

AVANT GARDE ACADEMY, INC.

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
2025 McKinley St, Hollywood FL, 33020

The meeting was called to order by Julia Valent at 4:50 pm.

Board members present: Julia Valent, President, Dr. Antonio Cruz, Treasurer, Mario Ruiz, Secretary.

Others present: Maggie LaRoz, Joel Mesa, Dr. Steve Blinder, Marcos Rodriguez, Lillian Afre, Melissa March, Yesenia Cantillo, Samantha Del Ponte, Jennifer Lucas, Frances Bolanos, Fabio Galoppi, Lily Bauer, Shaquita Mills, Frank Bolanos, Anita Caputo, Dali Figuracion, Jeffrey Hernandez, Artur Glants.

The Board and general public were welcomed with a musical presentation by the students of AGA's Hollywood campus.

I. Approval of Minutes

Mario Ruiz moved to approve the minutes of June 10, 2016, seconded by Dr. Antonio Cruz. The motion passed.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Finance Committee/Retirement Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Approval of Revised Budgets for the CSP grants for Avant Garde Academy Pleasant Hill (PH) and Hollywood McKinley (HWD) campuses; Approval of Revised School Budgets for all campuses; Approval of the July 2016 Financial Reports to the District and the school's financial condition for all campuses; Approval of New or Amended Vendor and Management Companies Contracts with Vendors for all campuses; Approval to review FFE&T financing options; Approval of amendment to The School Store agreement; Approval of FF&E Orders for all campuses; Approval of PH & Orange Blossom Trail (OBT) campus Expansion; Approve update of King & Walker audit for all schools.

B. Approval of revisions to AGA Employee Manual, Policy and Procedures, Faculty Handbook

C. Approve or confirm administrative appointments: Ivonne Sardinias, Principal AGA OBT; Keith Yarborough, Director of Operations for PH & OBT; Yesenia Cantillo, Interim Principal PH; Madeline Ruiz to Middle School AP PH; Shaquita Mills to Elementary AP HWD., Joel Mesa, to Middle/High AP HWD.

D. Approval to Updated Enrollment Plans and Numbers; Approval of revised Staffing Matrix and Organizational Chart for 2016-2017 for all Campuses

E. Approval of Board Resolution for Expansion of Kissimmee Campuses

F. Approval of new Avant Garde Academy websites for all campuses

G. Approval of out of field teachers for all campuses

H. Approval of Avant Garde Academy HWD Mascot Logo

I. Approval of School Improvement Plans (SIP)

M. Ruiz moved to approve the consent agenda and A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Open for Public Comment (*regarding agenda items)

Marcos Rodriguez, a music teacher at AGA HWD., discussed the high participation of students in the school's band program and the need to purchase additional instruments. J. Valent asked for a prioritized list of the desired instruments and budget and F. Bolanos stated that the request would be given to the AGA Gala committee for potential funding from the event.

IV. Jeffrey Hernandez – NAEP – “An A School in the Making” School Transformation/Turnaround Plan PH Jeffrey Hernandez and Artur Glants updated the board on the transformation plan that is underway at the

PH campus. M. Ruiz stated the need for the plan to have positive results and succeed. J. Hernandez pointed out that it was important to celebrate small successes to date, such as: Every student has a current reading and math data point; each teacher has been assessed; students and teachers have been aligned to the student data points and teacher assessments; weekly professional development for teachers with FSA strategies; daily classroom walk throughs and feedback being given to teachers; positive can-do attitude of teachers, staff and students.

V. Board Member Recruiting Committee Recommendation

F. Galoppi stated that the Board Member Recruiting Committee that he chairs is recommending ALEZ AZCUY as a new board member, replacing Dr. Loriana Novoa. Mr. Azcuy is a former College president. He brings to the board a higher education focus that is important in our quest to make our students college ready. He also, is experienced in managing large expansion and construction projects for educational and healthcare institutions.

A. Cruz made the motion to elect Alex Azcuy to the AGA Board of Directors, replacing Loriana Novoa. The motion was seconded by M. Ruiz and passed.

VI. Update on AGA system-wide programs

J. Valent stated that the board has given individual schools the ability to match their program offerings to the needs of the community that it serves and that each school has the opportunity and responsibility to establish best practices that can be exported to other schools. There are several programs and initiatives that the board has identified as best practices and directed every AGA school to implement.

- a) Avant Garde Academy Foundation Gala (Dinner-Auction)
- b) US Naval & Air Force Cadets Program
- c) Leader In Me
- d) SimCity
- e) Cambridge Program
- f) School Culture
- g) Update on AdvancEd Accreditation

J. Valent provided an update on the AGA Gala that is being planned for March or April 2017, stating that invitations will be sent to parents at AGA schools that wish to form part of the event's organizing committee.

VII. School Reports

- A. OBT CAMPUS (6-12 Charter, currently 6-12)
 - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
- B. PLEASANT HILL CAMPUS (K-8 Charter, currently K-8)
 - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
 - ii. Reflective Site Visit
- C. HOLLYWOOD MCKINLEY CAMPUS (K-12 co-located charters, currently K-9)
 - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
 - ii. Title 1 for school #5791 (middle-high)

The leaders for each school presented their school report. S. Blinder presented the Title 1 update for the schools. A. Cruz moved to accept the district's recommendations for school #5791 regarding Title 1 funds, as presented by S. Blinder. A. Cruz stated that we need to do all we can to develop our teachers in all of our schools.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

X. Board Members Comments

J. Valent and A. Cruz thanked the entire leadership team and staff for their passionate hard work and dedication to our students and the school's mission.

A. Cruz moved to adjourn, seconded by M. Ruiz, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.