



NEXT ACADEMY, INC.
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 22, 2022
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Raishrie Torres at 5:15 PM.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Raishrie Torres – President
- Nomar Astrain – Secretary
- Miguel Martinez – Treasurer/Director

Members Absent:

- None

Staff/Guests Present:

- Kristian Gellibert – Executive Director
- Kristen Gellibert – Chief Operating Officer

Quorum: Yes

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. Report on Next Academy Foundation, Inc. (d/b/a Next Academy, Inc.)

i. Review of Application Submission & Approval Process

- Draft Application is pending update from FLDOE for new submission requirements.
- Letters of Intent will be submitted.

a. School Mission, Educational Plan, Grade configuration & enrollment (see Attachment A)

b. Facilities – School Start Up Efforts

- Working with local property appraiser to find a site.
- Will reach out to Alliance Companies (<http://www.alliance-companies.com/>) and similar firms to assist with purchase of a site.

c. Financing – School site and startup costs for possible opening of the school (pending submission and approval) for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Discussed applying for the competitive State of Florida start-up grant.



- Discussed applying to the Charter Schools Program Grant.
- Will hold discussions with banks/companies for financing startup costs, FF&E, textbooks, and computers.

Motion: Accept and approve the report for Next Academy, Inc. including attachment.

Mover: N. Astrain

Second: M. Martinez

Vote: Unanimous approval

Result: PASSED

5. Next Academy, Inc.

Efforts to locate a suitable site and financing for school startup costs are ongoing.

6. Creation of the Board Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy

Board Bylaws:

- Overview of key articles (Authority & Purpose; Board Composition; Terms; Officer Duties; Meetings & Notices; Quorum & Voting; Committees; Public Records/Transparency; Amendment Procedures).
- Noted alignment with Florida Statutes and sponsor/district policy requirements.

Conflict of Interest Policy:

- Requires annual written disclosures by all directors and key employees; updates within 30 days of changes.
- Procedures for identifying potential conflicts, documenting recusals, and recording abstentions in minutes.
- Prohibits self-dealing and outlines competitive-bid/arms-length standards for transactions.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.

8. Certification

Prepared by:

Kristen Gellibert, Director of Operations

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved by the Board on: _____

Board Secretary:

Nomar Astrain

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Attachment A: School Mission & Educational Focus (Mission, Vision, Purpose, Enrollment Plan, Guiding Principles, etc.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (No comments)

ATTACHMENT A: SCHOOL MISSION & EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

Mission Statement

Next Academy Charter School equips students with the tools to master academic standards through the intentional integration of C-STEAM practices. By fostering inquiry, innovation, and collaboration, we empower students to become confident problem-solvers and lifelong learners. Through our commitment to Excellence, Passion, Integrity, and Character, we develop EPIC students prepared to lead with purpose.

Vision Statement

To create a dynamic learning community where C-STEAM integration enriches instruction, deepens understanding, and prepares all students to thrive academically and contribute meaningfully to a global society. At Next Academy, we envision a future shaped by EPIC students—driven by excellence, fueled by passion, grounded in integrity, and guided by strong character.

Purpose

Next Academy is focused on building a vibrant learning environment where students feel engaged and inspired to apply the standard and explore their interests, setting them up for success in an ever-changing world.

The school strives to create a positive and inclusive culture where collaboration and continuous improvement are prioritized, strengthening connections with families and the local community. This purpose encompasses the pursuit of academic excellence, active student involvement, and the development of empathetic leaders who contribute meaningfully to society. Ultimately, Next Academy aims to cultivate a generation of innovative thinkers and problem solvers who will influence the future with empathy and creativity.

Success at Next Academy will be demonstrated through:

- Academic Success: Students will attain proficiency in core subjects, surpassing state and national standards through regular assessments and evaluations.
- Active Participation: A dynamic learning atmosphere will foster student engagement, encouraging curiosity and a genuine enthusiasm for learning.
- Skill Acquisition: Graduates will exhibit strong critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities, preparing them to thrive in a constantly evolving world.



- **Community Involvement:** Strong connections with families and the local community will manifest through collaborative projects and initiatives that enhance learning beyond the classroom.
- **Inclusive Culture:** The school will foster a nurturing and inviting atmosphere in which students feel secure, respected, and appreciated, supporting their growth and resilience.
- **Commitment to Continuous Learning:** Students will embrace a love for lifelong learning, welcoming challenges and actively pursuing opportunities for personal and academic advancement throughout their lives.

The guiding principles at Next Academy are foundational to our mission and vision and in accordance with s. 1002.33(2) , shaping the educational experience and fostering a supportive and dynamic learning environment. These principles are:

- **Academic Excellence**
Next Academy is committed to delivering a rigorous, state-approved curriculum that challenges students and prepares them for academic success. The selected curriculum emphasizes reading and literacy across all subjects, making reading the central focus. Additionally, it integrates our innovative approach of infusing C-STEAM (Character, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) throughout all disciplines to promote a deeper understanding of the standard and foster innovation.
- **Inclusive Education**
Next Academy values diversity and strives to create an inclusive environment where all students, including English Language Learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities, have equitable access to education. We provide tailored programs, differentiated instruction, and necessary accommodations to ensure every student can thrive.
- **Student-Centered Learning**
The instructional approach is tailored to address the unique needs of every student. By employing differentiated instruction, personalized learning plans, and regular assessments, we aim to foster a culture of inquiry, critical thinking, and continuous growth.
- **Character Development and Leadership**
Next Academy believes that culture and climate are just as important as standards and rigor. Programs like "Leader in Me" and the Ron Clark House System are implemented to nurture leadership skills and character development. These initiatives help students build resilience, empathy, and a sense of responsibility.
- **Community Engagement and Partnership**
Next Academy prioritizes fostering strong partnerships with stakeholders and encourages active participation to support our students' educational journeys and enrich their learning experiences.
- **Professional Development**
Next Academy is committed to the continuous improvement of our educators through ongoing professional development. Teachers receive training in the latest educational strategies, technology integration, and best practices to enhance their instructional skills and stay current with educational trends.
- **Safe and Supportive Environment**



Creating a safe environment is a priority at Next Academy. We implement comprehensive safety protocols, promote positive behavior through the PBIS framework, and provide mental health support to ensure the well-being of our students and staff.

- **Transparency and Accountability**

We maintain the utmost commitment to transparency and accountability in every aspect of our operations. Regular communication with parents, detailed progress reports, and adherence to state and federal regulations are essential components of our governance structure.

- **Preparation for Future Success**

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for success in high school and beyond. We provide a strong academic foundation and essential life skills that empower students to excel in their future educational endeavors and in their personal and professional lives.

We have a clear understanding of our target area students and their respective needs. We are innovative

The student enrollment breakdown by year will be as follows:

Year 1: 2023-2024	Grades __K__ to __5__ up to _____600_____ students
Year 2: 2024-2025	Grades __K__ to __6__ up to _____700_____ students
Year 3: 2026-2027	Grades __K__ to __7__ up to _____800_____ students
Year 4: 2028-2029	Grades __K__ to __8__ up to _____800_____ students
Year 5: 2030-2031	Grades __K__ to __8__ up to _____800_____ students