

MINUTES
Governing Board Reading Edge Academy, Inc.
September 21, 2021 Samsula Academy 6:00 PM

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 by phone	P			

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at Samsula Academy by Mr. Mike Caldwell, Chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call was taken. Mr. Don Comardo was excused, and Mrs. Sandy Kent attended by phone.

Visitors welcomed were Samantha Higbee, a mother of a first grade student at Samsula Academy, Lisel Doreste-Hamilton, PE teacher at Samsula Academy, and Joi Bell, a third grade teacher at Samsula Academy.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The July 2021 financial reports were presented by Mrs. Stanley. A motion was made to accept the Reading Edge July report by Mrs. Arlene Lowery and seconded by Mrs. Vickie Foster. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

A motion was made to accept the Samsula Academy July report 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 voting approval.

The August financial reports were presented by Mrs. Stanley. A motion was made to accept the Reading Edge August report by Mrs. Vickie Foster and seconded by Mrs. Sandy Kent. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

A motion was made to accept the Samsula Academy August report by Mrs. Lowery and seconded by Mr. Caldwell. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The August 2021 minutes written by Mrs. Arlene Lowery were presented. A motion was made by Mrs. Foster to accept the minutes, and seconded by Mrs. Lowery. 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, Ms. Debbie Smoak

In addition to reporting the daily activities for the month of September, Mrs. Smoak reported that Reading Edge Academy scored an overall **B** for FSA Testing. This was quite achievement, as the overall Volusia County School District was ranked a C. Classes during the 2020 covid pandemic were held both online and at the school locations.

Reading Edge Academy's current enrollment is 303.

Samsula Academy, Ms. Maryann Roberts

In addition to reporting the daily activities for the month of September, Ms. Maryanne Roberts presented a report that explained that Samsula Academy missed by one point to be classified as a B school. When compared to the District, Samsula excelled in 3rd Grade ELA, 3rd Grade Math, 4th Grade ELA, and 5th Grade ELA. The test scores for 5th Grade Math and Science were not above the District, and this is the area that the focus will be on the 2021-2022 school year.

Samsula Academy's enrollment is currently 185.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Comardo thanked both her Assistant Principals, Mrs. Debbie Smoak and Mrs. Maryann Roberts for their continued dedication for all the things that they do to make both schools a success. The latest was the completion of the Florida Instructional Continuity Plan (ICP).

OLD BUSINESS

Samsula Building Plans – Mrs. Comardo stated that there was nothing new to report on the building plans to improve the buildings at Samsula Academy. It was requested that this item be temporarily removed from the agenda until such time that there is something to report.

Charter Contracts

Mr. Caldwell reported that Charter Contracts with the Volusia County School District and both Samsula Academy and Reading Edge Academy are approved and signed.

Approval of 2021-2022 Budget

The 2021-2022 budgets for both schools compiled by Peggy Comardo and Governing Board Treasurer Marianne Stanley were presented. It included the newest Esser II Advance funds recently received, \$116,978.40 for Reading Edge Academy, and for Samsula Academy, \$99,338.80.

A motion was made to accept the Reading Edge Academy budget for 2021 – 2022 by Mrs. Vickie Foster, and seconded by Mrs. Arlene Lowery. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

A motion was made to accept the Samsula Academy budget for 2021 – 2022 by Mrs. Sandy Kent, and seconded by Mrs. Arlene Lowery. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

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NEW BUSINESS

Request for Time Off Form/Teachers Requesting Leave during Blackout Dates

The new Request for Time Off Form which included signature by the Chair was used for teachers requesting time off during blackout dates.

The Board heard the letter from a teacher at Samsula Academy, who was asking for the dates of October 14th, 15th, 18th and 19th. A motion by Mr. Caldwell and seconded by Arlene Lowery to grant this request with pay was made. All Governing Board members voted their approval. Mr. Caldwell signed the request.

The Board heard the letter from a teacher at Reading Edge Academy who requested the date of September 3rd. A motion by Mrs. Foster and seconded by Mr. Caldwell to grant this request with pay was made. All Governing Board members voted their approval. Mr. Caldwell signed the request.

The Board also heard the request from a teacher at Reading Edge Academy who was requesting a leave of absence from October to December. A motion was made to grant this request by Mrs. Stanley and seconded by Mrs. Foster. All Governing Board members voted approval. Mr. Caldwell signed the request, and Mrs. Smoak said she would hire a long term sub.

Board Approval for Out of Field Teachers

Mrs. Smoak presented a list of teachers who would be working Out of Field (meaning they would only be granted one year without a full certification to teach during their teaching career). This included five new teachers; Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade, and Art. Mrs. Lowery made a motion to approve those candidates for hire, seconded by Mrs. Foster. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

Employee Covid Relief Payments

It was discussed that in addition to the teachers who worked during the pandemic and received Covid Relief Payments, dedicated staff who also worked at that time should also receive payment of \$ 1,000. However, due to payroll requirements, taxes should be taken out.

A motion was made to pay the Reading Edge employees who also worked during the pandemic by Mrs. Vickie Foster and seconded by Mrs. Sandy Kent. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

A motion was made to pay the Samsula Academy employees who also worked during the pandemic by Mrs. Vickie Foster and seconded by Mrs. Marianne Stanley. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

Volusia County Mask Mandates

The current Volusia County School District Mask Mandate includes an Opt Out agreement that parents can sign if they do not want their child to wear a mask during school time. It was agreed by the Reading Edge Academy, Inc. Governing Board that they will follow these guidelines set forth by the District.

Mrs. Arlene Lowery made a motion that the Academies will follow mandates set forth by the District, seconded by Mrs. Vickie Foster. The motion carried 5 – 0 with Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. Stanley, and Mrs. Kent voting approval.

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Governing Board By Laws

The updated Governing Board By Laws were presented by Vickie Foster and discussed by the Board. Some changes were discussed and Mrs. Lowery agreed to work with Mrs. Foster and send a draft copy by e-mail to the Board for presentation at the next meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The guests present were again acknowledged, but had no input for the Board.

NEXT MEETING: October 19, 2021 at Reading Edge Academy

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Lowery, Secretary
Governing Board
Reading Edge Academy, Inc.