



Arizona State
Board for
Charter Schools



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Instructional Days Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Phoenix Advantage Charter
School, Inc.

CTDS:
07-87-14-000

Mailing Address:
3738 North 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016

[View detailed
> info](#)

Representative

Name:
Leanne Bowley

Phone Number:
6022638777

Fax Number:
6022638822

Downloads

[Download all files](#)

Contractual Days

192

To
180

Fiscal Year Effective Date
9/12/2016

Type of Change
Permanent Change

Attachment

Board Minutes — [Download File](#)

School Calendar — [Download File](#)

Daily Instructional Schedule — [Download File](#)

Narrative — [Download File](#)

Additional Information

[Download File](#) — I have submitted the school calendar for the 192 version so the board may compare it to the 180 day version.

[Download File](#) — Attached please find the full academic day schedule for students in each grade.

[Download File](#) — half day academic schedule

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Leanne Bowley 06/21/2016

MINUTES

Phoenix Advantage Charter School Governing Board Meeting MINUTES

BOARD MEETING FOR
PHOENIX ADVANTAGE CHARTER SCHOOL TO BE HELD:

5/15/2016

3:30pm

This meeting was accessible via telephone at

Call-in number: **1-712-7757031**

Conference ID: **627-655-544#**

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

“Our mission is to empower students to learn and achieve — every child, every day.”

AGENDA 5/15/2016

A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call To Order – **Meeting was called to order at 3:36pm**
2. Roll Call
 - i. Brian Bissell, President - **PRESENT**
 - ii. Lew Taylor, Member - **PRESENT**
 - iii. Dave Foster, Member - **PRESENT**
3. Approval of the Agenda
Dave Foster made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Lew Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. Approval of the Minutes from the 7/14/2015 Meeting
Dave Foster made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Lew Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. Call to the Public

There were no people present for the call to the public, no phone calls were made to the school and there were no emails received with any requests.

B. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. New Schools for Phoenix Fellowship awarded to Superintendent Leanne Bowley

After an intense application and interviewing process, Leanne Bowley was chosen to participate in the Fellowship through New Schools for Phoenix. Leanne explained that the Fellowship will help her bring the deep-rooted change and reformation that Phoenix Advantage and its students deserve under new management. Exposure to the best practices from schools around the nation serving Title I and inner city youth will help inspire the new teaching staff at the school to develop and sustain a culture of excellence. President Brian Bissell and the Governing Board lauded Leanne's leadership qualities that brought this award to our school.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the Phoenix Advantage Instructional Days Amendment. The proposed amendment is in full compliance with Arizona Revised Statute 15-901 and will include the required components per Arizona State Charter Board.

Dave Foster made a motion to consider the amendment as presented. Lew Taylor seconded the motion. Brian Bissell stated that the amendment would change the school year from 192 days, a design that was a part of the Mosaica Model that is obsolete. He also pointed out that the neighboring schools are in line with the 180 day model. Mr. Bissell called for the vote with carried unanimously.

2. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the 192 school calendar for 2016-2017 unless the Instructional Days Amendment is approved. If the State Charter Board approves the calendar amendment, the school will use the 180 day calendar as per that amendment. The school community is aware of and approves both calendars and the start date of the school year is not affected by either option thereby mitigating any disruption to the education of students.

Dave Foster made a motion to accept the 192 calendar and the 180 day calendar if approved by the State Charter Board. Lew Taylor seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the FY15 Classroom Site Fund plan (301 Plan).

Dave Foster made a motion to accept the FY15-16 Classroom Site Fund plan (301 Plan). Lew Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Foster asked how long the current plan had been in use. Ms. Bowley said the school had been using it for about 4 years and that it had successfully audited each year. Mr. Foster also questioned the ease of implementation despite the seeming complexity of the calculations. Ms. Bowley assured him that the calculation were easy to implement at the school level. Ms. Bissell requested that the accountant work with Ms. Bowley to develop a new plan for FY16-17. Ms. Bissell then called for the vote which carried unanimously.

4. Discussion, consideration and possible ratification of the Annual Financial Report

Dave Foster made a motion to ratify the AFR. Lew Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Bissell stated that we need to formalize the timely submission of the AFR that was developed by Michele Diamond in concert with school administration. Mr. Bissell asked for further discussion and hearing none, he called for the vote which carried unanimously.

5. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the Final Budget Revision.

Lew Taylor made a motion to approve the Final Budget Revision for the FY15-16 School Year. Dave Foster seconded the motion. Mr. Bissell stated that the Final Budget Revision was drawn up by the school accountant and review by Ms. Bowley and Caitlin Alexander. The board discussed ADA/ADM and that Arizona funds differently than some other states. Mr. Bissell asked for further discussion and hearing none, he called for the vote which carried unanimously.

6. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the Corporate Resolutions.

Lew Taylor made a motion to approve the Corporate Resolutions. Dave Foster seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The Corporate Resolutions can be found at the end of this agenda.

Election of Officer

A motion made by Lew Taylor, seconded by Dave Foster, was unanimously passed to elect Mrs. Caitlin Alexander as Secretary-Treasurer.

Banking

A motion made by Lew Taylor, seconded by Dave Foster, was unanimously passed that Mr. Brian Bissell and Mrs. Caitlin Alexander are hereby authorized (a) To designate one or more banks or similar financial institutions as depositories of the funds of the Organization; (b) To open, maintain and close general and special accounts with any such depositories; (c) To cause to be deposited, from time to time, in such accounts with any such depository, such funds of the Organization as Mr. Bissell or Mrs. Alexander deems necessary or advisable, and to designate or change the designation of the officer or agent of the Organization authorized to make such deposits and to endorse checks, drafts and other instruments for deposit; (d) To designate, change or revoke the designation, from time to time, of the officer or agent of the Organization authorized to sign or countersign checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money issued in the name of the Organization against any funds deposited in any of such accounts; (e) To authorize the use of facsimile signatures for the signing or countersigning of checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, and to enter into such agreements as banks and similar financial institutions customarily require as a condition for permitting the use of facsimile signatures; and (f) To make such general and special rules and regulations with respect to such accounts as he or she may deem necessary or advisable, and to complete, execute and certify any customary printed blank signature card forms in order to exercise conveniently the authority granted by this resolution and any resolutions printed on such cards are deemed adopted as a part of this resolution. Resolved, further, that all form resolutions required by any such depository are hereby adopted in such form used by such depository, and that Mr. Bissell and/or Mrs. Alexander are (i) authorized to certify such resolutions as having been adopted by this Action by Written Consent and (ii) directed to insert a copy of any such form resolutions in a minute book of the Organization immediately following this Action by Written Consent; and resolved, further, that any such depository to which a copy of these resolutions has been delivered by Mr. Bissell or Mrs. Alexander is hereby authorized and entitled to rely upon such resolutions for all purposes until it shall have received written notice of the revocation or amendment of these resolutions adopted by the board of directors.

Insurance

A motion made by Lew Taylor, seconded by Dave Foster, was unanimously passed that Mr. Bissell and Mrs. Alexander are appointed to procure necessary insurance for the Organization.

Management Powers

A motion made by Lew Taylor, seconded by Dave Foster, was unanimously passed that Mr. Brian Bissell and Mrs. Caitlin Alexander are hereby authorized to sign and execute in the name and on behalf of the Organization all applications, contracts, leases and other deeds and documents or instruments in writing of whatsoever nature that may be required in the ordinary course of business of the Organization and that may be necessary for operation of the corporate affairs, governmental permits and licenses for, and incidental to, the lawful operations of the business of the Organization, and to do such acts and things as Mr. Bissell and Mrs. Alexander deem necessary or advisable to fulfill such legal requirements as are applicable to the Organization and its business.

Ratification

A motion made by Lew Taylor, seconded by Dave Foster, was unanimously passed that all prior acts done on behalf of the Organization by Mr. Bissell or Mrs. Alexander are hereby ratified and approved as acts of the Organization.

Additional Filings

A motion made by Lew Taylor, seconded by Dave Foster, was unanimously passed that Mr. Bissell and Mrs. Alexander are hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Organization, to make such filings and applications, to execute and deliver such documents and instruments, and to do such acts and things as he or she deems necessary or advisable in order to obtain such licenses, authorizations and permits as are necessary or desirable for the Organization's business, and to fulfill such legal requirements as are applicable to the Organization and its business and to complete the organization of the corporation.

7. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the Governing Board Meeting Calendar for the next twelve months.

Suggestion 1 - Thursdays	Suggestion 2 - Wednesdays	Alternate Proposal TBD
6/30/2016 • Proposed Budget	6/29/2016 • Proposed Budget	
7/14/2016 • Budget Hearing • Adopted Budget	7/13/2016 • Budget Hearing Adopted Budget	
8/18/2016 • Prop 301 Plan • Academic Goals and Plans	8/17/2016 • Prop 301 Plan Academic Goals and Plans	
10/12/2016 • First benchmark results • Annual financial report	10/11/2016 • First benchmark results Annual financial report	
3/12/2017 • Academic Progress Update • Approval of 2017-2018 calendar • Retention/recruiting plan	3/11/2017 • Academic Progress Update • Approval of 2017-2018 calendar • Retention/recruiting plan	
MONDAY – 5/15/2017 • Final revised budget	MONDAY – 5/15/2017 • Final revised budget	
6/29/2017 • Proposed Budget	6/28/2017 • Proposed Budget	

Lew Taylor made a motion to approve the Thursday Suggestion 1 column for the coming year governing board meetings. Dave Foster seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

H. **ADJOURNMENT**.....Board President
Dave Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Foster seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Phoenix Advantage Charter School

2016-2017

Academic Year Calendar



Peter Piper
Pizza Back to
School Bash

July 16

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

180 day option

August 16

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 16

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 16

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Parent/Tchr Conf. 1/2 day

November 16

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 16

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 17

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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Parent/Tchr Conf. 1/2 day

April 17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 17

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June 17

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

Phoenix Advantage Charter School
3738 North 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-263-8777

COLOR KEY:

First/Last Day of School
Holiday - NO SCHOOL
Galileo Testing
Student Half Days of Instruction
AZELLA Testing
Fall, Winter & Spring Breaks
Teacher Preservice

Important Dates

K & Placement Azella Testing - July 18-22
New Teacher Preservice - July 21 & 22
All Teacher Preservice - July 25-29
First Day of School August 1, 2016
Galileo Testing August 4 - 12
NO SCHOOL Labor Day -09/05/16
Galileo Testing September 22-30
1/2 DAY - 10/07/16
NO SCHOOL October Break - 10/10-14/2016
NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day - 11/11/16
1/2 DAY - 11/23/16
NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving 11/24 & 25
Galileo Testing - December 1-9, 2016
1/2 DAY 12/16/16
NO SCHOOL Winter Break - 12/19/16-1/2/2017
School Resumes - 1/3/17 - TUESDAY
NO SCHOOL MLK Day-1/16/17
NO SCHOOL President's Day -2/20/17
Galileo Testing - March 1-9, 2017
Student Half Day - 03/10/17
NO SCHOOL Spring Break- 03/13 thru 17/2017
NO SCHOOL -04/14/17
Galileo Testing - April 27, 28 & May 1-5
1/2 DAY Last Day of School -5/17/2016

Phoenix Advantage Charter School

2016-2017

Academic Year Calendar



Peter Piper
Pizza Back to
School Bash

July 16						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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August 16						
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September 16						
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October 16						
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November 16						
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December 16						
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January 17						
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February 17						
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March 17						
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April 17						
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May 17						
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June 17						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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Galileo Testing September 22-30	
1/2 DAY - 10/07/16	
NO SCHOOL October Break - 10/10-14/2016	
NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day - 11/11/16	
1/2 DAY - 11/23/16	
NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving 11/24 & 25	
Galileo Testing - December 1-9, 2016	
1/2 DAY 12/16/16	
NO SCHOOL Winter Break - 12/19/16-1/2/2017	
School Resumes - 1/3/17 - TUESDAY	
NO SCHOOL MLK Day-1/16/17	
NO SCHOOL President's Day -2/20/17	
Galileo Testing - March 1-9, 2017	
Student Half Day - 03/10/17	
NO SCHOOL Spring Break- 03/13 thru 17/2017	
1/2 DAY Good Friday -04/14/17	
Galileo Testing - May 17-25	
1/2 DAY - May 26th	
NO SCHOOL Memorial Day - 05/29/17	
1/2 DAY Last Day of School - 06/02/17	

11:35	Arts							Recess	11:35
11:40									11:40
11:45									11:45
11:50			Language Arts					Teacher Supervised Lunch	11:50
11:55	Constructive Play for Inquiry & Exploration			Teacher Supervised Recess					11:55
12									12
12:05		Math							12:05
12:10									12:10
12:15						Specials & Teacher Lunch Break			12:15
12:20	Social Studies	Recess on Jungle Gym		Teacher Supervised Lunch			Social Studies 8B	English 8A	12:20
12:25			Math					Science 7B	12:25
12:30								Mathematics 7A	12:30
12:35									12:35
12:40	Snack & Recess on Jungle Gym away from PE								12:40
12:45		Math							12:45
12:50									12:50
12:55		Math	Bathroom		Math				12:55
1									1
1:05			Recess on Jungle Gym						1:05
1:10						Social Studies			1:10
1:15			Social Studies				Specials & Teacher Lunch	Hydroponic Gardening	1:15
1:20	MATH			Recess on Jungle Gym				Technology	1:20
1:25		Social Studies							1:25
1:30			Social Studies						1:30
1:35				Recess on Jungle Gym					1:35
1:40		Social Studies							1:40
1:45		Recess on Jungle Gym		Math	Recess on field	Science			1:45
1:50									1:50
1:55	Science						Careers	Art	1:55
2								Specials & Teach Lunch	2
2:05		Science	Science	Science	Science				2:05
2:10						Recess on Field			2:10
2:15									2:15
2:20	Prep for Dismiss								2:20
2:25									2:25
2:30	Dismissal and duties until all students are off campus								
2:35									
2:40									
2:45									
2:50									
2:55									
3	Teacher Prep, Meeting Time, Etc. See Teacher Schedule Tab for details								
3:15									
3:30									
4:00									

Kindergarten Hours of Annual Instruction Calculations

	full days	half days	TOTAL	
# of days	171	9		
# of minutes	285	170		
total/ year	48735	1530		
hours per year	812.25	25.5		State Rqmt

GRAND Total
of instructional
hours per year **837.75** 356

First - Third Hours of Annual Instruction Calculations

	full days	half days	TOTAL	
# of days	171	9		
# of minutes	310	170		
total/ year	53010	1530		
hours per year	883.5	25.5		State Rqmt

GRAND Total
of instructional
hours per year **909** 720

Fourth - Sixth Hours of Annual Instruction Calculations

	full days	half days	TOTAL	
# of days	171	9		
# of minutes	325	170		
total/ year	55575	1530		
hours per year	926.25	25.5		State Rqmt

GRAND Total
of instructional
hours per year **951.75** 951.75

Seventh - Eighth Hours of Annual Instruction Calculations

	full days	half days	TOTAL	
# of days	171	9		
# of minutes	355	170		
total/ year	60705	1530		
hours per year	1011.75	25.5		State Rqmt

GRAND Total
of instructional
hours per year

1037.25

Narrative to Amend Instruction Days

Applicable LEA: Phoenix Advantage Charter School

LEA CTDS 078714000

LEA Entity ID 4338

Applicable School #1 Phoenix Advantage Charter School

Opened 1998

School #1 CTDS 078714001

School #1 Entity ID School 5512

Current instructional days 192

Requested instructional days 180

Phoenix Advantage recently broke its ties with the former management company Mosaica Education, Inc. (MEI). MEI left the school in poor shape financially, academically and the physical plant was in disrepair. The school has a volunteer board and a single charter rep who are working hard to correct the wrongs committed during MEI's mismanagement.

During its first year of independent operation, the board and the charter rep collaboratively identified teacher retention and student stability as its primary goal. In its last year under MEI's operation, Phoenix Advantage had over five teachers in one fifth grade classroom alone. The board directed the school principal to call former employees for exit interviews. Unanimously, these teachers stated that they felt a lack of support in an extraordinarily difficult work environment that was overly long. Teachers worked 7.5 hours in front of students, another half hour of duty and a 30 minute break that was often cut short. They had little time for planning. Teachers also worked an additional 12 days during the year. Former teachers stated that the students were exhausted, off task and that negative behaviors sky-rocketed and absenteeism rose as the overly long year progressed.

Their anecdotal evidence has been confirmed during the school year. Many parents have requested calendars that match the area schools. Further, the shorter year will provide local leadership with the opportunity to provide training for teachers and prepare them to meet the rigorous challenge of transforming the D-rated Phoenix Advantage Charter School by refocusing, re-visioning and creating a school of excellence.

To better capture the reasons for the charter amendment requests, issues have been organized into three categories:

Student Benefits	Parent Benefits	School Benefits
Increased student engagement due to shorter year. Students don't check out or feel as burnt out. At PACS, students work very hard to make up for educational deficits and they lack focus by May.	Allows for correlation to area school schedules for older siblings and other family members at other schools. The cultural emphasis on family and family obligations is better accommodated with a shorter school year.	Additional time to offer summer programming options and enrichment.
Increased attendance during the additional 12 days of school. Our students often take the last week or two off to leave town. Our largely free and reduced lunch community emphasizes family and family obligations above all else. Ending school earlier is currently occurring regardless of the calendar	Parents can opt to engage their children in summer schools programs, academic tutoring or STEM programs or religious camps since the academic year will no longer prevent enrollment.	Increased planning and preparation time to positively affect the transformation needed to turn PACS into an A-Rated school.
Students are not seeing the academic gains that were anticipated with the longer school year model. This model allows teachers adequate discretion time to add rich content for their students as needed.	We anticipate a gain in student enrollment. Student enrollment has declined at Phoenix Advantage. Some parents have withdrawn because their children have little time left each year to participate in summer camps, family travel, sports, etc.	With a shorter year, administration will provide intensive training to ensure that instruction is rock-solid so that we can gain ground academically in the most expedient manner possible.
Students will be in front of teachers who are prepared and better rested, not burnt out from an overly demanding schedule.	Parents with students who have behavior management issues will see improvement. Students who have behavior problems tend to escalate toward the end of the year. Parents of these students often complain that our year is too long.	Increased students attendance and reduced transportation costs: 12 days X 1386.11/day = \$16,633.32 annual savings
Students will benefit from additional time in their schedules for extra-curricular activities.	Parents enjoy more family time.	Reduction in staff turnover due to burnout and exhaustion. Exit interviews indicate long school year as a motivating factor to leave the organization.

This amendment request meets the guidelines in ARS 12-901 as outlined below: <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/15/00901.htm>

Age Group	ARS12-901 Annual Hours Required	PACS Proposed Hours
Kindergarten	356	837.75
First - Third	720	909
Fourth - Sixth	890	951.75
Seventh - Eighth	1000	1037.25

Timeline for Adoption:

1. April, 2016 – Developed an amendment with input from various stakeholders including parents, teachers, athletic league, community partners and students. Developed a 180-day calendar and a 192-day calendar with the school start date remaining static. Any new families to the community will be advised of the two calendar options for the year and all stakeholders will be immediately notified via School Messenger, Facebook, and a notice send home with students and the School Website following the ASBCS August Meeting.
2. April, 2016 – Phoenix Advantage Charter School Governing Board Meeting held to adopt proposed charter amendment. The Governing Board will also approve the 2016-2017 calendar based on the current 192 day requirement with the provision that if the charter amendment is approved during the ASBCS August meeting that the proposed 180-day calendar would become the official school calendar for the 2016-2017 school year.
3. May, 2016 – Upload the tentative board approved 2016-2017 calendar and notify our school finance specialist that we intend to amend the calendar in August or September if the charter amendment is approved.
4. May, 2016 – Notify all contract recipients for PACS business that we have two calendar options and that we will notify them pending approval at either the August or September meeting.
5. May, 2016 – submit amendment and required documents via ASBCS Online.
6. August or September 12, 2016 – Attend the ASBCS August or September meeting to determine if the amendment has been approved. If it is approved, all stakeholders will be immediately notified via School Messenger, Facebook, a notice send home with students and the School Website following the ASBCS August or September Meeting.