

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

February 25th, 2019, 7p.m.  
3024 NW 99 PL, Doral FL 33172

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

The meeting was called to order by Julia Valent at 7:09 p.m. The following board members were in attendance: Julia Valent, Erika Gonzalez, and Dr. Antonio Cruz. Also, in attendance were: Dr. Elaine Perez, Jennifer Lucas, Samantha Del Ponte, Joel Mesa, Guillermo Moreno, Jason Gines, Deanna Palonis, Frank Bolanos, Frances Bolanos, and Lillian Afre.

Ms. Valent started the meeting reading the school's mission statement, as always.

- I. Approval of Minutes for January 25th, 2019  
Cruz made a motion to approve the January 25<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by E.Gonzalez. The motion passed.
- II. Open for Public/Parental Comment (\*regarding agenda items)  
There were no public comments.
- III. Approval of January 2019 Financial Reports to the District for all Campuses (0155, 0161, 5015 & 5791)  
Board reviewed and discussed the January Financial Reports. J. Lucas informed the Board that AGA Broward has started receiving the Capital Outlay that was owed, and also received a reimbursement for Title 1. In addition, their first year FFE&T loan will be paid off this year, she projects Broward will finish the year financially well. F. Bolanos presented the reports for OBT and PH, stating that OBT continued to show improvement, while PH was still recovering from the impact of the previous year and its consequences, in particular, the district withhold of the 2017-2018 overpayment and the loss of capital dollars. Dr. Cruz asked about the cash balances and cash management status at OBT and PH. L. Afre provided the board with an update. J. Valent added that she had several conversations, prior to the board meeting with AGA staff and Building Hope regarding the financial reports for OBT & PH and the financial condition of the schools. Dr. Cruz stated his concern over the condition of PH and what the corrective plan of action was. Staff presented the advantages in cost savings and program efficiencies of co-locating both charters at OBT. The Board directed staff to develop a five-year budget with the co-located charters. Board asked J. Valent to continue to explore with the Superintendent the Co-Location of the PH and OBT campuses.  
E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the January 2019 Financial Reports and the financial condition of the schools; A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- IV. Approval of Revised Budgets for OBT & PH (0155, 0161)  
Board reviewed and discussed the Revised budgets for OBT & PH based on the new February FTE numbers. E. Gonzalez recognized the net increase in students and its importance compared to the student decrease of the previous year and emphasized that staff needed to continue to enroll students on a weekly basis to increase revenues and stabilize the schools. Dr. Cruz stated that many of his concerns had been addressed in the discussion of the financial reports for the schools. Staff summarized the discussions held with Building Hope regarding the budgets and finalizing the school year. Dr. Cruz asked what cost reductions had been obtained year to date. Staff pointed out some of the reductions in payroll, phone costs and other areas that were implemented, while increasing the support services to students and teachers.

E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Revised Budgets for OBT & PH; A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Discussion of Osceola District Audit

Board reviewed and discussed the Osceola District Audit. F. Bolanos reviewed with Board members the Responses to the Audit findings (OBT lease payments were not late, landlord agreed to split monthly payments, CAM loan was not late, they agreed to revised payments dates on the balance, accounts listed as late were on payments plans and Administrative Manager will become an AGA employee) J. Valent shared with the board she would be meeting with the Superintendent tomorrow at 3pm to discuss the audit findings.

VI. Discussion of PH Lease Document

Board discussed the PH Demand Letter received from the landlord. J.Valent informed the Board she had spoken with the landlord and he is willing to working with us to resolve the issue. Board approved to contract the Law Office of Gastessi to represent the school in the negotiations.

VII. LBS Management Service Fees

F. Bolanos provided a revised LBS Management Waived Fees letter, which included a signature line for AGA Board President. They new letter was signed by J. Valent.

VIII. Educational Facilities Security Grant

J. Lucas advised the Board of Broward's plan to purchase additional cameras and monitors to provide increased security at the school, an RFP has been sent out for proposals. E. Perez is working on the Security Grant for OBT & PH and will advise the board at the next meeting.

IX. School Reports & Financial Updates

A. OSCEOLA (K8)

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

Enrollment 274

G. Moreno – Conducted a School Tour/Orientation meeting today to assist with enrollment, had 10 families and 6 teachers attend, it went well, had 2 students register. Preparing students for FSA testing, students required to use iReady a minimum of 45 minutes, results showing 87% are meeting goal. ELA/ESOL compliance is 90% completed. Hurricane Grant payment is expected shortly, and the District will be paying out Title 1 funding from 2017-18 school year.

Staff and the Board discussed how the school could continue to reduce expenses while increasing services and continuing the trend of increased student enrollment. Presented the latest financial report to the District with changes to the financial conditions.

OSCEOLA (6-12)

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

Enrollment 587

E. Perez advised the Board Mid-Year evaluations for OBT & PH Principals had been conducted; action plan and coaching calendar created.

J. Gines – iReady mid-year usage results was not what was expected. Focusing on teacher coaching and increasing iReady usage in classrooms to 45 minutes minimum, also using USA Test Prep (on identified deficiencies), Edmentum and Algebra Nation. AP and NAEP in classrooms coaching teachers daily. Tutoring being rolled out. Getting Ford Foundation Grant of \$3K for High school students.

Staff and the Board discussed how the school could continue to reduce expenses while increasing services and continuing the trend of increased student enrollment. Presented the latest financial report to the District with changes to the financial conditions.

B. BROWARD (K-8)

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

150 students short of next year's enrollment goal, direct mail piece going out March 18<sup>th</sup>. First enrollment/registration event is Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussed the Title 1 School Wide Plan, Family Involvement Plan & School-Parent Compact. Meeting scheduled with PALS next week to review the Title 1 School Wide plan. Robo Call and Shark Bites newsletter used to send out meeting information.

Think school survey results for the first year were good.

Had a Preliminary District Review for next years App renewal which went well.

Staff and the Board discussed how the school could continue to reduce expenses while increasing services and continuing the trend of increased student enrollment. Presented the latest financial report to the District with changes to the financial conditions.

C. BROWARD (6-12)

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

One of the Middle School Robotics team made the State Championships.

Work with NAEP is continuing as scheduled and productive. Testing dates upcoming:

FSA Writing makeups, ALG 1 EOC makeups, PERT, March 6 SAT day

Staff and the Board discussed how the school could continue to reduce expenses while increasing services and continuing the trend of increased student enrollment. Presented the latest financial report to the District with changes to the financial conditions.

X. Old Business

Teacher of the Year observations will be concluded in March. One teacher from each school will be invited to the AGA Foundation Gala and the winner will be announced at the event.

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XII. Board Members Comments

E Gonzalez stated she was very disappointed in the way the OBT School Recognition funds were being distributed. She feels strongly had the principal properly explained the importance to the SAC of using part of the funds towards professional development for the teachers to better serve our students and improve school's grades they would have voted differently.

J. Valent reminded the Board members of the upcoming AGA Foundation Gala and asked for the Boards assistance in getting sponsors, donations and attendees.

E. Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn, seconded by A. Cruz. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.