

Ascent Academies of Utah

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 24, 2025

Anchor Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9078319259>

Board Members Present: Jim Horton, Tyler Schvaneveldt, Chris Bleak

Excused Members: Stuart Adams, Mike Greenhalgh

Others Present: Wade Glathar, Brandon Fairbanks, Sheldon Killpack, Hannah Dorius, Erin Winterton, Platte Nielson, Priscilla Stringfellow, Joe Dunlap, Suzanne Owens



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Horton called the board meeting to order at 9:07AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

- June 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
Tyler Schvaneveldt made a motion to approve the June 16, 2025 Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes; Jim Horton seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye.

REPORTS

- Director's Report
Wade Glathar presented the Director's Report to the board. Total enrollment has increased 4% the last years. The budget is set at 2860 students and there are currently 2945 students. Wade Glathar reported on the Early Learning Plan for the 25/26 school year and 24/25 school year. The 2025/2026 plan has been previously approved by the State.
- Finance Report
Erin Winterton presented the Finance Report. The 2024/2025 school year audit is currently underway. The audit is going well and should be wrapped up in the next few weeks. The Statement of Activities was reviewed in detail. Ascent Academies is set up for a great year financially.

VOTING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 401k plan
Erin Winterton presented the 401k plan to the board. This will change the plan from a traditional plan to safe harbor plan. Safe harbor is fair for all employees and more attractive to staff. Ascent Academies currently has a 3% match and it will be increased to a 4% match.

Jim Horton made a motion to approve the 401k plan changes; Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye.

- Ratify Benchmark Purchase
Benchmark is an English language reading program. The additional purchase is needed to account for expansion of classes in the Saratoga Springs campus and replenishing old materials.

Tyler Schvaneveldt made a motion to ratify the Benchmark Purchase; Jim Horton seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye.

- Ratify N&B Painting Purchase
Wade Glathar informed the board of painting services provided by N&B Painting. They refreshed the paint in several campuses over the summer.

Tyler Schvaneveldt made a motion to ratify N&B Painting Purchase; Jim Horton seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye.

- Property and Liability Insurance
Erin Winterton presented the Property and Liability Insurance. Costs went up 7.5% from the previous year. Inflation and claims in the industry have increased the cost.

Jim Horton made a motion to approve the Property and Liability Insurance; Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, Aye.

- LEA Licenses
Wade presented the need for 15 LEA Licenses to be approved. Ascent Academies, as an LEA, can authorize an LEA license for teachers while they are on track to getting their state license. The educators up for approval need temporary licensing in a their specific field.

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

- Policies:
 - Toilet Training Policy
Platte Nielson presented the Toilet Training Policy. The policy adds some clarification to the requirement of toilet training before registration in Ascent Academies.

- Electronic Resources Policy
Platte Nielson presented on the Electronic Resources Policy. A few items were added to account for students that are having emergencies and health issues. Cell phone usage is now allowed in those cases in the policy.
- Child Abuse & Neglect Policy
Platte Nielson presented the Child Abuse & Neglect Policy. A line item was added to include administration on the list of persons notified in a case of a staff member being involved in a case of child abuse. If the person is an employee of the school and they engage in child abuse, DCFS, law enforcement, and administration need to be notified. A clarification was made under number 7 of the administrative procedures.

Jim Horton made a motion to approve the Toilet Training Policy, Electronic Resources Policy, and Child Abuse & Neglect Policy; Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye; Chris Bleak, 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 9:30AM Chris Bleak made a motion to enter into a 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), via teleconference. Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Votes were as follows: Chris Bleak, Aye; Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye. Motion passed.

At 9:41AM Jim Horton made a motion to move out of closed session. Tyler Schvaneveldt seconded. Votes were as follows: Chris Bleak, Aye; Tyler Schvaneveldt, Aye; Jim Horton, Aye. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

At 9:42AM, Tyler Schvaneveldt made a motion to adjourn. Jim Horton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ascent Academies of Utah
Board of Directors
Closed Session Statement**



Meeting Date: September 24, 2025

Location: via teleconference

Ascent Academies of Utah's network of schools utilizes the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to build a strong educational foundation and to provide an enriching, individualized and varied educational experience to all students.

CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:

At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for Ascent Academies of Utah entered into a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(d).

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

Signed on the 24th day of September, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bleak', is written over a horizontal line.

Chris Bleak, Board President