



## **VPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**January 22, 2026 - 2:00 pm ET**

Access Point: 111 E. Monument Avenue, Suite 605 Kissimmee, FL 34741

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Lisa Fuhrmeister commenced the meeting at 2:02pm ET. Present: Lisa Fuhrmeister, Jennifer Parker, Dr. Jessica Howell Absent: Stevie Johns

Guests: Sandra Anthony, Megan Sandoval, Thomas Sternberg, Ed DePersis, Melissa Stokke-Larson, Wendy Ross, Brandon Krueger

#### **II. Routine Business**

L. Fuhmeister made a motion to approve the agenda and Jessica Howell seconded; Motion approved unanimously.

L. Fuhmeister made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 board meeting and second by Jessica Howell. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **III. Information and Discussion Items**

State of the School Report

Dr. Anthony introduced Brandon Krueger, ACCEL Chief Marketing Officer who presented the enrollment year of year as well as data on how enrollment and retention has been since the start of the school. Fall counts were as follows: Fall 2022: 240; Fall 2023: 937; Fall 2024: 807; Fall 2025: 1171. There was a 45% growth rate year over year. Mr. Krueger shared that retention continues to improve at the school which is not typical for a virtual school to experience both growth and retention. Grades 7-11 are showing the highest enrollments by grade. Brandon also shared that leads are converting into applications by 30%. Retention and returning students are at its highest levels and rates show positively over time. Mr. Kreuger concluded that the school has developed a personality and a reputation which is not easy to do in a virtual school.

Ms. Fuhmeister expressed her gratitude and excitement over the data and of the school team that make this possible.

Dr. Anthony shared that she will be taking on some new responsibilities nationally and that Dr. Melissa Stokke is the new deputy head of school. Lori Gambino will be the new K-12 principal.

Dr. Anthony shared that January is board appreciation month as she announced that Dr. Stokke and her team created a video to express their appreciation from students and staff which was shown to the board. A special thank you was sent out to Hans Novelus for creating the beautiful video.

Dr. Stokke continued the State of the School presentation by announcing that we had our first mid-year graduate Ashley Bido Feliz. Ashley will be attending Valencia College and wants to be a sign language interpreter.

The presentation continued with information about SharkCon, a week of celebration of art, talent, pictures for yearbook, and climbs, too. Dr. Stokke shared information about the S2 Keeping Climbing Videos. Finn will climb the St Augustine Lighthouse later this month. There is also a virtual climb of 214 steps that students are encouraged to participate in.

Dr. Anthony shared information about the BOLD presentation, a FL state school leaders virtual conference, held in Orlando later this month.

Dr. Stokke presented the PM2 data which exceeded 95%. She shared percentages of levels 3 or above in reading and math. She highlighted areas of growth seen in grade 4, 6, 8 and 9 particularly for reading. She also shared the noted decrease from PM2 to PM3 in grades 3, 4 and 5. She shared some new strategies that school is employing this year for those grade levels for the in person testing plan. Dr. Stokke also showed the PM2 proficiency comparison of state/district and school. She pointed out the highlights of those close or lower to those groups.

Dr. Stokke announced a new instructional, intervention program called Shark Up, Turning the Tide for 10. This involves a laser focus on 10 students who are so close to getting to the next level of proficiency.

Dr. Stokke concluded her presentation with the Spring 2026 Out of Field Teacher list.

#### **IV. Financial Update – Ed DePersis**

Mr. DePersis presented the January 2026 Executive Finance Summary which outlined increased enrollments to 1299, which is higher than forecasted. The school is being paid on 711.2 weighed FTEs. The FEFP final calculation resulted in an adjustment of \$628,958, which is \$353,830 less than what was



projected. Mr. DePersis then outlined the funding payments as well as projected expenses, revenues, cash balances, ACCEL payment requests and AP Outstanding. He provided the Board with details related to revenue, expenses and surplus/deficit amounts. A review of projected receipts and disbursements was also provided with the invoice detail for approval of the ACCEL payment request in the amount of \$290,997.00. Mr. DePersis also provided information related to the revised budget as compared to the current forecast. He concluded with a review the ACCEL Invoice Detail from November and January.

#### V. Enrollment Update

Wendy Ross announced that enrollment is at 1,500 increasing in grades 7-10.

#### VI. Legal

Thomas Sternberg shared that is ready to help deal with the payment issues when the Board is ready. He shared summary of the current legislative session which is focused on property taxes, pro-school choice matter and FLVS. He also shared that he is available to support the work related to the upcoming charter renewal.

Ms. Fuhrmeister inquired about the underfunding matter which is currently at the state level. Dr. Anthony stated that she would reach out to Osceola again.

#### VII. Board Committee Reports

Strategic Committee Report: There was no update

Executive Committee Report: Lisa Fuhrmeister shared that the committee met with VP Megan Sandoval to discuss the recent leadership changes.

#### VIII. Action Items

On a motion by Jennifer Parker, seconded by Jessica Howell, the **board approved the ACCEL Payment Request of January 2026**. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Jessica Howell, seconded by Jennifer Parker, the board approved the **Out of Field Teachers** as follows:



## Out of Field Teachers

Teacher	Out-of-Field Assignment	Current Certification(s)
April Carter	Category 1 ESOL	ESE, Reading, Elementary Education
Chelsea Zant	Category 1 ESOL	English 6-12, Reading
Megan Vogel	Category 1 ESOL	ESE, Math, Elementary Education
Elizabeth Miller	Category 1 ESOL	ESE
Spencer Marsella	Category 1 ESOL	Elementary Education
Payton Taylor	Category 1 ESOL	Elementary Education

### IX. Comments from the Board

Dr. Howell asked about the low grade 5 test scores. Dr. Stokke shared that this class as fourth graders were 0% proficiency and that combined with a mid-year teacher resignation caused instructional disruption. Dr. Stokke shared additional information about the staffing restructuring.

Ms. Parker expressed her appreciation of the work being done at the school. Ms. Fuhrmeister seconded that and added her complementary thoughts on the enrollment, retention, and culture. Ms. Parker added that school culture is everything.

The next board meeting date and time: February 19, 2026 – 2:00PM

### X. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.