

**MINUTES**  
**Governing Board Reading Edge Academy, Inc.**  
**February 16, 2021 Samsula Academy**

**Governing Board Members Roll Call:**

**Staff Members Roll Call:**

Mike Caldwell	Chair by Phone	P	Peggy Comardo	Principal	P
Vickie Foster	V Chair	P	Don Comardo	Facilities	Ex
Arlene Lowery	Secretary	P	Debbie Smoak	AP REA	P
Marianne Stanley	Treasurer by Phone	P	Maryann Roberts	AP Samsula	P
Sandy Kent	Member	P			

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at Samsula Academy by Mrs. Vickie Foster, Vice Chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call was taken. Mr. Mike Caldwell, Chair and Mrs. Marianne Stanley, Treasurer attended by phone. Mr. Don Comardo, Facilities was excused.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Due to the early February meeting, the January 2021 financial report was not available to be presented by Mrs. Stanley. A motion was made to table the report until the figures were available by Mrs. Lowery and seconded by Mrs. Foster. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent approving this motion.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The January 2021 minutes written by Arlene Lowery were presented. A motion was made by Mrs. Kent to accept the minutes, and seconded by Mrs. Stanley. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent approving the motion.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORTS**

**Reading Edge Academy by Ms. Debbie Smoak**

**Friday, January 15, 2021** - Roster Verification was submitted to the district and then to the state.

**Thursday, January 21, 2021** – Progress Report Comments were due to Administration for review

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021** – ACCESS testing begins for ELL students, Mrs. Ginzl has a schedule planned to have all testing for these students completed by Friday, February 26, 2021. The test consists of four (4) sections, each being given individually. We have 22 students to be tested.

**Monday, January 25 through Friday, January 29, 2021** was School Choice Week

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021** was Yellow Day at Reading Edge Academy in honor and showing support for our Charter School. Students were excited to know they were special!

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021** was the required State Tornado Drill. It began at 9:00 a.m. It was also our day for our kindergarten, first and third grades to be screened by the Volusia County Health Department for vision, hearing, weight, and body mass. Any student new to a public school, regardless of the grade level, was also screened.

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

We also had a visit from the Math Curriculum Department, Mr. Sotomeyer. He came to watch and comment on our teachers' math program and instruction. He gave me feedback that will be a part of our Five Year Charter Review. I have shared that with the teachers and comments were positive with two suggestions to enhance what we have going on.

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021** Spirit Day of Fire and Ice at Tijuana Flats and Jeremiah's Italian Ice. Students were excited and we had a decent turn out.

Also on Wednesday, we sold wooden Roses for \$1 to our students. We had received 400 roses as a bonus gift from our Winter Holiday Shop so that was free money.

**Thursday, February 11, 2021** Deltona Middle School came and talked with our future middle schoolers about their various programs available to students.

We also sold out of the roses by 9:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021** We had our Code Red and Active Assailant drill. It is also the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and kindergarten celebrated in style.

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021** there is a scheduled meeting with "Power of Purpose" to come and discuss their fund raising activity with us.

**Reading Edge Academy's current enrollment is 273.**

**SAMSULA ACADEMY by Mrs. Maryann Roberts**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Annual Health Screening for grade K, 1 and 3 will take place in the library.

**January 26<sup>th</sup>** - Annual District Security Audit will take place for Samsula Academy. We had a perfect score of 63/63.

**January 26<sup>th</sup> – January 28<sup>th</sup>** - We had our second Book Fair of the year.

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** - School of Choice Week was moved to this week due to the book fair and security audit falling in the same week last week. Children enjoyed red and yellow treats, bracelets and stickers to celebrate. The children were able to wear yellow one day and red another day to celebrate as well.

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Districtwide Extreme Weather Drill (Tornado Drill) took place today. All went well with the drill.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** – District visit from Reading, Math, and Science Specialists. Overall specialists had many positive things to share with us. They saw great intervention in Reading and evidence of numeracy, good use of resources solid structure in Math Instruction. In Science, use of academic language, connections to prior knowledge, and hands on explorations were observed.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> – February 13<sup>th</sup>** - Program Sales at the New Smyrna Speedway were decent and similar to last year.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – President's Day observed –no school.

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** – 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School celebration in Kindergarten.

**Samsula Academy's current enrollment is 171.**

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Principal Comardo read an encouraging report from the FCSA newsletter about Ralph Arza, from Hillsborough Schools, representing the Florida Charter School Alliance who recently attended a district meeting. When a Hillsborough board member incorrectly stated that the district lost millions because of charter schools, Mr. Arza corrected that statement with the fact that, Charter schools "provide a service to this county". He went on to say that the Charter schools saved the school board money, "...it would cost the district \$ 22,000 per student station

to serve the more than 32,000 students currently enrolled in a public charter school. That's more than \$700 million worth of student stations built by charter operators." He explained that the narrative that charter schools cause district financial problems is a false and unfair assumption.

The FTE reported to the district for funding remains at 273 students enrolled at Reading Edge Academy, and 171 at Samsula Academy.

Charter renewals are still ongoing.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Samsula Water** - Mrs. Comardo reported that two fire hydrants were replaced and one was still usable. The inspection will be this Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Comardo will request a letter stating that this inspection completes the requirements for the fire suppression system at Samsula Academy and the Academy is "grandfathered in" to the older year's requirements.

**Samsula Building Plans** – Mrs. Comardo reported that the building plans were still on hold. A letter went out requesting a meeting with the District Superintendent, Dr. Scott Fritz, to discuss a release in our contract in order for us to borrow against the property so construction can begin.

Mrs. Comardo also presented a list of building expenses needed to repair the current facilities and compared it to the estimated cost of a new steel building. Highlights on the list included the badly needed roof on the Admin Building, mold cleanup in the Media Center, new plumbing and electrical wiring in all classrooms, and painting both inside and outside of all the buildings. With the new construction savings would result from the elimination of rent on the portables (\$ 65,000), AC cleaning and repairs to portables (\$ 5,000), old plumbing repairs (\$ 10,000), and other repairs for the year (\$15,000). The end result would save on electric, Biometric products with the installation of new pipes, and lower costs on general repairs. Most importantly, it would improve security to our students with the installation of perimeter fencing, electronic entrance to the buildings, and the installation of gates and locks. The new building would attract new student enrollments, and possibly extend classes from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The AC at Reading Edge Academy broke down in the Admin office area and has been out for the past two weeks. A new one costing \$ 6,300 is being installed.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2021 at Reading Edge Academy

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Arlene Lowery**, Secretary