



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

Meeting Thursday, February 26th, 2026
1414 E. Indian School Rd. Suite 200, Phoenix AZ 85014

----- MINUTES -----

Board Members Present:

Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, via virtual link
Matt Simon, via virtual link
Lorenzo Romero, via virtual link
Monica Alvarez, via virtual link
Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, via virtual link

Board Members Absent:

Keisha McKinnor, via virtual link
Ross Meyer, via virtual link

Others Present:

Ron Harrison, AZACS Co-Founder & CEO
Paul Pucino, AZACS CFO
Dan McCarty, AZACS COO
Myla Goyne, AZACS Chief of Schools
Hannah Moody, ADI

General Matters:

A quorum was determined to be present on the virtual Zoom link. Lorenzo Romero called the meeting to order at approximately 5:07 p.m. Lorenzo Romero called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Monica Alvarez seconded the motion. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the agenda passed.

Public Comment:

Lorenzo Romero asked if any members of the public were present for comment on the Zoom virtual link or in person. There were no 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 January 29th, 2026, 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 Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the minutes passed.

Financials:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the meeting to review the YTD January financials. He turned the meeting over to Paul Pucino, who explained the following: AZACS' revenue is above plan by \$256K. AZACS expenses are below plan by \$1.27 million with lower personnel expense and lower facility and utility expenses. AZACS' staffing is above plan at 488 vs. 479 budget. AZACS' enrollment is above plan at 1,073 vs. 1,066 budget. AZACS' net Income is coming in at approximately \$2 million, with cash generated of \$2.2M and an ending cash balance of \$9.7M, above plan by \$937K. AZACS' bond covenant forecast comfortably exceeds minimum requirements.

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

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the January 2026 Financial Statements. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, Monica Alvarez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the financials passed.

Paul then moved to an update on the Employee Retention Credit.

A regional director of the IRS informed the AZACS attorney that all claims were being denied. The primary reason for the decision was that the Director said no government mandates were in place during the periods in question that required AZACS to follow specific protocols. The attorney reminded the Director that the decision was already made that specific requirements were in place, which is why AZACS was asked to put together significant documentation to substantiate its compliance. The Director concurred but stated that he did not look at the documentation that was provided in January because of his assumption about the mandates. The Director said he would review the documentation and get back to the attorney shortly with his decision.

Fundraising Policy:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was the updated AZACS Fundraising Policy. He handed the meeting over to Dan McCarty.

Dan explained the updated fundraising policy and that every donation will need to be approved by either the CEO, Chief of Schools, COO, or CFO. Lorenzo asked if there were any other

questions, and there were none. Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the fundraising policy. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the fundraising policy passed.

Updated AI Policy:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next agenda item, the updated AI Policy. Lorenzo turned the meeting over to Dan McCarty.

Dan explained there was a slight update to the policy to indicate guidance to students and guardians that students must never enter personal, confidential, or identifying information about themselves or others into AI tools. Lorenzo did have a question about what platforms AZACS uses. Dan replied that the two platforms are ChatGPT and Copilot. There were no other questions.

After the presentation, Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the updated AI Policy. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made the second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the AI policy passed.

Updated School Names:

Lorenzo then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was updated school names for all of AZACS. These need to be voted on individually so we can submit the amendments to ASBCS. Lorenzo turned the meeting over to Ron to provide additional context on the rationale behind these changes.

Ron explained that as Arizona Autism Charter Schools continues to grow, it is important to create a clearer, consistent, and scalable naming structure across all campuses. The updated names are designed to better identify each campus by its city of location, making it easier for families, partners, and the community to understand our footprint.

Additionally, this approach helps streamline and organize our system as we expand, ensuring alignment across current and future campuses while reinforcing a cohesive network identity.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from the Main Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Central Phoenix Upper Campus. Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve. Monica Alvarez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from the West Valley Elementary Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Peoria Elementary Campus. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero,

Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to update the name of the West Valley Upper Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Peoria Upper Campus. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thomson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from Early Learning Center Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Central Phoenix Elementary Campus. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Monica Alvarez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from Tucson Elementary Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Tucson Elementary Campus. Monica Alvarez made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from Tucson Upper Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Tucson Upper Campus. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from the Online K – 8 Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Online Elementary Campus. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from the Online High School Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Online Upper Campus. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from CMO/District Office to Arizona Autism Charter Schools. Monica Alvarez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

Lorenzo moved to updating the name from East Valley Campus to Arizona Autism Charter Schools Mesa Elementary Campus. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Monica Alvarez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the updated name passed.

AZACS 26-27 Handbooks:

Lorenzo then moved to the next portion of the agenda, which was to review the 26–27 and some 27-28 AZACS Handbooks.

He turned the meeting over to Myla Goyne, where she shared that the changes consisted of minor edits, such as updated personnel and linking the AI policy. Online handbook updates were consistent with on-site.

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

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the 26-27 In-Person Campus Parent and Student Responsibility Handbook. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Monica Alvarez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the handbook passed.

Lorenzo Romero asked for a motion to approve the 26-27 Online Campuses Parent and Student Responsibility Handbook. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the handbook passed.

AZACS School Calendars:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the agenda, which was to review calendars for all campuses.

He turned the meeting over to Myla, where she explained that each campus has 180 days with different days off depending on which campus they are at. The East Valley campus will start one day after the Phoenix campuses, so leadership can support the opening of the new school. Parent and staff survey data were shared, showing that both groups preferred 2 days of staff PD following October break, Winter break, and Spring break, so adjustments were made to include that. Tucson will have Rodeo Days off, but still will meet its 180-day requirement.

Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the Phoenix and Peoria 26–27 school calendar. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the calendar passed.

Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the Phoenix, Peoria, and East Valley 27–28 school calendar. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a

second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the calendar passed.

Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the East Valley 26–27 school calendar. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the calendar passed.

Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the Online Schools (both K-8 and 9-12) 26–27 school calendar. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the calendar passed.

Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the Online School (both K-8 and 9-12) 27–28 calendar. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the calendar passed.

Lorenzo asked for a motion to approve the Tucson Schools' (both elementary and upper campuses) 26–27 calendar. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the calendar passed.

Announcements:

Lorenzo Romero then moved to the next portion of the agenda, which was announcements.

He turned the meeting over to Ron, who explained that the Mesa campus will be opening in the Fall of 2026 in grades K through 3. AZACS have secured the property and are just awaiting to announce the address.

Ron also shared that the Tucson campus will be growing. The Tucson Upper Campus will be moving to a new location, and the elementary campus will be staying at the Belvedere address.

Lorenzo Romero turned the meeting over to Myla, who shared some general campus updates. Myla shared that ADE provided CTE training recently, and the Tucson Elementary Campus hired a campus director for the 26/27 SY.

Lorenzo then had Ron share the tax credit, gala, and Cardinals Climb update. Ron shared that AZACS is still accepting tax credit donations through April 15, 2026. Ron also added that the gala is fast approaching on April 18, 2026, and asked for the Board to help support. Ron continued to discuss AZACS participation in the Cardinals Climb, where the choir and dance team performed.

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

Adjournment:

Lorenzo Romero requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Monica Alvarez, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez all approved the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.