

MINUTES
Governing Board Reading Edge Academy, Inc.
SPECIAL MEETING JULY 21, 2020

Governing Board Members Roll Call:

Staff Members Roll Call:

Mike Caldwell	Chair	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	P	Maryann Roberts	AP Samsula	P
Sandy Kent	Member	P			

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

This July special meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mr. Mike Caldwell, Chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call was taken. Mr. Don Comardo was excused. The meeting was done in an online format due to the Coronavirus.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The June 2020 financial report was not available for review. The report was tabled until the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The June 2020 minutes written by Arlene Lowery were presented. A motion was made by Mrs. Foster to accept the minutes, 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

June 2020 required multiple virtual meetings including, virtual interviews. Reading Edge Academy did hire:

- ✓ Kiara Viera – Kindergarten (experienced in Kindergarten from New York City)
- ✓ Lisa McIntosh – 2nd grade (experienced in primary grades from Seminole County)
- ✓ Ciera Armstrong-Conroy – 2nd grade (experienced in primary and Montessori learning)
- ✓ Holly Kline – 5th grade (new teacher, local hire)
- ✓ Sabrina Bew – 2nd grade (transferred back from Samsula)
- ✓ Christina Dwarika – 3rd grade (transferred back from Samsula)
- ✓

Resignations include:

- Jenna Kline – paraprofessional, seeking employment outside of education
- Roberta Lowinski – left to go to VCS due to higher wages
- Lisa Harris Dalton – left to go to Seminole County Schools
- Katherine Whitley – retired
- Stephanie Goodin – leave of absence for family

July 14th we had our fire inspection with VCS – Mr. Comardo met with the inspector

July 15th a meeting was held with all the new hires welcoming them to Reading Edge Academy. Mrs. Comardo and I discussed a few things specific to charter schools and then presented them with a basket of goodies for their classroom and this coming year. Mrs. Ginzi and I gave a brief outline of our organization and allowed them to ask questions they might not have asked during the interview. After the meeting, we enjoyed taking them to lunch at Woody's Bar B Que.

Also on July 15th, I listened to the VCS board virtual meeting to see what we might need to add to our Reopening Plan that had to be submitted to the district and state by July 22nd.

On July 16th, Mrs. Ginzi and I revised the original parent friendly plan for reopening to include some particular points that the district had suggested and some of the parents who called in requested schools do for the protection of their children.

Also on July 16th, Mrs. Ginzi and I completed the 2020-2021 Florida's Optional Innovative Reopening Plan for Reading Edge Academy that is due to the district on July 22nd and then to the state.

On July 20th Mrs. Comardo, Mrs. Ginzi and I participated in a virtual meeting with the district representative, Mrs. Tweedy, to discuss our Innovative Reopening Plan to make sure that we had covered all the Assurances that the state was requiring.

On July 21st we had our Security walk through with Commander Hernandez from Volusia County Sherriff's office. He asked about the barrier at the front desk protecting the office from the public. We explained that Mr. Comardo had a barrier coming to be installed prior to school beginning.

On Wednesday, July 22nd there is a webinar on School City – a new program from VCS that we will need to utilize this coming. Mrs. Ginzi and I will be participating. At a future date we will be further trained as a Trainer so that our staff can be sufficiently trained to use the program effectively.

Teacher and staff are scheduled to officially begin Monday, August 10th.

Samsula Academy by Mrs. Maryann Roberts

June 2020 required multiple virtual meetings including, virtual interviews. Samsula Academy hired the following teachers and:

- ✓ Annie Chen - 2nd grade (first year teacher)
- ✓ Joi Bell– 3rd grade (1 year experience from Volusia County)
- ✓ Beth Grimm- Maggio (experienced grade 3-4 teacher)
- ✓ Craig Buboltz – 4th grade (20 years teaching internationally)
- ✓ Devon Jones– 4th grade (moving from permanent sub to teacher status)
- ✓ Lauren Heasley– ESE Resource (transferred from REA)
- ✓ Zoe Smoak – K Para professional
- ✓ Megan Howard – K Para professional
- ✓ Noah Slucher – ESD
- ✓ Dillon Tomazin – ESD

July 1 - Mrs. Sue Smith took a personal leave for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Sue Sbardella will be the Instructional Coach at Samsula Academy in her absence.

July 1 – Administration and Instructional Coaches met at REA to discuss and formulate opening plans for 2020-2021 school year. Preplanning schedule as well as topics for discussion at preplanning meetings were discussed.

July 2nd through July 10th- Mrs. Roberts prepared request for quotes and ordered materials and computer programs for the 2020-2021 school year for both REA and Samsula Academies (Istation, Moby Max, Learning A-Z , Ready Reading, Ready Writing, SIPPS Plus, Elementary Fun-dations, Science Coach, Rally Test Prep books).

July 16th - Mrs. Sbardella was given the revised the original parent friendly plan for reopening to review. She and Mrs. Comardo added some site specific information for Samsula Academy. Some particular points that the district had suggested and some of the parents who called in requested schools do for the protection of their children were included.

On Wednesday, July 22nd there is a webinar on School City – a new program from VCS that we will need to utilize this coming. Mrs. Ginzi and I will be participating. On August 4th will be a “train the trainer” training meeting for instructional coaches and administrators. Our staff will then be sufficiently trained to use the program effectively.

July 22nd- VCS School Board will meet to further discuss plans and procedures for school openings amid the COVID 19 Pandemic.

July 30th -“Getting to know you” new teacher/staff luncheon will be held at Lost Lagoon for all new staff members to Samsula Academy.

Teacher and staff are scheduled to officially begin Monday, August 10th.

School Year may not begin until August 24th or 31st. VCS School Board will decide when.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Mrs. Comardo recognized both assistant principals and thanked them for their outstanding efforts and hard work they performed during this pandemic.

Grants

Grants were recently received at our schools. The CARES ACT grant, which will be used to purchase gloves, face shields, etc. for all students. The PST Grant which will be used for technology which is required due to the pandemic. Also, a grant for the electronic entryways at each school was received.

OLD BUSINESS

Samsula Fire Safety Requirements

Mrs. Comardo announced that Samsula Academy has different water plans. The new fire marshal and fire chief looked at the fire regulations and determined that because Samsula Academy had always been there as a school, it is deemed to be “grandfathered in” so the new regulations referencing sprinkler requirements did not apply. However, the school must get the fire hydrants working. This will result in a great cost reduction to the school.

Mr. Todd Birnie with Marshall B. Bone is working on getting the old plans from the school district. When the new portion of the school building is completed, sprinklers will be installed.

It was discussed that the new fire marshal and fire chief should be contacted and requested that they put it in writing about the school being “grandfathered in” of the sprinkler requirements in event that this issue comes up in the future.

Samsula Building Plans

The building plans are available to view with Mrs. Comardo. Mr. Birnie with Marshall B. Bone is working to bring a request to the district superintendent to allow a release in the contract so we may borrow funds from the land in order to make improvements to our building.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation

Mrs. Lee Anne Carter submitted her resignation from the Governing Board on July 8, 2020. Her dedicated service to the Governing Board started in February 2016. She became the Board Secretary in August 2017. She has since done an outstanding job as Board Secretary and will be missed by everyone.

Schools Reopening Plans

The Reopening Plans for Volusia County schools was discussed. According to the newest information, all Volusia County schools will open under various plans on August 31, 2020. Both Academy teachers will report to work on August 10, 2020, in order to train and prepare for these openings. Parents at Reading Edge Academy and Samsula Academy will be given the option to send their children either virtually or in person. With either choice all school days will start at 7:50 am and end at 2:30 pm.

The 2020 – 2021 Florida’s Optional Innovative Reopening Plans for both charter schools, as well as Parent User Friendly versions were presented and thoroughly discussed. A motion was made by Mrs. Lowery to accept the plans, seconded by Mrs. Kent. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent approving the motion.

PTO Payouts, Raises

The reduction of Financial Liability and PTO payouts for each school was discussed. Employees will receive funds at all different stages according to the different earnings when they leave their employment.

The across the board raises from the State were discussed. At this time there are no answers about the amounts of raises our teachers can expect.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2020 Online or Reading Edge Academy
(Due to Coronavirus, this will be announced later)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Lowery, Secretary