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## **FOCUS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Monday, August 17, 2026**

**Minutes**

**4:30 p.m.**

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

Board Chair called the meeting to order at 4:40 James Rossman, Beth McIntyre, James Ballard, and Doug Amoroso were present. Karl Langefeld and Ildes Sotolo attended via Zoom. Staff members Josephine Isenbergh, Loretta Gallo-Lopez, Elisabeth Kraft-Radka, and Meagan Zaharakes were present. Clayton Clemens with Project Focus was present. Olga Siegenthaler attended as a guest.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Chair Rossman sought approval of the consent agenda which consists of the July board minutes and the financial report. James Ballard made a motion; Doug Amoroso seconded. All approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

### **FOCUS MOMENT-**

Focus Academy was a commendable rated school and was the only ESE center in Hillsborough County to receive a commendable rating.

### **BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS -**

None

### **COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS**

#### **Financial Committee-**

Discussed the 2025-26 school year results. There was a \$300,000 difference in the positive. The team also worked through the budget for the current school year. Despite a lower head-count, the team does not foresee this impacting the 2026-27 school year tremendously.

#### **Governance Committee-**

The governance committee is seeking approval for the analysis of the academic achievement, out of field teachers, and amendments to the school handbook which includes updates to approved on-campus technology.

Looking to replace the parent representative on the board as current representative and Board member K. Langefeld, no longer resides in Hillsborough County. Board member Ildes Sotelo

completed her 2 hour refresher training. All board members are in compliance with their training certification.

### **Marketing Committee –**

Discussed student growth rates and how families are finding the school. Will be focusing on Facebook adds.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

No notes

### **FOUNDATION REPORT**

Upcoming Events:

- **August 19th** - Fundraiser at Josephine's Italian Market 4:00-9:00PM
- **August 27th** - Donor appreciation mix and mingle event - will be catered and have light refreshments 4:00-9:00PM
- **October 9th** - Project Focus Gala at the Tampa Yacht and Country Club
  - Have 90K committed and is still growing
- **January 15th** - Golf Tournament
- **April (exact date TBD?)** - Glow Row at Waterworks Park near downtown Tampa

The Project Focus Foundation is planning a brand-new, integrated campus in collaboration with major community partners, including PMG Affordable Group, the Tampa Housing Authority, and Bank of America.

The proposed campus features a comprehensive blend of residential and non-residential facilities:

- Residential Housing: Senior-affordable housing units, a 120-unit apartment building consisting of single and studio layouts, and two group homes designed with 6-bed and 6-bath accommodations.
- Non-Residential Framework: A workforce training center and a dedicated education center meant to serve as the new school facility for a school.

### **Current Project Status**

The development team is actively working with a land-use attorney to achieve property rezoning for the site. Because the initiative provides Focus Academy with a permanent home, PF wants to know if Focus Academy is interested in a new facility and if so how can they help support this project.

While the board recognizes the immense value of securing a new school facility, and the positive impact this project will have on our students and population, members expressed careful stewardship regarding an "ask." Moving forward, the board's primary directive is to figure out how they can authentically support the rezoning initiative and show solidarity with the project partners without creating any financial risk or negatively impacting the current operating budget of the Academy.

### COMMITTEE / ACTION ITEMS

- Sought approval for 1 teacher, Alicia Gebo-Green, to teach out of field for the 2026-2027 school year. This teacher carries her content certification in Social Sciences 5-9 and is out of field for ESE K-12. Beth McIntyre made a motion to approve; Doug Amoroso seconded. All approved.
- Sought approval for analysis of the academic achievement. Doug Amoroso made a motion to approve; James Ballard seconded. All approved.
- Sought approval for amendments to the school handbook concerning meta glasses. James Ballard made a motion to approve; Beth McIntyre seconded. All approved.
- Sought approval for Beth McIntyre to be the new parent representative. James Ballard made a motion to approve; Doug Amoroso seconded. All approved.

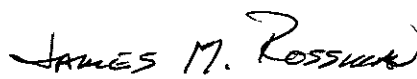
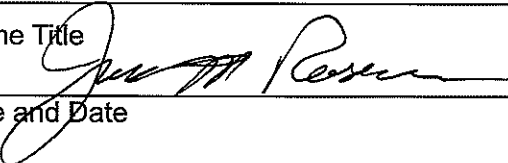
### Upcoming Meetings: Monday, September 21, 2026

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Rossman sought a motion to adjourn.

Beth McIntyre made the motion; Karl Langefeld seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:30.

**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:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Title  
 9/21/26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date