



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

Meeting Thursday, July 15th, 2024

1430 E. Indian School Rd. Suite 220 Phoenix AZ 85014

----- MINUTES -----

**Board Members Present:**

Ron Harrison, via virtual link  
Keisha McKinnor, via virtual link  
Paul Pucino, via virtual link  
Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, via virtual link  
Ross Meyer, via virtual link

**Board Members Absent:**

Matthew Simon

**Others Present:**

Diana Diaz-Harrison, Founder and Executive Director  
Myla Goyne, Head of Schools  
Annie Loftis, Quality and Compliance Strategist  
Claire Piper, Senior Director of ABA and Data  
Lorenzo Romero, Potential Board Member  
Steven Hykes, AMS Impact Group  
David Nguyen, AMS Impact Group

**General Matters:**

A quorum was determined to be present on the virtual Zoom link. Keisha called the meeting to order at approximately 4:04 pm. Keisha called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ross made a 1<sup>st</sup>, Paul made a 2<sup>nd</sup>, all board members present were in favor, and the agenda was approved.

### **Public Comment:**

Keisha asked if there were any members of the public on the Zoom virtual link or in person for comment. There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **Minutes:**

Keisha asked if board members had reviewed the June 27th, 2024 meeting minutes, and they all indicated they had.

Since there were no comments or discussion, Keisha called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ross made a 1st, and Ron made a 2nd. All board members present were in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **Financials: FY25 Budget Adoption:**

Keisha turned the meeting over to Diana and Paul. Paul explained that there were no changes from the FY25 Proposed Budget that was reviewed at the prior board meeting on June 27. Paul re-shared the highlights of the FY25 budget, indicating \$31.2 million in projected total revenue and \$29.1 million in projected expenses. Paul reminded the board he had met with Diana and AMS several times to review the FY25 Proposed and Adopted Budget, and the revenues and expenses were based on sound projections.

After the short discussion, Keisha called for a motion to approve the FY25 Adopted Budget. Ron made a first motion, Ross made the second, and all board members present were in favor. The motion passed.

### **1430 E. Indian School Rd Member Campus**

Keisha then moved to review and take action on the 1430 E. Indian School Rd. Building as a Member Campus. She turned the meeting over to Diana, who shared that this location is for the new Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training Center, Essential Piece Enterprises. Diana shared that the 1430 building needed approval as a Member Campus of the Arizona Autism Charter Schools-Upper School Campus. The plan was to engage high school students and young adults in job training programs offered at the new training center. The minutes and approval by the AZACS board would need to be submitted to the AZ State Board for Charter Schools to get the building approved as a Member Campus.

After a brief discussion, Keisha called for a motion to approve 1430 E. Indian School Rd. as a member campus of the Arizona Autism Charter Schools-Upper School Campus. Ross made a first, Paul made a second, and all board members present were in favor, and the motion passed.

### **23-24 Academic Data Summary**

Keisha then moved to the 23–24 academic data summary and turned the meeting over to Diana and Claire Piper, Director of Data and ABA. Diana shared that the goals are based on AZACS'

adopted assessments and the special population school goals approved by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. Claire shared data on final academic, engagement, and post-secondary goals from the school year 23–24. The academic data results are summarized below:

I-Ready: for ELA and math, all campuses met their goals

MyPath- All campuses, including online, met their goals for ELA in high school and math.

PEAK- ELA - grades in kindergarten through 5th exceeded their goals. West Valley met their goals. Tucson collected pilot data in its first year, but the sample size needed to be bigger to aggregate.

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Re-Think - ELA - the Online Schools, both kindergarten through 8th grade and high school exceeded their goals.

Engagement data – all campuses met their goals and the online schools exceeded their engagement goals.

Post-secondary data – all campuses met their goals or exceeded them.

Career interest survey– all met or exceeded their goals.

Claire asked if there were any questions, and Paul asked why the data at the Tucson Campus fluctuated. Claire responded that it was related to Tucson's smaller sample size.

Diana reminded the board that these are the accountability metrics submitted to the AZ State Board for Charter Schools yearly. Diana shared that there is a data and assessment calendar that requires teaching teams to review data at least monthly to ensure students are on track to meet their goals. If not, interventions are put into place to ensure they are back on track.

### **Potential New Board Members: Lorenzo Romers and Elizabeth Simonhoff Perez**

Keisha then discussed the addition of potential new board members Lorenzo Romero and Elizabeth Simonhoff Perez. She turned the meeting over to Diana, who shared that Lorenzo has an impressive and robust finance background as the former CFO of BASIS Ventures and is now the President of that charter network. She then asked Lorenzo to say a few words as he was on the call. Lorenzo introduced himself and shared that he worked on the state budget during Governor Doug Ducey's administration. He is excited to bring his expertise on growth to the AZACS board and is also grateful to be enrolling his son at the Early Learning Center. Diana thanked Lorenzo for his introduction.

Diana moved on to discuss board member candidate Elizabeth Simonhoff Perez. She asked Ross to share about Elizabeth as he recommended her for the AZACS board. Ross shared that Liz is from Miami and has a public policy and finance background. She has recently moved to Phoenix and works at ASU in Michael Crow's office. Diana thanked Ross for that information and shared with the board that she had already interviewed Elizabeth and would invite another

board member to interview her. Elizabeth also has a student joining the Early Learning Center in second grade.

**Announcements:**

Keisha then moved to announcements and turned it over to Diana. As AZACS plans for the 24-25 school year, Diana introduced Myla had shared that she has been promoted from Chief Academic Officer to Head of Schools for the 24-25 school year. Myla shared that teachers and Program Managers at our five campuses were back at work. Professional development schedules were being implemented to be ready for the school year. All was going well and as planned for the 24-25 school year.

**Executive Session:**

**Disclosure of Executive Session Per ARS § 38-431.03. Personnel Legal Matter**

Keisha moved to the executive session and asked for a motion to begin at 4:36 PM. Paul made a 1st, and Ron made a 2nd. All board members present were in favor, and the session began.

Once the personnel legal matter was discussed, Keisha asked for a motion to end the executive session. Ron made a 1st, and Kerrie made a 2nd. All board members present were in favor, and the executive session session ended at 4:45 PM.

**Adjournment:**

Since there were no further agenda items, Keisha called for a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Paul made a 1st, and Kerrie made a 2nd. All board members present approved. The board meeting ended at 4:46 PM.