

Advantage Academy of Broward, Inc.
d/b/a
West Broward Academy
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016

Present at Meeting

Bassema Iskandarani - Board Chair

Ana Montesinos – Board Member

Nathaniel Grasch – Board Member

Laurel BiFora – Principal, West Broward Academy

Claudia Barbarino – Administrative Assistant, West Broward Academy

Mike Strader – Charter School Associates

Parents:

Jacqui Luscombe

Angela Ford

Meeting called to order at 6:14p.m. by Bassema Iskandarani.

A. Opening Exercises

Adoption of the agenda.

B. Public Comments

Jacqui Luscombe - Parent

Ms. Luscombe said she is happy to have Laurel BiFora as the new principal and stressed the importance of communication to parents. She went on to say that many parents are vested in the school's success and she believes that as these parents learn more about the issues surrounding the continued development of the school they will be even more supportive.

C. Principal Reports

Ms. BiFora introduced herself to the board. She is originally from upstate New York and recently left her position from Broward College as the Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention, and Student Admissions. She held various teaching and administrative positions in the Broward County Public School System. In 2012 she earned the prestigious *Assistant Principal of the Year* award. She expressed her excitement about the new opportunity at West Broward Academy and is looking forward to working with the students, staff and community.

Ms. BiFora reported enrollment at 399 and stressed the numbers will definitely be going up. The school has a waiting list and Claudia Barbarino has been reaching out to those on the list. There will be an open house for the elementary school on October 20 and middle school October 19. The school will be closed on October 12 but Ms. BiFora was excited to announce she has many teachers that want to come to the school and get their classrooms set up and work on bulletin boards. More information will be coming out about the Boosterthon and the school will

hold a pep rally next month. The school will participate in red ribbon week October 24-28 for being a drug free school. There will be a Halloween activity on October 31 consisting of face painting, fundraising and free items for families. Ms. BiFora said the school has a phenomenal ESE support coordinator incorporating learning strategies. They are also working on forming a PTSO for the school. Ms. BiFora reported on the top of the line technology lab and student iPads that are ready to be signed out by teachers. The theme for the school is "Discovering Our World" and this theme will be the framework for spotlighting a different country each month. Student of the month awards for September and October will be distributed soon. Ms. BiFora will be facilitating a panel called Principals Presidential Panel for leadership activities.

D. Information Items

1. Mr. Strader informed the board that monthly financial reports are sent to board members and any questions regarding monthly financial reports may be directed to Ms. Merced at any time. Each board member receives a comprehensive monthly financial report.
2. Mr. Strader said the annual budget as presented for the 2016-2017 school year is preliminary and will be amended after FTE week.
3. Mr. Strader explained the reason underlying the three promissory notes between Charter School Associates and West Broward Academy. The CSA loans enabled WBA to continue meeting its obligations for payroll and other operating expenses during the transition from the original location to the new location.
4. Mr. Strader explained the need to obtain financing for the furniture, textbooks and technology purchases required to equip the new school facility. The source of funding is a capital equipment lease through Stoneham Bank for four years with a \$1 buyout at the termination of the lease. The school obtained two proposals and agreed to the proposal offering the best terms and quickest approval.
5. Mr. Strader explained that a third proposal was requested from Lenovo Technology Financial Services but the underwriting requirements were incompatible with the school.
6. The new board members have all been updated with The Florida Department of State. The former Board Chair, Diego Perez, resigned.
7. Mr. Strader said the school calendar and handbooks are standard items included in the board agenda for board approval at the beginning of each school year.

E. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Strader described the purpose of having standing items in the consent section including purchase orders and agreements and the approval of certification waivers (exhibit A). Ms. Iskandarani motioned approval of Consent Items One through Six. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grascch and the motion was approved.

F. Items Scheduled for Action & Discussion

1. Budget Approval, FY 17.
2. Approve bank signers, BOA accounts

Mr. Strader asked the board chair to request a motion to approve the FY 17 budget and the revised signers for the school's accounts with Bank of America. Ms. Iskandarani motioned approval, Mr. Grascch seconded and the motion passed.

G. Board Member Reports

Mr. Strader said West Broward Academy is set up using the google platform which will provide better flexibility in the future. Ms. Montesinos asked why we didn't use grants for technology. Mr. Strader said the school wasn't able to take advantage of a grant because the state doesn't consider West Broward Academy a new school.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

