

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HS

ANNUAL MEETING DATE: April 25, 2022

5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063

A regular meeting of the board was scheduled to discuss and approve any immediate planning requirements re: Ascend Academy operations for SY 21-22 and begin planning for SY 22-23.

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Board Chair Greg DuMont, Board Members Cheryl Leonti and Sayra Hughes; Budget Manager of ACA, Denise Garcia and Principal Stacy-Ann Johnson. Greg DuMont, as Chairman of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

The Board Meeting was advertised and open to the public but no members of the public attended. Four (4) agenda items were discussed as outlined below.

I. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Ratification of December 3rd Meeting Minutes

REQUESTED ACTION: Ratify items and actions taken from the last board meeting

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Review, approval and comments

DISCUSSION: Final Minutes of the aforementioned Board Meeting were circulated. With all Board Members having reviewed them and there being no comments, Board Chair DuMont motioned for their approval. Hughes seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

EXHIBIT I: Meeting Minutes from December 3rd 2021 Board Meeting

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 25th 2022

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Tabled _____

II. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Beginning negotiation for the following contracts:

- Curriculum - Apex
- Custodial Contracts – Tick Tock
- Meal Services - NSLP

REQUESTED ACTION: Begin discussions on which contracts will be reviewed and approved at the next Board Meeting.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Contracts for the upcoming school year must be approved by all members of the governing board.

DISCUSSION: Budget Manager Denise Garcia outlined the following contracts that needed to be discussed and for which bids would be sought (input below outlines commentary from both Garcia and Johnson):

- A. Core Curriculum** – Apex; Ascens is finishing the second year of a 2 year contract. Faculty and students like the quality and impact and would like to seek a new contract. The Team will assess quotes for the school around Reading resources as well for 22/23 based upon those approved by the state and Broward county, as required.
- B. Meal Services** – Team is happy with the current provider but will seek other bids as well to comply and qualify with any federal and state requirements re: free and reduced lunch activities.
- C. Cleaning Services** – The Team is not happy with the quality of services from the current and L-T provider, Tick-Tock Cleaning. The school will seek bids, discuss quality issues with Tick-Tock and proceed with assessing a provider for SY22-23.

D. **Other Contracts** – other contracts for HVAC, Cable, Internet and phone are all consistent, reliable, and less than \$1000 per month and will likely remain as is given their quality and consistency in the context of the operations.

The Board unanimously voted to allow the Ascend Team to proceed with get quotes as outlined above and indicated that they would support any dialog as may be necessary to successfully negotiate quality services for SY 22/23. No contracts required approval at this mtg.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD at the time of SY22/23 budgeting.

EXHIBITS: N/A

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 25th 2022

Approved_____

Disapproved_____

Tabled___X___ (until bids received)

III. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approval of Venture Design Premium Services Agreement

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve the premium services agreement for SY 22/23

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Premium Services agreement and work order amounts must be approved by the Governing Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approx. \$8,000 annually

DISCUSSION: It was determined (via operational conversations lead by Principal Johnson) that the total needed hours for a Speech & Language Therapist would be approximately 15 hours per week, for a total of 600 hours for SY 22.23, given the current caseload of our ESE students. No other services are needed at this time. Such services, consistent with prior years would be contracted through Broward County, Ascend’s educational authority sponsor. DuMont moved to approve the contract and execute the same with Broward. Hughes seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 25th 2022

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Tabled _____

IV. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approval of Auditors for FY 21/22 Audit

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve the Auditors for FY 21/22

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Auditors must be approved by the Governing Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approx. \$8,000 annually

DISCUSSION: Board Chair DuMont indicated that King & Walker had been long-standing auditors of the school, were familiar with the accounts and had been a good historical provider. Provided their fees were at or near in line with the historical amount, DuMont recommended proceeding with engaging them for the current year audit. Leonti seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: April 25th 2022

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Tabled _____

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(Governing Board Chair)

Sara Hughes

(Governing Board Member)

Sheryl Leonti

(Governing Board Member)
