

AVANT GARDE ACADEMY, INC.
MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
December 16th, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
2880 Orange Blossom Trail, Kissimmee, FL 34741

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

Board members in attendance: Julia Valent, Mario Ruiz, Dr. Antonio Cruz and Dr. Agustin Lopez.
Others in attendance: Dr. Steve Blinder, Jennifer Lucas, Richard Moreno, Pamela Chapman, Amanda Larson, Yvonne Sardinias, Melissa March, Frank Bolanos, Fabio Galoppi, Madelin Ruiz-Yarborough, Joanne Soares, Annette Negron, Zelina Jean-Jacques, Marie Machado, Pamela Wolfgramm, Patricia Plaza, Amanda Nelson, Dali Figuracion, Anny Pastor, Rachel Hansen, Jose M. Forty, Clarible Ramos, Janette Martinez, Lilibeth Medina, Melissa Rolon, Barbara Moth, Bianca Brown, Truphenia Sonnylal, Osmany Lugo, Shane Winter and Inessa Brisco-Pereira.

Special student presentations were given by the OBT US Naval sea cadets and student chorus.

I. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Cruz moved and M. Ruiz seconded the approval of the September 15, 2016 Board minutes and 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 K8 McKinley (HWD) campuses; Approval of Revised School Budgets for all campuses; Approval of the October 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 of FFE&T financing options; Approval of FF&E orders for all campuses; Approval of PH & Orange Blossom Trail (OBT) campus expansion; Approval of New Charter School Applications for the Upcoming Charter Application Cycle; Approval of FFE&T Master Lease for Hollywood Campus 5015 and 5791; Approval of Facility Leases & Expansion Plans
- B. Approval of revisions to AGA Employee Manual, Policy and Procedures, Faculty Handbook
- C. Approve to confirm administrative appointment: Pamela Chapman Principal of AGA Pleasant Hill
- D. Approval to Update Enrollment Plans and Numbers; Approval of revised Staffing Matrix and Organizational Chart for 2016-2017 for all campuses
- E. Approval of new Avant Garde Academy websites for all campuses
- F. Approval of out of field teachers for all campuses
- G. Approval of Avant Garde Academy (HWD) Mascot Logo
- H. Approval of Principal & Teacher Evaluation Systems
- I. Approval of Articulation Agreement
- J. Approval of Revision to Board By-Laws

- K. Approval of PH Bell & Free Tutoring Schedule
- L. Approval of Strategic Professional Development Support Program for PH & OBT

Dr. Lopez requested that items “E, K and L” be removed from the consent agenda to be discussed during the regular agenda. A. Cruz made a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda items, seconded by M. Ruiz, the motion passed.

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

Z. Jean-Jacques, a parent at OBT addressed the importance of technology related classes and instruction. School leadership stated that the upcoming Entrepreneurial academy would include additional technology applications. OBT PTSO president stated that she had four children at OBT and was very pleased with the school.

III. Board Member Recruiting Committee Recommendation

F. Galoppi, head of the Board’s recruiting committee, stated that Alex Azcuy had resigned from the Board and recommended Erika Fernandez Perez as a new board member. A. Cruz expressed support for the recommendation and made a motion to approve Erika Fernandez Perez as a new board member, pending approval of the background checks by the school districts. The motion was seconded by M. Ruiz and was passed.

IV. Educational Networks Website Update

S. Winter from Educational Networks presented the new design for the AGA schools. F. Galoppi provided an overview of the features, advantages and benefits of the new proposed sites. M. Ruiz made a motion to approve the Educational Networks websites for all schools, seconded by A. Lopez and the motion passed.

V. Update on AGA system-wide programs

F. Bolanos presented the programs that the Board wants to see implemented in all AGA schools to DELIVER SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE, WITH DISTINCTIVE IMPACT, AND LASTING ENDURANCE.

- a) Avant Garde Academy Foundation Gala (Dinner-Auction)

J. Valent presented the plan for fundraising gala that will take place on either April 28 or May 5th, 2017. The first gala is to be held in Broward and the 2nd one in the Kissimmee/Orlando area.

- b) US Naval & Air Force Cadets Program
- c) Leader In Me
- d) SimCity
- e) Cambridge Program
- f) School Culture
- g) Update on AdvancEd Accreditation

The school principals updated the board on the system-wide initiatives during the school reports.

VI. Financial State of Affairs & Forecast

R. Moreno and A. Nelson provided a report on the good state of financial health of the schools, keeping reserves and the creation of a central common fund.

VIII. School Reports

J. Valent asked the school leaders to provide their school report while answering the following question: “how do we know you are on the right track?”

- A. OBT CAMPUS (6-12 Charter, currently 6-12)

- i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
- ii. 2017 Graduating Class

Principal Sardinas reported that enrollment is stable at 623 students and that i-Ready results show an improvement in Math and Reading; the accreditation visit will be January 17-19, 2017; and students collected food for the elderly.

B. PLEASANT HILL CAMPUS (K-8 Charter, currently K-8)

- i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
- ii. Strategic Transformation Plan

Principal Chapman presented the AGA Strategic plan and reported on the professional development, intervention classes, small group work; i-Ready; and high student engagement. A. Cruz, A. Lopez and principal Chapman discussed the school's greatest challenges and solutions. A. Lopez moved to approve items "K and L", seconded by A. Cruz and the motion passed.

C. HOLLYWOOD MCKINLEY CAMPUS (K-12 co-located charters, currently K-9)

- i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
- ii. Best practice marketing and enrollment plan
- iii. Creating a Parent Leader Professional Learning Community (PLC) with a representative from each school.

Principal Blinder reported that the K8 has 1196 and the high school 76 students for a total of 1,272 students; data shows that the school is on the right track; staff is fully trained in Leader in Me; robotics competition in January. A. Cruz and school leaders discussed the importance of having the scale and cash flow to support future enrollment.

IX. Old Business

There was not old business.

X. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Board Members Comments

Dr. Cruz emphasized the importance of meeting AGA's mission and providing a high level of service.

J. Valent thanked everyone for participating and their passion to serve the school's children.

Board member M. Ruiz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by A. Cruz and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

*Public Comments participants that are not Board members may elect to speak on each regular agenda item for up to three minutes