



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

Meeting August 27th, 2026

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

Lorenzo Romero, via virtual link

Ross Meyer, via virtual link

Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, via virtual link

Monica Alvarez, via virtual link

Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Ron Harrison, CEO

Paul Pucino, CFO

Dan McCary, COO

Myla Goyne, Chief of Schools

Claire Piper, Sr. Director of Data and ABA

Annie Loftis, Director of Compliance

Hannah Moody, ADI

General Matters:

A quorum was determined to be present on the virtual Zoom link. Matt Simon called the meeting to order at approximately 5:03 p.m. Matt called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Monica Alvarez made a first motion, and Lorenzo Romero seconded the motion. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer,

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

Public Comment:

Matt Simon asked if any members of the public were present for comment on the Zoom virtual link or in person. No members of the public were present, either in person or on Zoom.

Minutes:

Matt then moved to the next portion of the board meeting, which was the minutes. Matt asked if the board had reviewed the minutes from July 30th, 2026. The board said they had.

Matt asked for a motion to approve the July 30th, 2026 minutes. Monica Alvarez made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved the minutes, and the motion passed.

Financials:

Matt turned the meeting over to Paul to present the July Financial Statements.

Paul shared that revenue was over budget by about \$128K, with expenses below plan by about \$164K. Staffing was below plan at 531 versus 593. Enrollment is below plan at 1267 versus 1371. Net income was about \$611K for the month. Cash flow was negative \$733K, which is not unusual for the first month of the fiscal year, and the ending cash balance was \$11M. AZACS' bond covenants are projected to exceed the minimum requirements.

Since there were no further questions, Matt asked for a motion to approve the July Financial Statements. Monica Alvarez made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved the financials, and the motion passed.

Paul also updated the board on the ERC settlement, which took place through mediation on August 12. Paul explained that as a result of the settlement, AZACS will retain around 60% of the original amounts granted. In summary, AZACS will receive net cash of approximately \$662K and will recognize around \$693K in revenue and \$100K in expenses during FY27. AZACS will also recognize about \$690K of expenses in FY26.

End of the Year Data and Goals:

Matt then moved to the next portion of the agenda, End-of-Year Student Data. He turned the meeting over to Claire Piper.

Claire shared that the 2025–2026 end-of-year data demonstrates that AZACS students continued to make strong academic, behavioral, and post-secondary progress across campuses and instructional programs. AZACS continues to maintain high levels of family engagement, with the 2026 ADE ESS Survey reporting an 83.3% participation rate and 97.75% satisfaction with the level of engagement.

Claire shared the status of the campuses with School-Specific Academic Goals (SSAG) and where to view the academic dashboards. Goals for Tucson Elementary will be presented to the ASBCS this upcoming year for approval, and Mesa will be collecting baseline data with the intention of applying for goals for the 2027-2028 school year.

All in-person campuses met the established engagement goal at 80% or above. The Online schools exceeded the goal, with 98% of students at Online Elementary and 96% at Online High School demonstrating engagement through Nearpod data. These results support that instructional and behavioral interventions are effectively promoting meaningful participation in learning across a wide range of student needs.

Academic growth data also show positive outcomes across campuses. For students using iReady, all campuses met the goals in ELA and Math, with Peoria Elementary and Phoenix Elementary exceeding the goal. For in-person campuses, students in the functional academic programs or students with identified gaps utilize PEAK Relational Training for ELA and Math. All campuses met in ELA and Math, with Tucson Upper Campus and Phoenix Elementary Exceeding. The Online Functional program also met its academic growth goals, with both Online Elementary and Online High School reaching 83% in ELA and 83% and 87%, respectively, in Mathematics. MyPath results were particularly strong in the high school programs, with ELA performance reaching 88% at Phoenix Upper, 90% at Tucson Upper, and 96% at Online High School. Mathematics performance was 95% at Phoenix Upper, 86% at Tucson Upper, and 90% at Online High School. These outcomes demonstrate continued progress toward individualized academic goals while supporting students across multiple instructional pathways.

AZACS also demonstrated strong outcomes in preparing students for life after high school. All students at both Phoenix Upper and Tucson Upper participated in at least three Pre-Employment Transition Services activities, exceeding the established goal, while Online High School achieved 87%. Career-interest assessment participation was also exceptionally high, reaching 100% at Phoenix Upper and Tucson Upper and 99% at Online High School. Together, these results highlight AZACS's continued focus on preparing students for meaningful post-secondary opportunities, employment, and greater independence.

Finally, the comparative iReady data shows continued improvement from the 2024–2025 school year to 2025–2026. Phoenix Elementary increased from 90% to 94% in ELA, West Valley increased from 90% to 91%, and Online Elementary increased from 81% to 85%. This data was important to review as the AZACS adopted a new ELA curriculum in the 2025-2026 school year for students in grades K-3 in the academic and modified academic programs.

No action was needed or taken.

Updated Enrollment Policy:

Matt then turned the meeting over to Annie Loftis, who explained a slight update to the enrollment policy. Students attending a designated AZACS feeder school will receive enrollment priority at the receiving AZACS campus, consistent with applicable Arizona law and the school's approved enrollment policies. This priority helps provide a clear pathway for students transitioning from a designated feeder school to the appropriate AZACS campus.

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

Matt Simon asked for a motion to approve the updated AZACS Enrollment Policy. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Monica Alvarez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved the Enrollment Policy, and the motion passed.

Local Wellness Policy:

Matt then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was the Local Wellness Policy. He turned the meeting over to Dan McCarty, who shared that at the last board meeting we discussed the policy at length. There have been no changes. He recapped that the Local Wellness Policy establishes AZACS's commitment to supporting student wellness through nutritious meals, inclusive physical activity, accessible nutrition education, and family/community engagement. The policy also outlines clear goals for increasing participation in school meal programs, expanding adaptive physical activity opportunities, and maintaining compliance with USDA Smart Snacks standards and Arizona law.

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

Matt called for a motion to approve the Local Wellness Policy. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first, and Monica Alvarez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved the Local Wellness Policy, and the motion passed.

Closing Member Campus:

Matt then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was the closing of the member campus. Annie explained that this is to vote to administratively close the Arizona Autism Charter School (Member Campus) serving grades K-3 on the ASBCS dashboard. When AZACS reconfigured the naming of all the campuses, Arizona Autism Charter School Central Phoenix Elementary Campus encompasses the member campus. That member campus is no longer needed since it is already accounted for.

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

Matt asked for a motion to approve closing of the Arizona Autism Charter School (Member Campus) serving grades K-3. Monica Alvarez made a first, and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross

Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved the closing of the Arizona Autism Charter School (Member Campus), and the motion passed.

Enrollment Cap Increase:

Matt then moved to the next portion of the meeting, which was the Enrollment Cap Increase. He turned the meeting over to Ron, who shared that because of the growth that AZACS plans to do in the next 5 years, we need to request an enrollment cap increase to 2,500 with ASBCS.

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

Matt asked for a motion to approve the Enrollment Cap Increase. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a first, and Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved the increase in the enrollment cap, and the motion passed.

Announcements:

Matt then moved to the announcements section of the agenda. He turned the meeting over to Ron, who shared that AZACS is up for a Yass Alumni grant. He will be presenting in Miami in early September. Ron also added that the Arizona Autism Family Medicine ribbon-cutting was a great success, and we welcomed new contacts and friends of the school. Ron turned the meeting over to Annie, who shared that Yes Day will be coming up on October 25th, 2026, and we would love for the board to join us. She also shared that the Cardinals Climb is happening on February 20th, 2026, and is a fundraiser for the school. All are welcome to join. Annie turned the meeting over to Myla, who shared that AZACS is up for our reaccreditation with Cognia, so we will be evaluating a variety of practices held by AZACS and going through this process.

Adjournment:

Matt then moved to the adjournment section of the board meeting. He asked for a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 5:50 PM. Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez made a first and Kerrie Mallory-Thompson made a second. Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, Keisha McKinnor, Matt Simon, Lorenzo Romero, Ross Meyer, Elizabeth Simonhoff-Perez, and Monica Alvarez all approved adjourning, and the motion passed.