**Workforce Advantage Academy**

Board Meeting Minutes January 29, 2018

Attended by:

Kenneth Hartsaw

Hugo de Beaubien

Steve Blomley

Elizabeth Hughes

Roderick Williams

Ed Thomas, Jr.

Carl Merrell

The main topic of discussion was the status of the school’s lease, which expires in June, and if the school can stay or will have to move to another location.

The Ministry on South Street is no more. The Winter Park Methodist Church does not own the property. The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church in Lakeland owns it.

Six months ago, Hartsaw was told the church would decide about the property and get back to him. That has not happened.

Hartsaw went to Pine Castle Methodist Church and met with pastor Scott George. George wants to create a nonprofit center on the property and would let Workforce Academy stay. George has written a letter to the leadership of South Street Ministries about his plan. He and Hartsaw have a meeting with the building committee at Winter Park Methodist Church in February.

The day care center on site is moving. Winter Park Methodist tried to convince it to stay a few months longer, but the move-out date remains June.

Hartsaw reported that it has been tough to find a new space. A “fall back” is a site on Rio Grande with 17 portables. He said it would be tight to move over the summer.

Merrell pointed out that permitting, fire inspections and logistics will take some time.

The board members discussed options

De Beaubien asked about enrollment for the second semester, and Hartsaw said it was fine. He reported that the audit of time sheets showed some exceptions, and the school may owe the state $89,000. He said the school would respond and likely the amount owed would be $10,000 to $20,000.

Hartsaw announced that the spring break field trip was canceled due to the uncertainty about the school’s location.

The state legislature is considering a $ million appropriation for the school, which would fund a guidance counselor, curriculum development and computes for each student.