Workforce Advantage Academy Board Meeting

08 April 2025/ 1400

**In attendance on campus**

Ken Hartsaw, CEO

Belinda Jones, President

Carl Merrell, Chief of Staff

Donald Hindson, Registrar

Darryl Blackall, Director

**In attendance via Zoom**

Stan Dickenson, Board Member

Elizabeth Hughes, Board Member

Edward Thomas, Board Chair

Mr. Hartsaw calls meeting to order.

Mr. Blackall presented the minutes from the last board meeting. The attendees read over the minutes, Ms. Hughes motioned to accept minutes as presented, Mr. Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hughes asked about any old business that needed to be addressed. No attendees had any old business concerns.

Mr. Hartsaw asked Mr. Blackall to update the Board on current happenings.

Mr. Blackall updated the attendees on:

The Spring Break trip to Washington D.C.

The schools participation in Universal’s Grad Bash

The Academy’s “Rewards Program” used as a reinforcement for positive behavior and classroom achievement.

Prom update and invitation to Board presented. (4/19/25, 1800-2300, Embassy Suites)

Discussed legislation in Tallahassee concerning testing requirements for graduation. The bill did make it through the Senate, but has not been taken up by the House.

Truancy policy was explained to the Board. Board understands Dr. Jihad visits campus weekly to check attendance and assure WAA is sending out truancy letters as well as scheduling truancy meetings.

Attendees were pleased to hear testing grades are improving. Mr. Hartsaw made the point adding Mr. Gonzalez in remedial math has made a difference, and was a positive investment. Mr. Duprey, test coordinator, puts in tremendous effort to stay complaint.

Workforce Academy was visited by the FLDOE Safety Office. Two doors were found unlocked, and the appropriate action was taken. The safety binder was also inspected and found in compliance. This inspection is mandatory every three (3) years.

Workforce is complaint with all drills, fire inspections, mental health and food safety requirements.

Workforce Advantage Academy will continue to utilize Guardians and the “SaferWatch” emergency system to be compliant with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Safety Act. The cost for a SRO would now be $60 per hour. Guardians are the most cost efficient choice for the Academy at this time.

Mr. Blackall turned the floor back to Mr. Hartsaw to discuss the budget. A report was prepared by Charter Sage Accounting Group. Mr. Hartsaw explained to the Board expenditures are on track. The end of the year costs are higher due to: spring break trip, prom, and graduation activities, but nothing unexpected. After review Mr. Dickenson made a motion to accept Charter Sage budget report as submitted. Ms. Hughes seconded voted unanimously, budget report accepted.

Mr. Blackall reported to attendees about the letter submitted by Greg Moody concerning litigation between Disney and Orange County Tax Collectors. The attendees were informed of the possibility the school may be responsible to return an overpayment.

Mr. Hartsaw asked about any other business. With no other business, the meeting adjurned.