

MEETING MINUTES

ASCEND CAREER ACADEMY

SPECIAL MEETING DATE: September 29, 2020

5251 Coconut Creek Parkway Margate, FL 33063

A special meeting has been called via phone conference to discuss and approve immediate issues regarding school financials, debt servicing and out of field teaching assignments.

Roll call was taken with the following members on the call: Board Chair Greg DuMont, Board Members Cheryl Leonti and Sayra Hughes; Principal of ACA Vincent Alessi and Confidential secretary of ACA Denise Garcia.

The Board Meeting was not open to the public. 2 agenda items were discussed (1) Approval of Out of Field teaching assignments and (2) repayment terms of Gen Z (Beanstalk Innovations) and Alliance loans. Public notice will be sent out to all parents and students once Out of Field positions are reviewed.

I. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approve Out of Field Teacher Assignments

REQUESTED ACTION: The Governing Board will discuss steps towards certification in the required fields. Teachers may work out of field for one school year while obtaining the necessary certification for courses being taught.

EXHIBIT – Out of Field Request Forms for the following instructional staff:

Mara Larrainza – HOPE

Gerald Permenter – Geometry, recovery and honors

Kristen Wiliams – Earth Space Science, Physical Science and Chemistry

Samantha Todd – Reading

Jose Mondragon – Math 9-12

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: Once all signed paperwork is submitted to the school district, ACA will work towards obtaining the proper certification for all out of field teachers.

DISCUSSION: Mr Alessi opened the discussion to say that 3 teachers were currently carrying a portion of their instructional schedule and responsibilities in the courses listed above, out of the fields for which they maintained certification. We also have 2 new teachers who have received a statement of eligibility but do not yet hold a certificate for the courses they are teaching. Teachers can work out of field for up to one (1) year while they seek certification. Due to covid 19, the teachers who were teaching out of field the previous school year, were given an extension to obtain their certification. Upon approval, we will send notification to students and parents. Mr. Alessi has had discussions with each teacher and all both a) want to continue teaching the aforementioned courses and b) are seeking certification. To that end, the forms necessary to teach out of field have been executed and Mr Alessi indicated that he is working with each to establish a specific timeline for certification. As mentioned at previous board meetings, Mr DuMont added that while all certifications are important, he asked that ACA focus on accelerating the track in certifications for Math and Science. With their being no further comments, Mr DuMont motioned that the Board approve out of field status as outlined above, and that if certifications are not received by the aforementioned teachers by the end of the 2020/21 school year, that alternative full certified instructional resources be hired for any such courses. Ms. Hughes seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: September 29, 2020

Approved_____

Disapproved_____

Tabled_____

- II. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Review of final Audit draft and Mgmt. rep letter
REQUESTED ACTION: Review specific items listed in audit that related to loan agreements and financial matters.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND: The following audit findings need to be discussed and resolved.

Page 21 – Footnote 7, Beanstalk Note – it is required to pay interest at 5% effective 8/1/2020, in case that needs to also be reflected in the description. It stays at that level.

Page 22 – Footnote 10. Says rent is \$349,000 + for the year. Rent is actually \$300,000 for the year and will increase to \$350,000 in 2021. (typo in loan agreement, all parties aware.) CAM is additional \$4,106 monthly.

Page 23 – Footnote 11 – the Note has a prevailing interest rate, as amended at the greater of \$8,000 annually or 1% not 3%. Loan in footnote 7 is now at \$788,000+ and should be tied together.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Will continue to monitor revenue/expenses. Debt will be services at rate outlined in loan agreements.

EXHIBIT: Alliance and Beanstalk note

DISCUSSION: All footnotes have been reviewed and all changes have been discussed and/or resolved. Final approval will be given to the auditor for completion of 19/20 ACA audit.

Board Action Taken in Open Meeting On: September 29, 2020

Approved_____

Disapproved_____

Tabled_____

Signed By: _____

(Governing Board Chair)

(Governing Board Member)

(Governing Board Member)