

AVANT GARDE ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

March 9th, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
2025 McKinley St, Hollywood FL 33020

Mission: Avant Garde Academy will provide a student centered learning environment that develops the whole child and provides them with the 21st Century skills to become responsible leaders in their community.

The meeting was called to order by J. Valent at 3:40 pm.

The following board members were in attendance: Julia Valent, Dr. Agustin Lopez, Luis De Varona and Dr. Antonio Cruz. Also, in attendance were: Frank Bolanos, Fabio Galoppi, Jennifer Lucas, Justin Matthews, Samantha Del Ponte, Julian Cazanias, Joel Mesa, Melissa March, Channell Paynter, Scott Crumpler, John Suarez, Elaine Perez, William Jones, Lillian Afre.

I. Approval of Minutes

L. De Varona made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2017 board meeting, seconded by A. Cruz. The motion passed.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the January 2018 Financial Reports to the District and the school's financial condition for all campuses; Approval of Amended Budgets for all campuses; Approval of OBT Sublease Amendment; Approval of Amendment to iSchools LLC contract; Approval of A&S Transportation Agreement; Approval of LBS Services Inc. contract; Reduction in Force Due to February Survey Count; Approval of System Wide Audit by King & Walker CPA;
- B. Approval of Channell Paynter as Interim Principal of OBT and her revised contract; Approval of John Suarez as Assistant Principal OBT

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by L. De Varona. The motion passed.

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

There were no comments from the public.

IV. Annual budget forecasting process & finance/budget committee

J. Valent stated that she was pleased that board treasurer Dr. Cruz asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. A. Cruz stated that he always addresses the financial and budget items in the board meetings and individually. He emphasized the importance of the budget forecasting process and that future budgets should include 2 projections, one at 100% and the other at 80% of projected enrollment to protect against under-enrollment. Also, he explained the advantages of a diversified committee and made a motion to create a standing BUDGET PLANNING COMMITTEE comprised of the Principal of each school, a representative of the management companies and the Board Treasurer. L. De Varona seconded the motion and the motion passed.

V. Student Safety

The school Principals provided an update on the safety and security plans at each school, including improvements to the emergency procedure cards and safety drills. Dr. Lopez addressed the importance of making counseling available to students and to apply best safety practices across all AGA schools. J. Valent requested (and received) an update on the parent communication process.

VI. OBT Renewal

Principal Paynter, M. March and Dr. Perez provided an update on the renewal process.

VII. System Wide Accreditation – Jennifer Lucas

J. Lucas provided an update on the positive comments from the accreditation team, the pending timeline and process. The accreditation team's lead examiner stated that she had never visited a school that was more mission driven than AGA and lauded the support of its board of directors.

VIII. AGA Professional Leadership Academy – Dr. Elaine Perez

Dr. Perez presented the Leadership Academy's 2018-2019 calendar of events, along with the application to participate in the leadership academy. She presented that outline of the upcoming June 2018 leadership meeting.

IX. Update on AGA Foundation Gala

J. Valent provided an update on the sponsors and details of the May 4, 2018 gala.

X. Concept for the Arts – Mr. Jones

Mr. Jones, AGA Hollywood music teacher, presented his concept for a musical and arts event involving all AGA music and arts teachers and selected students. J. Valent and others expressed their support and invited Mr. Jones to communicate with the teachers at the other AGA schools and report back to the board.

XI. School Reports

J. Valent asked the principals to present their school reports and explain how their activities comply with the AGA mission and guiding principles.

A. OBT CAMPUS (6-12 Charter)

i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update

Principal Paynter and AP Dr. Suarez presented the school report, including assessment data and successes with the cadets, school beautification, behavior, after school tutoring and Saturday boot camp. Dr. Suarez added how pleased he was to join the team. He updated the board on his daily class walk-throughs and interaction with students and staff and was confident of upcoming successes. M. March provided an update on the school's financials.

B. PLEASANT HILL CAMPUS (K-8 Charter)

i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update

Principal Paynter provided an update on the significant increases that the students are demonstrating in the school's internal assessment data. Several board members expressed their delight when told that more than 100 families participated in a recent school event. M. March provided an update on the school's financials.

C. HOLLYWOOD MCKINLEY CAMPUS (K-12 co-located charters, currently K-10)

i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update

Principals Cazañas and Del Ponte provided an update on the school's student data, and the successes of the school's SIM City program, choir and robotics teams. J. Mathews provided an update on the school's financials.

XII. Old Business

J. Valent mentioned that a template would be available on the website, making it easier for sponsors to support school fundraising.

XIII. New Business

There was no new business.

XIV. Board Members Comments

J. Valent and Dr. Cruz thanked everyone for their hard work and passion to improve the lives of all AGA students.