

**AVENTURA GOVERNING BOARD
AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL AND
DON SOFFER AVENTURA HIGH SCHOOL**



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

January 22, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Aventura Government Center

19200 W. Country Club Drive · Aventura, FL 33180

5th Floor Executive Conference Room

Governing Board

**AVENTURA CITY COMMISSION ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE GOVERNING BOARD
FOR THE AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL (ACES) AND
THE DON SOFFER AVENTURA HIGH SCHOOL (DSAHS)**

**Mayor Howard S. Weinberg, Esq.
Vice Mayor Amit Bloom
Commissioner Clifford B. Ain
Commissioner Gustavo Blachman
Commissioner Rachel S. Friedland, Esq.
Commissioner Paul A. Kruss
Commissioner Cindy Orlinsky**

**City Manager Bryan Pegues – Governing Board Facilitator
City Clerk Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC
City Attorney Robert Meyers**

AVENTURA CITY COMMISSION ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE GOVERNING BOARD FOR THE AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL (ACES) AND THE DON SOFFER AVENTURA HIGH SCHOOL (DSAHS):

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
- 4. SCHOOL UPDATES:**
 - Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES)
 - Don Soffer Aventura High School (DSAHS)
- 5. APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ACES AND DSAHS**
- 6. APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD WAIVER FOR ACES**
- 7. REVIEW OF FALL SURVEY RESULTS FOR ACES AND DSAHS**
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 9. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, (305) 466-8901 or cityclerk@cityofaventura.com, not later than two days prior to such proceedings. One or more members of the City of Aventura Advisory Boards may participate in the meeting. Anyone wishing to appeal any decision made by the Aventura City Commission, acting in its capacity as the Governing Board for the Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) and the Don Soffer Aventura High School (DSAHS), with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Agenda items are available online at cityofaventura.com for viewing and printing, or may be requested through the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 466-8901 or cityclerk@cityofaventura.com.



**AVENTURA GOVERNING BOARD
AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL AND
DON SOFFER AVENTURA HIGH SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Aventura Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive
Aventura, FL 33180**

Aventura City Commission acting in its capacity as the Governing Board for the Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) and the Don Soffer Aventura High School (DSAHS):

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Howard Weinberg at 9:04 a.m. The roll was called and the following were present: Mayor Howard S. Weinberg, Vice Mayor Cindy Orlinsky, Commissioner Clifford B. Ain, Commissioner Gustavo Blachman, Commissioner Amit Bloom, Commissioner Rachel S. Friedland¹, Commissioner Paul A. Kruss, City Manager Bryan Pegues, City Clerk Ellisa L. Horvath, and City Attorney Robert Meyers. Also present were ACES Principal Dr. Andrea Beck, DSAHS Principal Dr. Geoff McKee, and Rachel Windler-Freitag – Charter Schools USA Area 2 Florida Deputy Director. As a quorum was determined to be present, the meeting commenced.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge was led by Mayor Weinberg.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion for approval of the June 12, 2025 Aventura Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes was offered by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Ain, and passed unanimously by roll call vote.
4. **SCHOOL UPDATES:**
 - **Don Soffer Aventura High School (DSAHS):** Principal Dr. Geoff McKee provided updates including the following items: his 22nd opening as a high school principal, Achievement Data for the 2024-2025 school year (National Merit Recognition, FL DOE Grade Achievement, AP Results, and University of Cambridge AICE Results), test prep, open houses, new teachers, homecoming, club rush, 5K, play, and parent university.

¹ Participated via Zoom until arrival at 9:10 a.m. during the School Updates.

The City Commission provided input on the items including: students entering 9th grade, number of graduates, hiring process, guidance counselors, dedicated college counselor, team sports, and high achieving students.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

Proclamations: A Proclamation was read and presented for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September 2025) to Silvia Dominguez Vanni, Mystic Force Foundation Co-Founder & Executive Director.

- Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES): Principal Dr. Andrea Beck provided updates including the following items: meet and greets, enrollment, staffing, school grade remaining at an “A”, school performance, school initiatives, 2-year school theme, events, PTC kickoff, open houses, ESAC meeting, morning announcements, FIU parent workshop, student of the months, book activities, Hispanic heritage, parent feedback, art walk, middle school showcase, night of excellence (2 campus approach with both schools), middle school dance, pee wee prom for kindergarteners, and PTC committee.

The City Commission provided input on the items including: school’s greatest challenges and way the Board can assist, programming/course corrections, morning announcements, green room, helping lower quartile students, shadowing program, and other school opportunities.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

5. APPROVAL OF THE 2025-26 CSUSA K-12 READING PLAN FOR ACES AND DSAHS: Mayor Weinberg introduced the item.

A motion for approval was offered by Commissioner Bloom and seconded by Vice Mayor Orlinsky.

Ms. Windler-Freitag reviewed the item.

No comments were provided by the City Commission.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

The motion for approval passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 CSUSA INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY FOR ACES AND DSAHS: Mayor Weinberg introduced the item.

A motion for approval was offered by Commissioner Bloom and seconded by Commissioner Friedland.

Ms. Windler-Freitag reviewed the item.

No comments were provided by the City Commission.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

The motion for approval passed unanimously by roll call vote.

7. APPROVAL OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE ACES PARENT FACILITATOR/CONFLICT RESOLUTION OFFICER AND THE DSAHS: Mayor Weinberg introduced the item.

A motion for approval was offered by Commissioner Bloom and seconded by Vice Mayor Orlinsky.

Mr. Pegues reviewed the item and recommended approval to reappoint himself as the ACES Parent Facilitator/Conflict Resolution Officer and to reappoint Kimberly Merchant as the DSAHS Parent Facilitator/Conflict Resolution Officer.

No comments were provided by the City Commission.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

The motion for approval passed unanimously by roll call vote.

8. APPROVAL OF ACES CHARTER ENROLLMENT AMENDMENT: Mayor Weinberg introduced the item.

Mr. Pegues, accompanied by Ms. Windler-Freitag reviewed the item and recommended amending the ACES Charter by increasing the enrollment to 1,232 students for appropriate funding and future expansion needs.

A motion for approval was offered by Commissioner Kruss and seconded by Commissioner Blachman.

The City Commission provided comments.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

The motion for approval passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public provided comments: Jennifer Avidan (DSAHS Parent, 21396 Marina Cove Circle #J-16, Aventura) and former Mayor Enid Weisman (Aventura).

The City Commission provided consensus for Ms. Avidan's request to be expedited to correct the clerical errors on her daughter's ACES transcript.

11 ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission as the Governing Board, a motion to adjourn was offered by Commissioner Ain, seconded by Vice Mayor Orlinsky, and unanimously approved; thus, adjourning the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC, City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission, acting in its capacity as the Governing Board for ACES and DSAHS, on January 22, 2026.

Aventura City of Excellence School
2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

3333 NE 188th Street
Aventura, FL 33180
PHONE: 786-466-1499

AUGUST				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13**	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18**
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29**	30

NOVEMBER				
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9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20**
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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JANUARY				
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FEBRUARY				
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MARCH				
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15	16	17	18	19**
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APRIL				
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MAY				
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JUNE				
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21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

- Teacher Planning (No Classes for Students)
- Recess (Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring)
- Begin/End Grading Period
- Legal Holiday
- ** Early Release

LEGAL HOLIDAYS

- Labor Day - September 7
- Veteran's Day - November 11
- Thanksgiving - November 26
- Dr. Martin Luther King Day - January 18
- President's Day - February 15
- Memorial Day - May 31



Don Soffer Aventura High School

Academic Calendar, 2026-2027

AUGUST				
M	T	W	TH	F
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31				

SEPTEMBER				
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OCTOBER				
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NOVEMBER				
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DECEMBER				
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JANUARY				
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FEBRUARY				
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MARCH				
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APRIL				
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MAY				
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JUNE				
M	T	W	TH	F
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15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

	First day of school
	Last day of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarter
	Graduation, No School for grades 9-11
	Late start, 10:30am for 2nd period
	Legal holiday or vacation
	Teacher Workday, No School

Legal Holidays				
Labor Day - Sept. 7				
Veteran's Day - Nov. 11				
Thanksgiving - Nov. 26				
Dr. Martin Luther King Day - Jan. 18				
President's Day - Feb. 15				
Memorial Day - May 30				



CITY OF AVENTURA
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Commission

FROM: Bryan Pegues, City Manager *BP*

DATE: January 16, 2026

SUBJECT: **Request for Governing Board Approval of Out-of-Field Waiver for the Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES)**

January 22, 2026 City Commission Workshop Agenda

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission, serving as the Governing Board for the Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), accept the out-of-field waiver as outlined in this memorandum.

BACKGROUND

Teachers working on additional certification or endorsements for subjects that they are teaching are considered out-of-field until requirements are met. All teachers hold a current certification. These are additional or unique credentials for their current position.

Elementary Education

This teacher is certified in a different grade level, field, or subject and has a scheduled testing date to earn certification as an elementary educator.

Daniela Gonzalez (ESE)

Memo

To: Bryan Pegues, City Manager
From: Dr. Andrea Floyd Beck, Principal
Date: 1/16/2026
Re: Request for governing board approval of out-of-field waiver

Teachers working on additional certification or endorsements for subjects that they are teaching are considered out-of-field until requirements are met. All teachers hold a current certification. These are additional or unique credentials for their current position.

Elementary Education

This teacher is certified in a different grade level, field, or subject and has a scheduled testing date to earn certification as an elementary educator.

Daniela Gonzalez (ESE)