

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

November 22, 2019, 4:30 p.m.  
2880 N Orange Blossom Trail, Kissimmee FL 34641

**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 5:05 p.m. The following board members were in attendance: Julia Valent, Erika Gonzalez, Pastor Agustin Lopez and Dr. Antonio Cruz. Also, in attendance were Fred Clermont, Arlene Valdes, Samantha Walker, Jeffrey Hernandez, Marcia Griffin, Guillermo Moreno, Artur Glants, Joann Soares, Ivonne Sardinas, Gary Cruz, Jazmin Burgos, Geraldo Garcia, Natasha Corporon, Frederick Warric, Frances Bolanos, Frank Bolanos and Lillian Afre.

I. Approval of Minutes for October 17, 2019

E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the October 17, 2019 minutes, seconded by A. Cruz. The motion passed.

II. Executive Session

The executive session was deferred.

III. Open for Public/Parental Comment (regarding agenda items)

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda: Approval of Best & Brightest Award Program for Broward #5015 and #5791; Approval of City Wide Maintenance Agreement; Approval of AT&T Internet Upgrade for 5015 & 5791; Reauthorization of the Approval Of Board Member Expenses To Attend Board Meetings; Approval Of Board Resolution On Board Member Compliance With The Florida Code Of Ethics; Authorize Development of a New K5 Charter School Application for Osceola County; Authorize Development of a New K8 Charter School Application for Broward County; Acceptance of Guillermo Moreno's Appointment as Principal of Victory Charter Schools (#0151 & #0161).

Dr. Cruz made a motion to pull the Best and Brightest Program from the consent agenda to be discussed during the Broward school report; seconded by E. Gonzalez; the motion passed. E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Consent agenda items, seconded by A. Lopez. The motion passed.

V. Broward

- a. Review and Approval of October 2019 Financials to the District
- b. Review and Approval of Revised 2019-20 School Year Calendar
- b. Out-of-Field Teacher
- c. School Reports

The Board and staff discussed and reviewed the October 2019 Financials. Frank Bolanos explained that the district payments were adjusted with the October student count. Increased mobility of families in the area affects enrollment. Enrollment meetings and marketing has already commenced for the February count and the 2020-21 school year. Expenses increased during the first quarter due to the purchase of additional and enhanced curriculum, as well as new digital offerings. Expense reductions and savings have been obtained in other areas. The school's staff and management-company are tracking expenses carefully.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the Broward October 2019 Financials, seconded by A. Lopez. The motion passed.

S. Walker discussed November Early Released date change to the 14<sup>th</sup>; enrollment for the combined K-12 program is at 1910 students. She stated that they have started school tours to drive enrollment and are accepting new applications; added income with a new facility rental of \$1,300 a month for athletics; looking into a guardian company to provide backup services. J. Valent questioned the decline in enrollment. F. Bolanos explained that increased mobility of families is a contributor and that there is a greater saturation of schools and offerings in the area. S. Walker explained how the Best and Brightest program will benefit teachers and be implemented.

A. Cruz made a motion to approve the Best and Brightest program as presented, seconded by E. Gonzalez; the motion passed.

E. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Revised 2019-20 School Year Calendar and Out of Field Teacher, seconded by A. Cruz. The motion passed.

F. Clermont provided the K-5 school update; reviewed the AP's and academic coaches responsibilities and goals to get the school to the 68% goal that will earn the school an A; award ceremony was conducted by the students and went very well; had a literacy night and over 1,000 people attended; next week is the Winter Showcase.

A. Valdes provided the 6-12 school update; conducting data chats every week with teachers to review targets, PD at every staff meeting which are lead by the teachers; teachers are providing tutoring and office hours; after Thanksgiving holiday will conduct mission/vision goal meetings with all teachers; conducted classroom visit surveys with the students to get their feedback; conducting weekly huddles with teachers to discuss results and give shout-outs to the teachers meeting goals; and 13 teacher committees have been formed.

A. Cruz asked A. Valdes if she is getting support or pushback. A. Valdes responded that there is support in general. Some individuals are still adapting to the changes that have been instituted, the additional accountability and the natural aversion to change.

VI. Osceola

- a. Review and Approval of October 2019 Financials to the District
- b. School Reports

G. Moreno and J. Hernandez provided the Victory Schools update; Introduced assistant principals and coaches, G. Moreno promoted to Principal K-12, Gary Cruz assistant principal of operations, Jazmin Burgos assistant principal curriculum and instruction, Geraldo Garcia instructional coach math & science, Natasha Corporon instructional coach literacy and social studies, Frederick Warrick dean of discipline; District renewal visit scheduled for Dec 8<sup>th</sup>; Springboard and iReady being used for diagnostics; working toward 2 year goal to receive College Board Designation; Reading Plus scored 80% comprehension; iReady added science and social studies for students further ahead; starting Dec 9<sup>th</sup> tutoring will be available to the students at the school as well as virtually via Google; teacher training has been recorded and is available on the school Google drive for the teachers; Yelp campaign and revamped website launching November 23 to assist with enrollment for next year; over 300 parents attended the award ceremonies; parent conferences for students for students with C or lower grades were conducted, over 200 parents attended.

F. Bolanos thanked all those that have assumed new leadership roles and the others that paved the way for the creation and growth of the Victory schools. The board and staff discussed and reviewed the October 2019 Financials. M. Griffin stated that the financials for the 6-12 (#0151) was tracking well. She explained that Victory K8 (#0161) financials continue to be impacted due to the lease payments owed. A. Cruz asked what other vendors and amounts were owed. M. Griffin informed the board that all current year vendors were up to date; only A&S Transportation and LBS Services for the K8 school were owed. The LBS loan will be repaid by June 2020. A. Cruz stated that he appreciated the efforts to continue to reduce debt. Additional discussion ensued on the next steps to reduce debt, the school's financial stability, the school renewals and future growth.

A. Lopez made a motion to approve the Osceola October 2019 Financials, seconded by E. Gonzalez. The motion passed.

VII. Old Business.

There was no old business

VIII. New Business

The board discussed the possibility of a future executive session and meeting.

IX. Board Members Comments

A. Cruz thanked the Victory Charter team for all the work they've done.

A. Cruz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by E. Hernandez. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.