



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

Meeting Thursday, November 21st, 2024

4125 N. 14th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014

----- MINUTES -----

Board Members Present:

Ron Harrison, via virtual link

Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, via virtual link

Ross Meyer, via virtual link

Keisha McKinnor, via virtual link

Matt Simon, via virtual link

Lorenzo Romero, via virtual link

Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Diana Diaz-Harrison, Founder and Executive Director

Annie Loftis, Director of Compliance and Strategic Initiatives

Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, ASU and Potential Board Member

Paul Pucino, CFO

Hannah Moody, ADI

Claudina Douglas, ADI

General Matters:

A quorum was determined to be present on the virtual Zoom link. Keisha called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 pm. Keisha called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ron Harrison made a 1st, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a 2nd, Ross Meyer, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, and Lorenzo Romero approved the agenda, and the motion passed.

Public Comment:

Keisha asked if there were any members of the public on the Zoom virtual link or in person for comment. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez was in attendance for her consideration to the AZACS Board but had no comment at this time. There were no other members of the public present.

Minutes:

Keisha asked if board members had reviewed the minutes from October 10th, 2024. Board members indicated they had. Keisha called a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Simon made a 1st, Ross Meyer made a 2nd, and Ron Harrison, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, and Lorenzo Romero approved the minutes, and the motion passed.

Financials

Consolidated Financial Statements

Keisha turned the meeting to Paul Pucino, AZACS CFO, to review the financials. Paul stated that the reports show AZACS' financial status through October 2024.

Paul stated that revenue received from July to October is approximately \$10.8 million, and expenses from the same period are approximately \$9 million, a net of approximately \$1.7 million. Cash on hand is approximately \$8.6 million. State reports show the Average Daily Membership (ADM) at 875. He stated revenue should increase as more enrolled students are captured in state reports. Current enrollment is reported at 978.

Paul asked if there were any questions or comments, and Lorenzo added that AZACS's financial position and outlook are great. Diana also added that the finance committee, which includes Paul Pucino and Lorenzo Romero, reviewed the financials beforehand to ensure they were as accurate as possible. She expressed her gratitude for their hard work.

Keisha asked for a motion to approve the October financials. Ron Harrison made a 1st, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a 2nd, Ross Meyer, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, and Lorenzo Romero approved the October financials, and the motion passed.

New AZACS Tucson Elementary School and Enrollment Cap Increase

Growth Plans and ASBCS Amendments

Keisha turned the meeting over to Diana, who shared the plan to add a new K-5 Elementary School in Tucson. The school's official name would be AZACS Tucson Elementary School. The new school would be housed in unused buildings on the Tucson Campus. These spaces will be renovated to ensure they are optimal for younger students, and construction will begin in March.

Diana also explained that adding the new AZACS Tucson Elementary School and the contemplated growth at other campuses required an Enrollment Cap increase from 1,000 students to 1500, which should get AZACS through three years of growth.

After the discussion, Keisha requested a motion to approve the new AZACS Tucson Elementary School offering kindergarten through 5th grades. Ross Meyer made a first; Matt Simon made a second. Ron Harrison, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, and Lorenzo Romero approved the additional grades in Tucson, and the motion was passed.

Keisha then requested a motion to approve the Enrollment Cap Increase to 1500. Ross Meyer made a first, and Matt Simon made a second. Ron Harrison, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, and Lorenzo Romero voted in favor, and the motion was passed.

Vote for Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, AZACS Board Member Candidate

Keisha then moved to the next agenda item: considering adding Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez to the AZACS board. Keisha then turned the meeting over to Elizabeth, who reintroduced herself to the board. Elizabeth stated how excited she was to be a part of the AZACS board and shared that she is helping the school secure a graduation venue and sharing a music program with Diana. Ross Meyer said he was happy to nominate Elizabeth because she is driven and dedicated to helping others.

After the discussion, Keisha asked for a motion to approve Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez's joining the AZACS board. Ross Meyer made a first, Ron Harrison made a second, Matt Simon, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, and Lorenzo Romero approved the addition of Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez to the AZACS Board, and the motion passed.

Thelma Lou & Essential Piece Uniform Partnership

Keisha then moved to the next agenda item, Thelma Lou and Essential Piece Enterprises uniform collaboration. She turned the meeting over to Diana and Annie Loftis. Annie shared that Kerrie Mallory-Thompson and Pam Lozada-Moore make up Thelma Lou, a consistent place for families to purchase quality AZACS t-shirts and swag. Annie shared that when AZACS' uniform vendor, Dennis Uniforms, closed its business, AZACS had to find another uniform vendor. The executive team worked with Thelma Lou and decided to partner to become the uniform provider for AZACS. This will provide students and adults with workforce opportunities through the Essential Piece Enterprises silk screening shop. Annie asked Kerrie to share a few words, and Kerrie explained that she also employs interns on the spectrum to fulfill uniform orders. In partnership, Thelma Lou and Essential Piece know they can be the uniform providers for all AZACS Campuses at a better price than the previous vendor.

Announcements:

Keisha then moved to the announcement section of the agenda and turned the meeting over to Diana. Diana shared that the next board meeting on December 12, 2024, will be in-person at 1430 E. Indian School Rd.

She also added that the 2024 to 2025 Tax Credit Campaign will launch before Thanksgiving, encouraging board members to donate and spread the word.

Diana also shared that the second annual Dance for Autism gala will likely occur on April 26, 2025.

Adjournment:

Since no other topics were on the agenda, Keisha asked for a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Ross Meyer made a first, Ron Harrison made a second, Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, and Lorenzo Romero approved the motion, and the AZACS Board meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM.