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## FOCUS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, January 26, 2026

Minutes

4:30 p.m.

### **Meeting Called to order:**

Board Chair James Rossman called the meeting to order at 4:39. Board members James Ballard, Doug Amoroso, and Beth McIntyre were present. Staff members Josephine Isenbergh, Loretta Gallo-Lopez, Elisabeth Kraft-Radka, and Meagan Zaharakes were present. Clayton Clemens with Project Focus was present, and board members Karl Langefeld and Ildes Sotolo were absent.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Chair Rossman sought approval for consent agenda. James Ballard moved; Beth McIntyre made a second motion. All approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

### **FOCUS MOMENT-**

Golf tournament was a great success. The school will also be getting new cones and walkie talkies with closed lines.

### **BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS - NONE**

### **COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS**

#### **Financial Committee-**

Per our attorney, action will have to be taken on our part should FTE/IDEA funds not be released to us.

The growth portion of the teacher TSIA money has not been approved by the district but admin is confident that we will receive approval within the next few weeks. It has been recommended by the administration to begin distributing the growth funds to teachers.

#### **Governance Committee-**

Due to significant student absences that have adversely impacted academic progress, potential board action may be required.

Multiple parent meetings have been held to review concerns and reinforce the school's attendance policy. An attendance improvement plan was implemented; however, the plan has not been followed by the parent and/or student.

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled, during which the family will be offered the opportunity to address the Board directly or to provide contact information for a parent representative to speak on their behalf.

If attendance concerns persist, dismissal from the program may be considered. The Board was reminded that there is currently a waiting list for this class, and should the student be exited, the seat would be filled immediately.

### **Marketing Committee**

Google Ads and online marketing have been very successful. This is about one-third less in cost than previous postcard campaigns. The marketing team will continue to focus on online presence.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Founders are currently engaged in discussions with attorneys regarding the potential restructuring of the Focus programs to ensure long-term continuity and alignment with the program's philosophical and financial approach.

As part of this process, the team is also exploring opportunities to offset costs across individual programs by strategically combining resources where appropriate, while maintaining program integrity and effectiveness.

### **FOUNDATION REPORT**

2025 was a tremendous year. The Golf Tournament netted about \$50,000. The Partners in Progress breakfast is March 26 and someone from the Tampa Housing Authority will be speaking. April 26 will be the Glow Row - in search for a 75k KW generator for the row.

Will be discussing with the Housing Authority a potential property. Would like to increase the hourly pay for Project Focus. Board is seeking information to support this increase.

### **PROJECT MANAGER REPORT**

Independent Contractor agreement with O.S. has been extended another 6 months. Her current project is assisting Focus Academy in becoming Medicaid Providers and further understanding the operational system.

### **COMMITTEE/ACTION ITEMS**

James Ballard moved to approve October and November district financial reports. Beth McIntyre made a second motion. All approved.

**Upcoming Meetings: February 23, 2026; March 30, 2026; May 18, 2026**

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Rossman accepted a motion to adjourn, Beth McIntyre moved; James Ballard made a second motion. All approved.

**Reminder:** Board members must recuse from voting on any item that may be a conflict of interest.

Minutes taken and prepared by Meagan Zaharakes, approved by board vote and confirmed by signature below:

*JAMES M. ROSSMAN      Chair*

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Print Name Title

*James M. Rossman      March 30, 2026*

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Signature and Date