

**AVANT GARDE ACADEMY, INC.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

March 21th, 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 7:08p.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, Justin Matthews, Frank Bolanos, Frances Bolanos, Lillian Afre, Rafael Mestre, and Lorenzo Cobiella

- I. Approval of Minutes for February 25th, 2019  
E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the February 25<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by A. Cruz. The motion passed.
- II. Open for Public/Parental Comment (\*regarding agenda items)  
There were no public comments.
- III. School Reports & Financial Updates
  - A. OSCEOLA (K8)
    - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update  
Elaine Perez provided update. Enrollment 272. Conducted Mid-Year Reflective Evaluations with Principal and provided specific action plan for improvement. Parent Conference night scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Middle school iReady Challenge between OBT & PH to increase usage and passing rate.
  - B. OSCEOLA (6-12)
    - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update  
Elaine Perez provided update. Enrollment 582. Conducted Mid-Year Reflective Evaluations with Principal and provided specific action plan for improvement. Have a continued concern with teacher accountability. iReady usage improved but passing results still an issue. Tutoring was started in all test areas but turnout has been less than expected. (40 students). Testing starts in 2 weeks.
  - C. BROWARD (K-8)
    - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update  
Samantha DelPonte provided update. Enrollment 1184, enrollment dropped due to students moving out of state. For 2019-20 have 139 new students enrolled and 239 have applied and been invited to enroll. Purchasing curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade ESOL students. ESE received a very good review during the District Programmatic Review.
  - D. BROWARD (6-12)
    - i. Student Enrollment, Campus Data, Principal's Update  
Joel Mesa provided update. Enrollment 535, enrollment efforts are going well.

All 3 school choirs are going to the state championships. Course catalog for next year is 90% done, schedules will be done April. Next year will have 4 AP courses, 3 dual enrollment courses via FIU. First college tour was held this week, will have an Armed Services recruiting day in May. Posted job position for next year and will notified to school contract renewal in June.

IV. Treasurer's Report

a. Approval of February 2019 Financial Reports to the District for all Campuses  
Rafael Mestre presented the OBT and PH financial reports and changes to the financial conditions. A. Cruz opened discussion regarding the OBT (0155) and PH (0161) financials. Discussion ensued regarding the school's state of financial affairs. The Board requested and received an update on cash management and account payables. L. Afre shared with the Board the status of payment plans.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the February 2019 OBT & PH Financial Reports; E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Justin Matthews presented the Brwd K8 & Brwd 6-12 financial reports. He advised the Board they would finish the fiscal year \$150 to \$350 positive. They have also completed paying off the first year FTE loan and are getting the buyout amount.

Gonzalez made a motion to approve the February 2019 Brwd K-8 and Brwd 6-12 Financial Reports; A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

b. Approval of Combined Budget for OBT & PH Co-located Campus

F. Bolanos presented the Combined Budget for OBT & PH. J. Valent asked regarding items classified under the Board Expense line. A. Cruz stated he did not think the amount allocated to advertising was sufficient. E. Perez stated that the advertising amount increases each year with additional enrollment.

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

V. Approval of AGA 2017-18 990 Filing

Board members reviewed and discussed the AGA 2017-18 990.

Gonzalez made a motion to approve the AGA 2017-18 990; A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Approval of AGA K8 Broward Programmatic Review Action Plan

Samantha DelPonte presented to the board the Programmatic Review Action Plan. She advised that for next school year they will be hiring an additional ESOL specialist, so each school will have their own, and will also be replacing the current ESOL specialist. The new ESOL specialists will be trained during the summer.

E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the AGA K8 Broward Programmatic Review Action Plan; A. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Approval of Auditor RFQ for all Campuses

Bolanos advised the Board that due to King & Walker's increased workload they will no longer be able to do our audits. Have to send out RFQ to secure a new accounting firm for the schools audit.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the Auditor RFQ for all campuses; E. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Osceola District Renewal Update

Board discussed the OBT & PH Non-Renewal letter received from the district and believes that the schools have made significant progress to address the financial situation that carried over from the 2018-19 school year. J. Valent is going to reach out to Dr. Pace to discuss.

- IX. PH Lease Status Update  
Lorenzo Cobiella informed the Board of his ongoing conversations with the landlord's attorney in reference to the demand letter for \$458K. He is working on reaching a mutually beneficial payment agreement on the amount owed, that the school can afford.
- X. Old Business  
There was no old business.
- XI. New Business  
There was no new business.
- XII. Board Members Comments  
A. Cruz suggested the Board find an entity to provide capital funds to payoff old debt. He recommends putting an action plan and clear financials together to present to potential funding sources. A. Cruz thinks a co-location at OBT with the cost savings and an aggressive enrollment plan can make a significant impact and allow the school to be successful. He recommends a minimum 1% of funds should be used in marketing efforts.

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