

Ascend Leadership Academy Board Meeting Agenda

8/23/17

Members attending: L. Malone, E. Arrington, S. Gatlin, J. Smith

Non-members attending: C. Draughon

Board Members Absent: D. Draughon

Call to order-6:30 Meeting called to order by L. Malone

1. 298 Harvey Faulk Road Property

a) Update

Board has reached an agreement with the seller. Deal was negotiated by C. Draughon and we have 90 days to meet the contingencies agreed upon. The Board has placed \$1000 down as earnest money. Property is officially off the market 90days through November.

b) Financial Plan - We need to secure a certain amount of money to close on the property. C. Draughon will contact individuals through a compiled list of people who may be able to contribute or help us financially. The American South (Construction firm) will be sending a consult to check the roof soon.

*Commitment to financial aspect is tough with enrollment projection of 160 students in 1st year, more would probably come on board at 300 students. We need artifacts to show developers.

c) Contingency Plan --We have a soft commitment from Self Help \$400,000 for first year to construct mobile Classrooms

2. Marketing Plan -hand in hand with the property

a) Marketing strategies -Justin has worked with a community organizer and is generating possible contacts for outreach. Has 30 leaders on his first list and several of the community Churches as initial contacts.

*J. Smith has also reached out the Sanford Herald for a possible exclusive article.

b) September 30th Community Meeting- J. Smith has secured a room at the Lee County library from 12:00 - 2:00. We will have more meetings at different locations in November and December. The meeting should be Town Hall style with a meet and greet.

c) Goals/Ideas Possible grassroots outreach needed- We will all keep thinking of strategies going forward and share them with J. Smith for implementation.

3. Superintendent Meeting

a) Takeaways - J. Smith and C. Draughon met with Superintendent Bryan earlier today. The meeting was positive. The goal was to establish a positive and amicable relationship. Superintendent Bryan did not commit to anything but listened to our proposal.

- b) Next steps - Future meetings look like a possibility. Bryan will contact J. Smith with future dates to discuss further.
- 4. Office of Charter Schools Meeting dates**
 - a) Dates/Rotation - J. Smith will be at all and we need at least one other person to attend. S. Gatlin will attend September, E. Arrington will attend October and L. Malone will attend in November. J. Smith will coordinate with D. Draughon to see what meetings he is available for.
- 5. 501C Tax-exempt application:** J. Smith is working with a lawyer originally from Sanford that has agreed to complete the application for us and delay the payment of the work until July.
- 6. New Board Member Update:** New board members identified. J. Smith will send resumes before other board members meet the individuals at our Sept. 30th community interest meeting.
- 7. Financial Management Contract**
 - a) Discussion - C. Draughon excused himself from the meeting/discussion and D. Draughon was not in attendance and therefore excused himself from any discussion or vote due to a conflict of interest with Charter Success. J. Smith made the point that we would not be at this point without the help of Cory and Charter Success. J. Smith does not want to work with any other Financial Management company. S. Gatlin agreed based on his previous experience with Cory and Charter Success.
 - b) Vote - S. Gatlin made a motion to accept Charter Success contract as is, Dr. Malone seconded. Unanimous Board Approval
- 8. Managing Director Agreement**
 - a) Discussion - J. Smith excused himself from the meeting and recused himself from any vote due to conflict of interest. Discussion was about allowing J. Smith to act as Managing Director for official capacities including marketing, meetings, and negotiating contracts. All board members agreed to that this was appropriate.
 - b) Vote - L. Malone made a motion to allow Justin Smith to act as the Managing Director for marketing purposes. Seconded by S. Gatlin. Board vote was unanimous.

Motion to adjourn by J. Smith, Seconded by S. Gatlin

Adjourn - 8:00pm