

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

January 25th, 2019, 10 a.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 Julia Valent at 11:20 a.m. The following board members were in attendance: Julia Valent, Erika Gonzalez, and Dr. Antonio Cruz. Also, in attendance were: Dr. Elaine Perez, Samantha DelPonte, Joel Mesa, Alcides Nunez, Justin Matthews, Guillermo Moreno, Jason Gines, Deanna Palonis, Frank Bolanos, Frances Bolanos, and Lillian Afre.

- I. Approval of Minutes for December 14th, 2018
E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the December 14th minutes, seconded by A. Cruz. The motion passed.
- II. Open for Public/Parental Comment (*regarding agenda items)
There were no public comments.
- III. Approval of December 2018 Financial Reports to the District for all Campuses (0155, 0161, 5015 & 5791)

Staff presented the latest financial reports to the District with changes to the financial conditions for all campuses listed above. A. Cruz opened discussion regarding the OBT (0155) and PH (0161) financials. He expressed concern at the condition of the PH financials and asked if specific areas had been identified for additional cost reductions. Staff reviewed the list of expense reductions. Dr. Cruz asked staff to look into other bus companies to see if the bus transportation cost could be reduced, especially for PH. F. Bolanos stated that they would look at possibly getting one or more of our own buses or partnering with another school to try to reduce the transportation cost. Additional Board Discussion ensued between the Board members and staff regarding the school's state of financial affairs and significant changes to the financial conditions for all campuses. The Board requested and received an update on cash management and account payables. L. Afre stated that with the assistance of Building Hope the schools are meeting their payment obligations in accordance with payment plans to vendors and careful cash management of the tight budget. The landlords are cooperating with the schools with deferred rent payments. J. Valent expressed her concerns and emphasized that the school principals and staff continue to focus on continued student enrollment and revenue increase.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the December 2018 Financial Reports; E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- IV. Approval of OBT (0155) & PH (0161) Firewall Proposals
Board members reviewed and discussed the firewall proposals.
E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the OBT & PH Firewall proposals; A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- V. Approval of Florida School Recognition Awards Proposal for Broward (5015) and OBT (0155)
J. Matthews presented the Broward proposal: 50% of funds to be distributed among the teachers that taught last year and are still employed and 50% to fund the NAEP support services which will provide curriculum and professional development.

J. Valent commended them for keeping the needs of the students and school in mind in the disbursement of these funds.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the Broward (5015) Florida School Recognition Awards Proposal; E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

J. Gines presented the OBT proposal: SAC voted on: 100% of the funds to be distributed among the teachers that were there last year. J. Valent expressed she was very disappointed with this decision as it's not in the best interest of the students or school. She would like to meet with the SAC committee to discuss next Tuesday. Per the Bylaws 51% of the SAC members should be parents, E. Gonzalez asked J. Giner for a correction plan to meet this requirement.

VI. Approval of Draft Charter Contract for AGA Broward (5791)

J. Mesa presented the Draft Charter Contract for AGA Broward and advised the board it had been sent to the school attorney to review, he anticipates the charter contract will be renewed.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the Draft Charter Contract for AGA Broward.

E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Approval of Out of Field Teachers for all Campuses

Board members reviewed the Out of Field Teachers for all Campuses.

Cruz made a motion to approve. E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

a. Broward K8

Lisa Brent – Gifted

Nelda Dafinis - ESOL and Gifted

Andralia Fortune - ESOL

Kristian Gellibert - ESOL

Giovahna Gonzalez - ESOL

Philip Katz - ESOL

Marlene Ladyman - Elementary Ed

Maylin Machin - Elementary Ed; ESOL

Gary McCarthy - ESOL

Erika Oberlender - ESOL

Stephanya Renaud - ESOL

Alisha St. Louis - ESOL

Elena Yeffet - ESOL

Yasmin Astacio – ESOL

b. Broward 6-12

Lisa Levin Reading - ESOL Category 1

Mary Volpe ELA - ESOL Category 1

Carolina Forbes Spanish - World Languages

Kerry Mathews –Tech - Computer Science

Andralia Fortune – ELA - ESOL Category 1

c. Osceola 6-12

Mohamed Eshak – Reading

Ana Joglar – Math

Mark Palmer – Math

Yaletza Peralta Lugo – ESOL

Catherine Heredia – ESOL, English

Dr. Jimmy Pena – Health

Sandra Bloomfield – ESOL

Gertrude Pierre – ESOL

Jose Guitierrez – ESOL
Clara Cordero Medina - ESOL

- d. Osceola K8
 - Edgar Cedenó – ESOL
 - Maria Velez Torres – Reading
 - Alez Araya – ESOL
 - Eugenio Rejouis – Math
 - Aida Vega – ESOL
 - Marjorie Rivera – ESOL
 - Sarah Barton – ESOL & Reading
 - Brenda Muscoreil – ESOL
 - Lisa Minter – ESOL
 - Cynthia Rivera - ESOL

- VIII. Approval of Updated National Academic Educational Partners Contract for Broward
 - J. Matthew discussed the services NAEP will provide and that it will be partially funded by the School Recognition Award.
 - A. Cruz made a motion to approve the NAEP contract. E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- IX. Approval of AGA Policy Update Regarding Student Recommendation Letters for all Campuses
 - J. Matthews presented the new policy and letter regarding student recommendation letters. Board discussed and agreed this will assist in all schools following the same process.
 - A. Cruz made a motion to approve the policy. E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- X. Discussion of Teacher of the Year
 - J. Matthews presented the Teacher of the Year guidelines/process and nominee form. The board discussed and felt this would be a good way to recognize top teachers.
- XI. Discussion of Tap APP Safety/Crisis Alert System
 - J. Matthews presented the Tap App features and benefits; the principals felt this would be very helpful. There will training conducted with teachers and staff to ensure everyone know how to use. He was able to secure discounted pricing, \$500 per site per year. The board discussed and agreed this would assist in the safety of the students. E. Gonzalez requested we review our phone policy to ensure it is in line to support this effort.
- XII. Discussion of Accountability Reports
 - Board discussed the accountability reports all campuses will be submitted by Jan 31st.
- XIII. School Reports & Financial Updates
 - A. OSCEOLA (K8)
 - Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update
 - Enrollment269 – started the year with 251 – max capacity 470
 - G. Moreno: Currently have two teacher vacancies, math and social studies. NAEP is conducting training on Unpacking the Standards, SMP, Lesson Plans and Manifestation of Learning Disabilities. Reduced Tier 3 students in ELA by 17%, increased Tier 2 by 11% and Tier 1 by 6%. Mathematics Tier 3 decreased by 22%, increased Tier 2 by 18% and increased Tier 1 by 5%.
 - Staff presented the latest financial report to the District with changes to the financial conditions. Discussion ensued between the Board members and staff regarding the school's state of financial affairs and significant changes to the financial conditions. The Board requested and received an update on cash management and account payables.

B. OSCEOLA (6-12)

Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update

J. Gines: Enrollment 585 – started the year with 477 – max capacity 750

Fully staffed, all evaluations, walk-thrus and test prep completed. NAEP is conducting training on Unpacking the Standards, SMP and Lesson Plan.

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C. BROWARD (K-8)

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

S. DelPonte: Enrollment 1208 (93% have recommitted for next year. Have 177 new applicants, first lottery Feb 19th. Planning a mass registration on Saturday. Using Mail Chimp to keep in touch with parents prior to the students joining the school to reduce fall out. Planning Kindergarten tour for new parents. Free/reduced school lunch 64%. Have identified students to invite for Saturday school, currently have afterschool tutoring and in-school boot-camps. Title 1 parent meetings conducted for RtI/MtSS and School Wide Plan.

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D. BROWARD (6-12)

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

J. Mesa: Enrollment 573 (7th & 11th grades currently have waiting list) 80% recommitment to date, calling the 120 missing recommitment parents.

AP & Dual Enrollment being offered, 40 students will be taking dual enrollment classes during the summer. Starting tutoring for ESOL on Feb 4th. Next year will have the first graduating class. Approve SAT testing on campus March 6th. Hosting a college fair Feb 1st, 24 universities attending. 6th grade won 1st place in Future Cities competition. Athletics program growing, winter sports did very well. Music program students have been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall.

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XIV. Old Business

There was no old business.

XV. New Business

J. Valent asked everyone to reach out to business associates and friends to help support the Foundation Gala scheduled for April 6th. Advised the email invitations would be going out today.

XVI. Board Members Comments

There were no member comments.

E. Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn, seconded by A. Cruz. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm

*Public Comments participants may elect to speak on each regular agenda item for up to three minutes and for a combined total of six minutes.