

# Ascent Academies of Utah

## Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** December 15, 2025

**Anchor Location:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86741984520>

**Board Members Present:** Jim Horton, Tyler Schvaneveldt, Chris Bleak, Mike Greenhalgh

**Excused Members:** Stuart Adams

**Others Present:** Wade Glathar, Hannah Jones, Erin Winterton, Heidi Bauerle, Ken Jeppesen, Brandon Fairbanks



### MINUTES

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#### CALL TO ORDER

Chris Bleak called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

#### AUDIT PRESENTATION

Ken Jeppesen presented the financial audit to the board. He first reviewed the standard letter from Eide Bailly, which confirms the firm's independence and outlines the scope of the audit. The financial statements reflected a clean audit, with no issues identified related to management or internal controls.

Ken Jeppesen left the meeting at 9:23 AM.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

This was the first public comment period for the proposed 2026-2027 Fee Schedule.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

- September 24, 2025, Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes  
*Jim Horton made a motion to approve the September 24, 2025, Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes; Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*

#### REPORTS

- Director's Report  
Wade Glathar reported that enrollment is open for next school year and the first lottery draw will be in January. Over the past month, 400 new applications have come in: averaging 15-20 new applications each day. The deadline for current families to declare their plans for next year is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Cognia will be visiting Ascent on March 31, and April 1-2 to renew the LEA's 5-year accreditation. During the visit they will be on 3 campuses observing instruction, touring the facilities, and interviewing employees, parents, and students. The proposed Fee Schedule for the

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2026-2027 school year had some minor changes. Purchases needing board approval include a playground for the West Jordan campus, landscaping at the West Jordan campus, and the central office lease. Lastly, Wade reviewed the individuals who need LEA Specific Licenses.

- Finance Report  
Erin Winterton gave a brief financial report and said that everything is where it is anticipated to be. Supplies and materials are trending higher due to curriculum and technology purchases that are one-time charges at the beginning of the year. Tyler Schwandeveldt asked if debt services will change much at the end of December. Erin Winterton clarified that revenue from federal sources will be caught back up when reimbursements are recorded and most of those are related to title one funds as well as wages and benefits. There are great signs of growth financially for the LEA. There was no further discussion on the financial statements.

## **VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Landscaping Quote  
Due to a requirement from West Jordan City, the school is needing to landscape the park strip along 5600 West. There are specific guidelines for acceptable landscaping, and the landscaping chosen will include a combination of trees and shrubs with rocks. The work on the park strip is planned to be done in the Spring of 2026.  
*Tyler Schwandeveldt made a motion to approve the Landscaping quote not to exceed \$37,047; Mike Greenhalgh seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schwandeveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*
- 2026-2027 School Calendar  
The board reviewed the 2026-2027 School Calendar. There were no questions or concerns.  
*Mike Greenhalgh made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar; Jim Horton seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schwandeveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*
- Central Office Lease  
The central office lease is up on December 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be less square footage leased, so the new lease is a slightly lower cost than the previous. The board was asked to approve another 5-year lease with the option to end the lease early after the first year.  
*Tyler Schwandeveldt made a motion to approve the Central Office Lease; Mike Greenhalgh seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schwandeveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*
- LEA Licenses  
Three new individuals have been hired at the LEA that require an LEA Specific License while they work to complete their programs. Details about the teachers, classes, and

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reasons for these licenses were provided to the board for review.

*Jim Horton made a motion to approve the requested LEA Licenses; Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*

- Playground Invoice (West Jordan Campus)

Over the past few years, West Jordan has been working toward an additional playground for a few years with fundraising from families. The fundraising will make a great contribution to the total cost of the new playground. New playground completion is expected in Spring or Summer of 2026.

*Mike Greenhalgh made a motion to approve the Playground Invoice; Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*

- Policies

- Hotline Policy
- Bullying & Hazing Policy
- Paid Postpartum & Recovery Leave Policy
- Instructional Materials Policy

The Hotline Policy emphasizes that complainants should not use the hotline to bypass the school's grievance policies. The school's Bullying and Hazing Policy have been revised to comply with the changes brought about by SB 223 and the revised rule in R277-613. The Paid postpartum and Recovery Leave Policy is being revised to clarify that the two paid leave periods are each up to 15 contract days as opposed to 3 calendar weeks. The revisions also clarify that the maximum amount of leave under each paid leave period is 15 contract days and that any non-contract days occurring during a leave period will not count toward the three-calendar week leave period. HB 21 from the 2025 legislative session renumbered various parts of the criminal code, including the definitions of "objective sensitive material" and "subjective sensitive material." Those definitions are included in the school's Instructional Materials Policy and the USBE has asked schools to update their policies with the correct/updated code citations.

*Jim Horton made a motion to approve the Hotline Policy, Bullying and Hazing Policy, Paid Postpartum and Recovery Leave Policy, and the Instructional Materials Policy. Tyler S seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye.*

**CLOSED SESSION-** to discuss the character professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a).

*At 9:49 AM Chris Bleak made a motion to enter a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah*

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Code 52-4-205-(1)(a), via teleconference. Tyler Schvandeveldt seconded. Votes were as follows: Chris Bleak, Aye; Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

At 9:55 AM Mike Greenhalgh made a motion to move out of closed session. Jim Horton seconded. Votes were as follows: Chris Bleak, Aye; Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURN**

At 9:55 AM, Jim Horton made a motion to adjourn. Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chris Bleak, Aye; Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Mike Greenhalgh, Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT

# Ascent Academies of Utah

## Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** December 15, 2025

**Time:** 9:00AM

**Location:** via teleconference

Teleconference: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86741984520>



### **CLOSED SESSION SWEARN STATEMENT:**

At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for Ascent Academies entered a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-2(1)(a).

I declare under criminal penalty under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

  
Chris Bleak, Board Chair

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