

VIERA CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.

Board Meeting

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Viera Charter School

6206 Breslay Drive

Viera, FL 32940

Location: Viera Charter School Multi-Purpose Room (Lunchroom)

The Mission of Viera Charter School:

To provide students with a challenging program which emphasizes scientific inquiry, critical thinking, understanding of mathematical concepts and effective communication using innovative, reform-based instructional methods in a simulating and nurturing environment that fosters maximum student achievement

A. Opening Exercises

- Call to Order - ***The meeting was called to order at 5:29 PM. In attendance: Robert Jordan, Board Chairman/President, Robert Naberhaus (Founding Board Member), Vice-Chairman, Kim Africano, CPA – Treasurer, Scott Steele, Founding Board Member and Josh Field.***
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Adoption of the Agenda - ***The agenda was unanimously adopted under a motion by Robert Naberhaus, second Josh Field.***
- Approval of meeting minutes (November 8, 2017) - ***The 11/8/17 meeting minutes were unanimously adopted under a motion by Robert Naberhaus, second by Kim Africano***

B. Public Comment (Members of the public that wish to address the Board must sign-in and will have 3 minutes to speak. The Board will not address the presenter or take action at this time but may give direction to staff following a presentation. The total time allotted for public comments shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.)

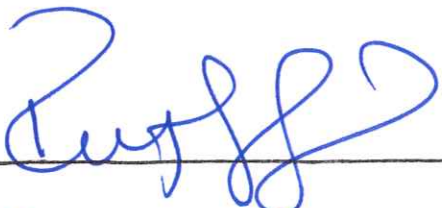
- ***The first public speaker was Tricia Ochipa regarding the topic of school security. Ms. Ochipa expressed concerns about the proposed "Sheriff Trained Onsite Marshal Program (STOMP) that is being advocated by the Brevard County Sheriff. She strongly urged the board to not support the plan and suggested the program would be counter-productive from a safety perspective***
- ***The second public speaker was Cheryl Motty on the topic of "Panther Pride" and Safety – Ms. Motty extended her gratitude for the positive VCS experience her family has had. The impact of being involved in sports at the elementary through middle school years, the security enhancement features in the school design, and the emphasis on safety in school operations were recognized by Ms. Motty as outstanding. Note: Normally the Board does not address comments at the board meeting, but the nature of Ms. Motty's comments truly touched the***
- ***The third public speaker was Dr. Vincent Sciortino – Dr. Sciortino discussed concerns related to heavy backpacks and the increasing complaints and health impact among children who are required to use them. He provided the board with resources and information on this health issue. In addition, Dr. Sciortino offered his assistance to arrive at solutions and to be available as a liaison physician for VCS to support the school and community in any way needed.***

C. Principal's Report - ***Dr. Julie Cady, Principal provided the Board her Principals Report. The following items were addressed:***

- ***4 new marriages in the VCS family***
- ***Update on the Digital Arts and Engineering Academy and Global Exploratory Mission (GEM)***
- ***Annual VCS participation in the WESH 2 Toy Drive***

- *Highlights and annual participation in the annual Light Up Viera Parade*
 - *Programs to provide extra academic support to students to include – FSA Saturdays, tutoring, writing club, and more*
 - *I-ready – Dr. Cady presented the success of the I-ready program and its direct correlation to FSA achievement. Emily Thomason, faculty member, provided the Board a more detailed overview of the successes and requested the Board improve an approx. \$5K budget increase to allow all grade levels to benefit from the program*
 - *Odyssey of the Mind – Note: The Mighty Panthers went on to win the April 14, 2018 Florida competition and was the only Brevard team that qualified for the World competition in May 2018*
 - *School Safety and Security – Thomas Armstrong, Assistant Principal, provided the Board an update on physical security inspections, recommendations, and action plans in the school's ongoing quest to ensure safety and security of students and staff is priority #1.*
 - *District Science Fair – Dr. Cady provided an update on the participations and school winners*
 - *District Spelling bee - The VCS winner – Neil Ghosh earned 3rd place out of 75 individual school winners from county schools*
 - *Lynn Spadaccini, Assistant principal and District Director of Avid, provided a presentation to the Board on Avid and plans to introduce to VCS in upcoming school year*
 - *Mr. Armstrong provided an update on Block Scheduling and the school's plan to move away from block scheduling in the upcoming school year*
 - *Dr. Cady provided an update on school staffing and enrollment projections*
- D. Athletics Report – *Steve Muzzy, Board/School/Community/Athletics liaison, provided the Board an update on:*
- *Winter Sports Summary highlighted by the Middle School SCCAA basketball championship for the 2nd year in a row and the first 5th/6th grade basketball championship in school history*
 - *Spring Sports*
 - *VCS partnerships for athletics*
 - *Facilities needs with an indoor gymnasium at the top of the list*
 - *Update on the VCS Panther Cup that has now netted over \$90K in proceeds for the school*
- E. Information Items
- *Monthly Financial and Budget Development Update – Michael Strader, President of Charter School Associates (CSA), provided the board an updated financial report and pointed the Board to the details that were provided in their Board packet. He noted that increases in the Balance Sheet were primarily due to the recent bond offering related to the building purchase. Overall, the financial position of the school continues to be solid as evidenced by the annual audits. Mr. Jordan, Board Chairman emphasized the importance of strong stewardship and indicated this will continue to be of the highest priority to the Board.*
 - *2018 Legislative Update – Mr. Strader provided the Board with an update around two major bills from the 2018 legislative session that will affect VCS. Bill CB/HB 7055 covers items such as authority of charter schools to defer openings, extends initial length of terms, allows consolidation of charters that are not in the same physical location if governed by the same board, revises sponsors authority to not renew or terminate contracts, changes to high performing replication criteria, and offers enhanced school leader participation opportunities. An Executive Summary of SB 7026 – Public School Safety was also provided to the Board.*
 - *Security Review – Mr. Strader reinforced and supported the earlier presentation from Mr. Armstrong on the school security review*
 - *Annual SREF (Facility) Inspection – Mr. Strader provided the Board with the results of the inspective and the corrective actions plan and schedule*

- Playground Improvements – Mr. Strader provide an update on the progress of the new shaded and covered playground project and indicated construction should commence within 30 days pending notice to proceed approval.
 - Bond Compliance – Brian Strader, CSA, provided the Board an update on Bond compliance activities that are in progress and planned. Oversight services will be provided by CSA to ensure compliance.
 - Phase III Development – Mr. Strader deferred to Mr. Jordan to provide an update on the Phase III development status. Mr. Jordan confirmed that good progress is being made and discussions are continuing regarding a 43,000 SF new student building and a 10,000 SF standalone school gymnasium. The vision of the Board is to have these buildings ready for occupancy by the 2019/2020 school year.
- F. Consent Agenda Items -
The following items unanimously approved under a motion Josh Field, second by Kim Africano
- Approval of Purchase Orders and Agreements
 - Approval of Personnel – Certification Waivers – Exhibit A (if any)
 - Other
- G. Items Scheduled for Action & Discussion – **No additional items were scheduled for action and discussion**
- H. Board Member Reports
- Mrs. Africano indicated her appreciation of the parent’s comments regarding their concerns about the STOMP program. She also extended thanks to the school leadership for their continued proactive approach to school safety and security. Ms. Africano also thanked the PTSO for their ongoing outstanding support in partnership in enhancing the services provided to the students and families we serve.
 - Mr. Jordan thanked the Board and staff for their continued service and requested the I-Ready request made by Ms. Thomason be included in the proposed FY19 budget
 - There were no other Board reports
- I. Adjournment - **The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM**



Robert Jordan 5/17/2018