

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE, INC. AVANT GARDE  
ACADEMY WESTCHASE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

July 1st, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM Mtg ID Meeting ID: 835 5504 3149 Password: 5H14CE

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

Danielle Gamson, Robert Peters, Marcia Griffin, George Hernandez, Justin Matthews, Abby Davis, Adrienne Johnson, Amanda Younciak, Amber Austin, Artur Glants, Aya Kreps, Brandi Garwood, Chris Weisman, Christy Smit, Corey Smith ESQ, Danielle Benavides, Dominique Brown, Don Woodruff, Donna Clark, Elizabeth Duran Vargas, Emily Escandon, Emily Green, Frank Bolanos, Heather Blume, iphone MW, Jeffery Hernandez, Jennifer Lucas, Joni Daner, Kalotine Martin, Kelly Zervas, Krystal Porter, Lillian Arfe, Marissa Gracia, Megan Patterson, Shalyn Lowry, Nancy Zizelman, Rafael Mestre, Sarah MacDonald, Valerie's ipad, Fam Gonzalez, Kayleen Mueller, Bryan

4:32 Peters motioned called meeting to order, G. Hernandez seconded

***I. Approval of Board Minutes for June 23, 2020***

Pending the change to Amend minutes that G. Hernandez expressed concerned over the potential for negative cash balance at fiscal year-end.

***II. Leadership Transition Discussion***

We as a board want to make sure that when the school opens in August it serves the best interest of the teachers, the students, etc. Asked for leadership transition plan – what was received is not acceptable. Rob asked for more input regarding the transition plan.

An RFP was released for a CMO/EMO. The Governing Board received a proposal from National Academic Educational Partners, Inc.(NAEP) but they want to do their due diligence before contracting.

G. Hernandez – Discussion on negative fund balance of \$140k - \$150K

Rafael from building HOPE – from a district perspective yes, we will know in middle of July once numbers are reconciled, we will be negative \$120k-\$130k. Are we eligible for Capital Outlay in the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year?

Positive Fund Balance vs School Net Position. If the school is in a financial emergency capitol funds would be withheld. The school will most likely end up in a net positive of \$100k. Colorful conversation between Justin Matthews (AES) and George Hernandez (Board Treasurer). Amounts forgiven from AES and ESJ

Introduction of Jeffery Hernandez and his team from NAEP. Explanation of RFP process and steps to be taken. Brand, Financials and ESJ. Marcia Griffin – CFO; Month to month financials – considering taking the school off the financial corrective plan. As long as this year's financials showed growth opportunity. With loan expiration in October 2020, and a year of free rent and capital outlay – then we can triage the school back to health. AGA is bleeding cash and struggling to make it work.

Rob Peters requested a motion to continue to negotiate with NAEP regarding the Leadership Transition and authorization to sign a contract with them.

Gamson motioned to give Rob negotiating rights to continue with NAEP and sign contract. Principal selection is immediate. 30 days to opening day. Enrollment confirmation and faculty confirmation. Rebranding of school as well. G. Hernandez seconded.

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

Shayln Lowry - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher. Being built through Hurricane Irma. Not ready to walk away – but it requires a decision ASAP. Faculty doesn't have answers.

Jeffery Hernandez – explained NAEP plan. Would like to schedule Zoom calls with grade level faculty and PTO Board Schedule for Friday, July 3. Digital Resources out to students ASAP. Also, went through State of Florida options for fall learning options.

Amanda Younciak – PTO President for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and substitute. Important to get the ball rolling and communicate to parents what our plan is. Willing to help in any way possible.

Artur Glants – NAEP Team...acknowledge that all faculty and staff will have an opportunity to be heard

Nancy Zizelman – parent at AGA for 2 years. Meeting has put her on edge. Would appreciate communication ASAP.

Don Woodruff – who does the financial audit? Hernandez explained Board selected an independent audit firm that was used. Hernandez also explained that this would be address later. Thank you for getting AGA built and started. I love the charter school. We have phenomenal children. Is July 8<sup>th</sup> the day my 20<sup>th</sup> year in teaching decided?

Marcia Griffin – AGA is a diamond in the rough. Our goal is to see how we can get you on a path to success. On the financial front there is work to be done, but on the Academic front you have a lot of heart.

#### IV. Old Business

- a) Consider Action to accept Resignation of Virginia Black – YES  
Peters motioned to accept/Gamson seconded – approved
- b) Consider Action to accept resignation of AES as management services – Peters motions to revisit on the 8<sup>th</sup>/Hernandez seconded
- c) Consider Action to appoint Samantha Walker as Interim Principal –  
Peters motions to appoint Samantha Walker as Interim until we have a final decision regarding leadership transition
- d) Consider Action Authorizing the Board President to appoint a Principal Search Committee – Peters motioned/Hernandez seconded (Jeffery asks the board to consider a budget for advertising on LinkedIn, zip recruiter, and indeed)

#### V. New Business

a) Consider Action to designate a new Audit firm - Gardner & Associates

Motion to investigate Engagement Letter with Keefe & McCullough and then motion stands for Board Chair to engage with Gardner & Associates

## VI. Board Members Comments

G. Hernandez – Hopes that Jeffery and his team come to a comfort level where they are able and willing to take over the management of the school.

Gamson – blah blah blah

Jeffrey – request to review RFP...so if meetings go well then Board Chair can move forward the start date. Hernandez seconded – motion carries.

Peters – empathetic, passion in the room. Believes in the school, the community, the educators, etc. Trying to save the friendships, the faculty, the community.

6:12 Peters Motion meeting to adjourn/Gamson seconded. Meeting adjourned.

\*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.