 24th, 2025, board meeting. The board members indicated that they had and that there were no questions or comments. Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Monica Alvarez made a first, and Ross Meyer made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the minutes, and the motion passed.

Financials:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was a review of the YTD July financials. He turned the meeting over to Paul Pucino, where Paul explained the following: AZACS' revenue is below plan by \$158K due to local and federal impacts. For local, lease agreement modifications have impacted the revenue, and for federal, the timing of grant payments has impacted the revenue. AZACS expenses are below plan by \$124K with lower personnel expenses due to current staffing levels, lower supply expenses, and lower repair and maintenance costs. AZACS' staffing is below plan at 444 vs. 464 budget. AZACS' enrollment is above plan at 1,072 vs. 1,066 budget. AZACS' net Income is coming in at approximately \$690K with cash generated: \$1.32M and an ending cash balance of \$9.25M. AZACS' bond covenant forecast comfortably exceeds minimum requirements.

Paul asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Paul also reviewed the Pre-audit FY25 financial statements versus the Preliminary FY25 results that were previously presented to the board. Paul explained that the difference between the two sets of numbers is that the Preliminary results did not include some of the year end accruals that were made subsequent to the last board meeting. This is the standard procedure that takes place each year. Pre-audit revenues increased from \$35.2 million to approximately \$35.7 million. Expenses increased from \$30.7 million to \$30.8 million and net income increased from \$4.4 million to \$4.8 million. Bond covenants remained above the minimum requirements with Days Cash on Hand coming in at 93.94 versus the preliminary number of 94.18 and Debt Service Coverage increasing from 5.65 to 5.96.

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the FY25 Financial Statements. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, Keisha McKinnor made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the FY25 Financial Statements, and the motion passed.

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the July 2025 Financial Statements. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, Keisha McKinnor made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the July 2025 Financial Statements, and the motion passed.

Emergency Operations Plan:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was the EOPs. He handed the meeting over to Dan McCarty.

Dan explained that the emergency and safety practices and procedures for all campuses remain the same as last year. These updates to be reviewed by the board are due to some guidance from ADE. The points of contact for each campus have been updated and reflected in the EOPs the board received via email yesterday. Dan also explained that each campus has specific safety plans and protocols.

After the presentation, Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve all the campus EOPs. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made and first, and Keisha McKinnor made the second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the EOPs, and the motion passed.

Dan McCarty then continued with his topic of AZACS's 25-26 Internet Safety Policy.

Dan shared that the school's protocols and the E-RATE grant required AZACS to train students and staff on internet safety. He shared that numerous protocols and filters are applied to a vast number of websites to protect the school, staff, and students. Dan shared that the school was up to date with internet safety protocols and was prepared to manage incidents if they were to arise.

After the presentation, Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the 25-26 Internet Safety Policy. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made and first, and Keisha McKinnor made the second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the 25-26 Internet Safety Policy, and the motion passed.

Dan then moved to the 25-26 Staff Internet and Technology Policy. Dan explained that all staff sign this policy, stating that AZACS will monitor all activity on our WIFI and AZACS-owned devices. This will monitor online activity on AZACS technology and access points.

After the presentation, Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the 25-26 Staff Internet and Technology Policy. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made and first, and Keisha McKinnor made the second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the 25-26 Staff Internet and Technology Policy, and the motion passed.

AZACS In-Person and Online Handbooks:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next agenda item, the AZACS In-Person and Online Handbooks. Lorenzo turned the meeting over to Myla Goyne.

Myla explained that the handbooks were the same as last year, except for some clarifications. She stated that the in-person handbook required clarification for related service providers, such

as OT, Speech, and PT providers visiting the schools. There was also additional clarification regarding the use of GPS tracking, stating that devices are allowed to be with the student on campus, but cannot have the listening feature. The tracking device, Angel-sense, has been very collaborative in this updated policy. Additionally, the general behavioral expectations are detailed in the updated discipline matrix within the handbook; however, some instances may not be covered in the matrix. The definition of hazing has been added, clarified, and steps outlined in the handbook. Due process was also updated in the handbook to help familiarize families and staff with the policy and investigation procedures. Language was also updated regarding expulsion and suspension.

After the presentation, Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the updates to the In-Person Handbook. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Keisha McKinnor made the second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the In-Person Handbook updates, and the motion passed.

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the updates to the Online Handbook. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Keisha McKinnor made the second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved the Online Handbook updates, and the motion passed.

Monica Alvarez: Treasurer Vote

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was to vote for Monica Alvarez as the AZACS Board Treasurer. Lorenzo Romero turned it over to Ron Harrison, who shared that now that Monica is an AZACS Board Member, we would like the board to consider her for the position of Treasurer. Monica's resume was shared in past board meetings, and she was previously nominated. Monica Alvarez said a few words about her background and expertise in the finance sector.

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve Monica Alvarez as the AZACS Board Treasurer. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Keisha McKinnor made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, and Ross Meyer all approved Monica Alvarez as the Board Treasurer, and the motion passed. Lorenzo Romero and Monica Alvarez recused themselves from the vote.

Announcements:

Lorenzo Romero moved on to the next section of the agenda, which was announcements. He turned the meeting over to Annie Loftis.

Annie shared that Yes Day is coming to Tember Beach Park on October 26th, and all are welcome to join. She also announced that the 2026 Gala theme is Gatsby Nights. And that two special board meetings will be scheduled for September 12th and October 14th, both at 3 pm.

Since there were no other agenda items, Lorenzo Romero moved to the adjournment section.

Adjournment:

Lorenzo Romero requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Monica Alvarez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Ross Meyer, Lorenzo Romero, and Monica Alvarez all approved to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting ended at 6:19 pm.