



**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 29, 2025 Via Zoom**

Present: Randee Gabriel – President
Damien Hunte – Vice President
Steve Carroll – Treasurer
Jerry Zel - Board Member
June Aversano – Board Member
John Spruance – Board Member
Ann Levene-Eisenberg – Executive Director
Louisa Legato – Business Director
Allison Ballin - Associate Director of Education & Behavioral Services
Jessica DuBoff- Principal in Training for Treasure Coast School for Autism
Kim Gayle-Director of Transition & Family Services

Call to Order: Randee Gabriel called the meeting to order at 4:15pm

The meeting was called to order by Randee Gabriel. Randee requested a motion to approve the minutes from the previous two meetings, both held on **May 22, 2025**.

- **Motion to Approve First Meeting Minutes:**
 - **Motion:** June
 - **Second:** John
- **Motion to Approve Second Meeting Minutes (held at 5 p.m. on the same day):**
- **Motion:** Damien
- **Second:** June
- The minutes for both meetings were approved.

Randee Gabriel introduced Laura Feinberg from the CPA firm Sharff Wittmer Kurtz Jackson and Diaz to present the 2025 financial statements, which are currently in draft form.

Key Points from the Presentation:

- **Audit Opinion:** The firm issued a clean opinion, stating the financial statements are presented **fairly in all material respects**.
- **Government-Wide Statements:** The statements are prepared on an **accrual basis** and show that assets exceeded liabilities by **\$8.8 million**. However, the **net position decreased by almost \$1 million** compared to the previous year.

- **Single Audit Requirement:** The school was required to have a single audit because it received over **\$750,000** in federal funds, specifically **IDEA grants**. This threshold is increasing to **\$1 million** next year.
- **Financial Position:**
 - Laura Feinberg stated the schools current assets and the enrollment of **384 full-time students**.
 - **Capital assets** and **Right of Use (ROU) assets** (related to leases) are the largest items on the balance sheet. The ROU asset and corresponding liability are significant due to a long-term lease extending to **2051**.
 - **Restricted Net Assets:** The school has restricted funds from **referendum funding** that have not yet been used.
- **Revenues and Expenses:**
 - **FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program) funding** is the largest source of revenue.
 - Overall, revenues were **not sufficient to cover expenses** this year, resulting in the decrease in net position.
- **Investments:** The school's investments are in the **UBS Select Treasury Preferred Fund**, valued at **\$8,226,140**. The fund has a **AAA rating** from Moody's.
- **Internal Controls:** The audit firm reviewed internal controls for planning purposes.
- **Federal Compliance:** The school was found to be in **compliance with all major federal grant requirements**, with the **IDEA grant** being the only major program audited.
- The board thanked Ms. Feinberg for her detailed report. The meeting continued with a review of the auditor's findings.

Director of Transition& Family Services- Kim Gayle:

- Kim Gayle introduced herself and gave information about her experience& expressed that she was happy to be part of the Palm Beach School for Autism family.
- Kim Gayle discussed the Special Olympics, therapy dog expansions & new community partnerships.
- Kim Gayle stated that she has made improvements in the SSI process & she has decreased the turn around time to three days.
- Kim Gayle stated the "New Parent Breakfast" was a success
- Kim Gayle stated she will be having workshops including "Special Needs Planning" & Guardianship & Social Security eligibility options.

Executive Directors Report – Ann Eisenberg:

- Ann Eisenberg provided an update on operations, grants and strategic projects.
- Ann Eisenberg stated after 3 years of advocacy, the county approved the installation of a yellow flashing traffic light on Lantana Rd to mitigate high-speed traffic risks during carpool.
- Ann Eisenberg stated we have received \$200,000 from the "New School Venture Fund" for the Treasure Coast School
- Ann Eisenberg stated we have received \$50,000 from The DeSantis Family Foundation to

purchase mobile kitchen equipment & for classroom cooking instruction for Project Next.

- Ann Eisenberg stated we have a new Director of Donor & Community Engagement, named Kristin who is establishing new relationships and the plans for a “Parent Fundraising Committee” will kick off in mid to late October
- Ann Eisenberg stated to “Save the Date” for our next fundraising event “Shine on Success” which will be held at the Wycliffe Country Club on February 7, 2026
- Ann Eisenberg stated one of our families made a 5 year, \$250,000 unrestricted donation.
- Ann Eisenberg stated United Healthcare gave us a \$5,000.00 donation to go towards our “Holiday Food for Families”
- Ann Eisenberg stated we hired a Logan Rogers as our “Director of E-Commerce” for 8480Gifts. Ann also stated we have rebranded Exit 8480 to “8480gifts.com” and we have a full Shopify overhaul underway.

Business Directors Report – Louisa Legato:

- Louisa Legato presented a handout detailing the income & expenses as of August 2025
- Louisa Legato shared the bank balances.
- Louisa Legato stated the renewal for the United Healthcare PPO plan was negotiated down from an initial 14% increase to between 8% & 10%. The school continues to pay for this single plan option as 100% employer paid for staff.

Associate Directors Report – Allison Ballin:

- Allison Ballin reported on instructional initiatives and program quality.
- Allison Ballin stated the school is deploying an AI-enabled accessibility toolbar on up to 150 Chromebooks/devices to help students with reading and writing by modifying text size, color and vocabulary.
- Allison Ballin stated she is continuing to grow the PCM Team.
- Allison Ballin stated she is collaborating with outside agencies for ABA services for our “Aftercare” program.
- Allison Ballin stated we are still looking for fully certified teachers.

Board of Director Approvals:

- Ann Eisenberg called for a vote on a policy for “School Safety Crisis Response Plan”. We are adopting as per state statute. Russ Feldman made the 1st motion and John Spruance made the 2nd motion. All board members voted in favor of adopting the plan.
- Ann Eisenberg asked for a vote to adopt the policy for the “Protection of Student Information.” as per statute. Steve Carroll made the 1st motion and June Aversano made the 2nd motion. All board members voted in favor to adopt the policy for protection of student information.
- The auditors presented their annual report to the board of directors, questions were asked and answered. Louisa Legato asked for a vote to accept the auditors report, Damien Hunte made the 1st motion & June Aversano made the 2nd motion. All voted in favor to accept the auditors report as presented.
- Ann Eisenberg called for a vote on a policy for “School Safety Crisis Response Plan”. We are going to adopt as per state statute. Russ Feldman made the 1st motion and John

- Spruance made the 2nd motion. All board members voted in favor of adopting the plan.
- Randee Gabriel asked for a vote to accept the final audit report figures as the final budget for the 24-25 fiscal year as presented. Jerry Zel made the 1st motion & John Spruance made the 2nd motion. All board members voted in favor to accept the final audit report figures.

Adjournment:

Randee Gabriel made a motion to adjourn, Damien Hunte made the first motion and Russ Feldman made the second motion and all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted: Laurie Marino

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randee Gabriel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.