



Ina A. Colen Academy
On Top of the World Communities
Cypress Hall
8413 SW 80th Street
Ocala, FL 34481
[ZOOM LINK](#)
Meeting ID: 827 5715 5866
Passcode: 358538
Tuesday, July 15th, 2025 - 6:00 pm

VISION

Ina A. Colen Academy will educate the hearts and minds of students and families in an environment where everyone belongs, works together, and thrives.

MISSION

To cultivate passionate learners in an inclusive school community in which individuality and diversity are valued, and students develop understanding and empathy for others through collaboration and active learning.

ATTENDEES: Vanessa Baxley, Robert Colen, Janet Behnke, Harvey Taub, Roseann Fricks-Patterson, Autumn Barfield (via zoom), Rebecca Rogers, Lily Hutchinson, Ken Colen, Jim Walkup, Tabitha Jones (via zoom), Cassie Edwards (via zoom), Ashlee Kaufold (via zoom), Shawn Arnold (via zoom), Sermattie Ejaz

ABSENT: Dr. Nijher (excused)

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order – Harvey Taub called to order at 6:00pm
2. Establish a quorum – 4/5 board members present. The board meeting was properly noticed.
3. Public Comment- Public comment is limited to 3 minutes.
 - a. Sermattie Ejaz – Concern regarding middle school backpack weight and lockers.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes – May 2025
 - b. FY 2026 Board Operations Calendar update
 - c. Vendor contracts for 2025-26
 - d. Out of field teacher assignments for 2025-26
 - e. **Motion to approve the consent agenda.** HT Motion to accept, Janet seconds.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Facilities – Jim Walkup
Current capital projects review including classroom expansion and cafeteria renovation
 - b. Principal – Vanessa Baxley
 - i. Review of opening activities for 2025-26
 - ii. Auditor on campus tomorrow at 9am
 - iii. August 4th – All teachers will return
 - iv. School received another grade A for 2024 – 2025 school year.
 - v. Meet the teacher Monday, August 11th
 - vi. The official first day of class is Wednesday, August 13th
 - c. Finance – Tabitha Jones
 - i. Insurance overview for 2025-26 (Rebecca Rogers)
10% increase in premium (increase in students to 582) – Florida Insurance Alliance
 - ii. June 2025 financials
Review of balance sheet, revenue and expense summary

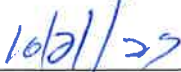
- iii. Final Budget adoption for 2024-25
 Adopting the actuals as the year-end budget
Motion to adopt the FY 25 YTD actuals as the final budget. HT Motion to accept, Janet seconds
 Cost Report - 3-year comparison of cost reports reviewed
 - d. IACA Loan Overview - Rebecca Rogers
 RR provided summary overview of contribution/loans since inception of program
- 6. New Business
 - a. 2025-26 Budget adoption - Tabitha Jones, Vanessa Baxley
 Presented balanced budget for adoption which included an FEFP increase
Motion to adopt the 2025-26 budget as presented. HT Motion to accept; 1st JB, 2ND RC
 - b. 2025-26 Parent/Student Handbook - Vanessa Baxley
 - 1. Page 13 – Cell phone and wireless communication policy
 - 2. Appendix C Page 30 – Grievance Policy*Motion to approve the 2025-26 parent/student handbook.* HT Motion to accept 1st RC, JB 2nd
 - c. New policies - Shawn Arnold
 - 1. All employees, not just instructional staff
 - 2. Mandatory removal of felonies or serious misdemeanors
 - ii. Student Welfare Policy
 - iii. Cell phone policy*Motion to adopt the policies as presented.* HT Motion to accept 1ST RC, JB 2nd
 - d. HR items - Lilian Hutchinson
 - i. Employment Agreements 2025-26
 - 1. 1% increase
 - 2. execute formal teacher contracts
 - ii. 2025-26 Employee Handbook amendment
 - 1. Amended PTO policy.*Motion to approve the amended PTO policy for the 2025-26 Employee Handbook.*
 HT Motion to accept 1st JB., 2nd RC
 - iii. Board self-evaluation results for 2024-25
 - 1. Strong agreement that the board meetings are well run, very informative.
 - iv. Board Governance Training opportunities
 - 1. Meeting held on 7/17/2025 at 9am – 1pm
- 7. Roundtable Discussion (5 min.)
 - a. Welcome Roseann Fricks-Patterson
 - b. "A" school rating.
- 8. Adjourn – HT Motion to adjourn; 1st JB, 2ND RC. at 6:56pm Next Meeting **October 21st at 6:00 pm**

Board Packet:
 Agenda, Documents

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Managers at a publicly noticed meeting held on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025.


 Board Secretary


 Printed Name


 Date