

**Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc.**

**Channelside Academy of Math and Science**

**Channelside Academy Middle School**

**Valrico Academy**

**Bell Creek Academy**

**Bell Creek Academy High School**

**Advantage Academy of Hillsborough**

**Advantage Academy of Hillsborough Middle School**

**Hillsborough Academy of Math and Science**

**Orange County Preparatory Academy**

**Sunlake Academy of Math and Science**

**Independence Academy Schools, Inc.**

**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 30, 2017**

**Independence Academy**

**12902 E. US Highway 92**

**Dover, FL 33527**

**Present at Meeting**

Patricia Rogers

Charles Harris

Jennifer Dean

Mike Strader

Tiffani Richmond

Dr. Margaret Fahringer

Cristina Fuentes

Lauren Herbert

Keith Miller

Suzanne Elder

Jack Burkett

Anne Healey

Summer Sewall

Leah Paddock

Anne Healy

Meagan Conwell

Michelle Wooten

Sheila Pickern

Brian Strader

Leslie Bennett

Malissa McNeely

MB Kaye

Meeting called to order at 4:45 PM by Mrs. Rogers

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Rogers asked Mr. Strader to explain the status of merging the two entities, Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. and Independence Academy Schools, Inc. Mr. Strader said the Sponsor had tentatively agreed to allowing the merger for the two 501(c)(3) entities. Mr. Strader reminded the Board that the merger would improve the way information was shared between all principals, it would increase efficiency for board members and decrease transaction costs for schools. Mr. Strader said this is the time to merge the two boards because of the upcoming charter renewal(s) for Channelside Academy Middle School and Independence Academy Schools.

Ms. Rogers asked members to approve running a meeting simultaneously with Independence Academy Schools, Inc. to facilitate the actions needed to finalize merger approval and to engage both boards in the discussion.

Ms. Rogers asked for a motion to appoint Ms. Tammy Chancey to the Board of Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. A motion was made by Ms. Dean and seconded by Mr. Harris and approved unanimously.

Mr. Harris asked for a motion to appoint Ms. Jennifer Dean to the Independence Academy Schools, Inc. board. Ms. Rogers made the motion, seconded by Mr. Harris and the motion passed unanimously.

Following this action, both boards shared the same board members.

Mr. Harris motioned to combine the IAS and AAH meetings. Ms. Dean seconded and the item passed unanimously.

Mrs. Rogers asked the Board to review the meeting minutes from the last governing board meeting and to approve or amend as needed. Mr. Harris motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Public Comments**

Mrs. Rogers asked if any person present wished to speak under Public Comment. A Kindergarten parent from Independence Academy asked if the start time change at Bailey Elementary, a Hillsborough County Public School, will affect the charter schools. Mr. Clark said he had not heard anything from Hillsborough County Public Schools. Mr. Strader advised that county regulations placed upon charter schools for traffic management often determine opening and closing times. Mr. Strader recommended looking into the timing of the school opening change at Bailey Elementary.

The parent followed up with an additional question; if the school was expanding into the land next door. The board advised the school facility is leased from an investment group and it is their understanding the investment group does not have any current plans for expansion to the property next door.

**Principal Reports**

Independence Academy – Mr. Clark reported an enrollment of 871. Mr. Clark said they had a great turnout with over 200 families in attendance at Dr. Seuss night. Mr. Clark was happy to report the school float took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Strawberry Festival parade in the children division. Students wrote notes to prepare for the Florida School Assessment. There were many students participating in the Regional Stem Fair this year. Tampa Bay Lightning sponsored a field hockey tournament downtown and Independence students won 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Valrico Academy – Ms. Herbert reported enrollment at 831. Ms. Herbert said the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders won at the Regional Stem Fair and they were the first charter to ever win. Ms. Herbert encourage the PTSO to add a trophy case since students are winning many new trophies. There is currently a waitlist for every grade for the 2017-2018 school year.

Bell Creek Academy/Bell Creek Academy High School – Dr. Margaret Fahringer reported an enrollment of 879 with 94% re-enrollment. Dr. Fahringer said the school raised \$300 at family night at Cold Stone ice cream. Students participated in the drum line at the Strawberry Festival parade. Dr. Fahringer said

the students participated in a mock trial at the Law Academy and won for their district. Students are preparing for the Florida School Assessment by hosting a preparation game show. Graduation is set for May 17 at the Tampa Theatre at 6pm.

Orange County Preparatory Academy – Mr. Burkett reported enrollment is at 419 with a projection of 750. Mr. Burkett said the administration is getting out into the community to drive enrollment. Mr. Burkett said they are looking forward to hosting several upcoming parent nights in April.

Advantage Academy of Hillsborough – Mr. Miller reported enrollment is at 442. The students are participating in relay for life and the Strawberry Festival. The school is participating in an intensive prep for the Florida School Assessment. Upcoming events include Florida School Assessment testing for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in the next few weeks and the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade banquet.

Mr. Miller reported on the school's Title 1 status and activities. He distributed a copy of the required School-Parent-Student Compact Survey and discussed its use and function in the school. He also distributed a copy of the Barrier Survey.

Channelside Academy of Math and Science – Ms. Elder reported enrollment is at 560 with a projection of 570. The school has many events next month including honor roll assemblies, an art show and kindergarten graduation on May 16.

Hillsborough Academy of Math and Science – Ms. Fuentes reported an enrollment of 790. Ms. Fuentes said the curriculum night at the school was a hit and upcoming activities include new parent information night, Chick-fil-A Spirit Night and a school field trip to Washington, DC in May.

**Information Items**

1. Mr. Strader reminded the Board that financial reports go out monthly. Any questions regarding financials may be directed to Ms. Jeannette Merced or to Mike Strader.
2. Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. and Independence Academy Schools, Inc., FY 17 auditor engagement letters.
3. Results of the Sponsor's on site review of Channelside Academy Middle school renewal were very positive.
4. Revised Bylaws for AAH were introduced to the board.
5. An attorney drafted the Articles of Merger and resolution. Following initial approval and execution of the Articles of Merger and Resolution, M. Strader will follow up with the attorney to determine if other documents are needed.
6. The management agreement follows the renewal.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of purchase orders and agreements
2. Approval of Personnel Items Certification Waivers

3. Approval of FY 17 Auditor Engagement Letters

Mr. Harris motioned to approve items 1-3 on consent agenda. Ms. Dean seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Items Scheduled for Action and Discussion**

1. Approve Channelside Academy Middle School charter renewal for submission to the School Board of Hillsborough County, FL. Authorize chair to execute charter agreement on behalf of Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc.
2. Confirm and approve nomination of Jennifer Dean to be on Independence Academy Schools, Inc. board and Tammy Chancey to be on Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. board.
3. Approve articles of merger and plan of merger.
4. Approve documents of merger and authorize Mr. Strader to submit same to the Sponsor on behalf of board.
5. Approve renewed CSA ESP Agreement between Charter School Associates, Inc. and Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. for five year renewal of management agreement at Channelside Academy Middle School and Independence Academy (middle and elementary)

Mr. Harris motioned to approve items 1-5 scheduled for action and discussion. Jennifer Dean seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for May 18, 2017 @1pm at Orange County Preparatory Academy.

Mr. Miller requests the board to document approval to conduct Barriers Survey and Compact Survey to meet Title 1 requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35

*Patricia Rojas*

10.5.2017