



October 28, 2020

State Public Charter School Authority
2080 East Flamingo Road, Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Sent Via EMAIL: Mark Modrcin <mmodrcin@spsca.nv.gov>

Dear Mark Modrcin,

Please accept this correspondence a request for a *Good Cause Exemption* with the SPCSA, asking for immediate approval for a school name change from *Founders Academy of Las Vegas* (current name) to *Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas* (new name).

It has been the intention of Founders Academy of Las Vegas (FALV) to change its name to Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas to better reflect the school's mission, goals, pedagogy, and instructional materials. Moreover, FALV is an affiliate school in a partnership with the *Barney Charter School Initiative* of Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan whose primary goal is to bring classical instruction and pedagogy to public charter schools. The name change was discussed in our recent recharter application (approved July 1, 2020) as FALV has always been a "classical" school as clearly defined in our mission statement – *To train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a rigorous, classical education in the liberal arts and sciences.*

FALV believes that it is imperative that we clearly define who and what we are in our school name.

FALV apologizes for the oversight and misunderstanding as we believed the charter renewal application contemplating the name change was approved with the charter renewal. We are grateful to the SPCSA staff for their willingness to seek a reasonable remedy to our request.

Attached is a draft (unapproved) copy of the Regular Governing Board of Directors meeting of FCALV dated October 27, 2020, indicating the GBOD's approval for this name change and this request for a *Good Cause Exemption*.

Thank you for your willingness to accept this *Good Cause Exemption* letter. I am willing and agree to attend and participate in any conferences and meetings to ensure this request finds a quick remedy.

Yours in a classical education,

Ronald Fick
Superintendent-Principal



**FOUNDERS ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
October 27, 2020 5:30 PM**

	Name	Office	Present	Absent	Arrived Late: Time	Departed Early: Time
1	Michael Brooks, ESQ	President	X			
2	Kelly Heide	Vice President	X			
3	Danielle Butler	Secretary		X		
4	Steve Trupp	Treasurer	X			
5	Jesus Marquez	Director		X		
6	Rami Hernandez	Director	X			
7	Beth Waite	Director	X			
8	Hank Barnard	Director		X		
9	Mary Kerfoot	Director		X		

Attendance from FALV Staff

Mr. Fick, CEO-Principal
Mr. Kurylowicz, Clerk

Guest Attendance

Kevin Torrie, Project Manager (Korte Construction)
Christina Saenz, Charter School Management Corporation

1. President Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.; Clerk Kurylowicz took roll call and announced a quorum.
2. President Brooks called for public comment. None offered.
3. President Brooks led the review to approve of the meeting minutes from 9/22/20. Director Heide motioned to approve of the meeting minutes from 9/22/20. Treasurer Trupp seconded. No discussion or changes. Motion passed unanimously.
4. President Brooks and Superintendent-Principal Fick introduced the official guest discourse – Mr. Kevin Torrie, Project Manager (Korte Construction). Mr. Torrie updated the Board on the status and progress of the classroom annex.
5. Superintendent-Principal Fick provided the School Leader’s Report.
 - A. **Enrollment** – Day 1 – 835 (20.21). Current Enrollment Update – Original Budget 810 / Updated Budget Projected 837 anticipating a 10% reduction in DSA / Current Enrollment **831 (20.21)** [DOC 1] – Additional offers awaiting enrollment.
 - B. **Changes to Personnel** – Fully Staffed with Licensed and Support Staff.



C. School Leader's Report

a. COVID-19 – SPCSA mandate to align charter school capacities to Governor's Task Force (Nevada Health Response Team) reported each Thursday. SPCSA weekly meeting (every other Wednesday). Level 1 or 2 is fulltime distance learning (25% capacity). Baseline is return to hybrid instruction (50% capacity). Input Meeting with Mrs. Feiden on 10/22/20 – related to the SPCSA Guidance Document and feedback from charter schools.

b. Personnel update – School Nurse Brayla Roberts 11/2/20 and SpEd Specialty Contractors in Speech and Psychologist are intermittent (as needed) sub-contractors through United Testing.

c. Relevant correspondence update – None;

d. 501(c)3 Update -- 1023 Submitted to IRS – First IRS Review Complete – Mr. Katz

e. Financing update – US Bank XXXXX1007 Trust Account Reminder --

PAID/REFUNDED: \$26,000 payment to Korte to begin applications and permitting (school funded but in Refinance) **AND** \$112,298.28 Pre-Con/Design/Engineering to Korte refunded to FCALV from Bond Financing. Also refunded to FCALV were \$5000 to Wisconsin PFA **AND** \$2000 to Clark County (TEFRA). Additional Change Order: 219 sq. ft. -- \$46,850.77 **AND** Expedited Building Review Fees (City of Las Vegas) -- \$8,366.20 **EQUALS \$145,298.18.**

f. Expansion Budget update – US BANK XXXXX1007 Trust Account Future Withdraws – 1) Updated Potential Change Order (PTO) Log [DOC 2]. *Intraworks* Bid for Low Voltage [DOC 3] – FCALV sub working with Korte and Electrical Sub-contractor. Additional costs expected include Rod Iron Fencing and Keying (Locksmith).

g. Academic update – 1) Strong participation in Distance Learning with additional school-provided tech devices distributed. Tech device needs regularly monitored – 1 to 1 per household; 2) 25% Enrollment Capacity Usage – K-4 Hybrid (2 days per week M/W and T/Th) Synchronous Instruction **AND** 5-12 (every other week F) Synchronous Instruction; 3) Variance to add 5th Grade – 10/27/20 conference with SPCSA; 4) Hillsdale Fall BOD Training (November 5-8) with the 5th and 8th as travel days – Marquez, Trupp, Butler, Hernandez attending;. 5) Financial – COVID-19 Grants (DEC 31, 2020): CARES ESSER 19.20 \$26,340.98 (reimbursed) *and* 20.21 \$41,964.17 Covid-19 Building Preparation ALL EXPENDED [DOC 4]; CARES CRF AB3 Technology/Devices \$38,512.12 ALL EXPENDED [DOC 5]; CARES SPCSA Special Populations (Psychological Services \$7020.00 and SEAD \$ 0000 AWAITING REIMBURSEMENT CODING and INCOMPLETE [DOC 6]; AB309 ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING \$24111.89 INCOMPLETE [DOC 7] REMAINING \$13540.02 USING FOR COVID RELATED EXPENSES

D. **Principal Correspondence** – Regular bi-monthly meeting with Director Feiden (W) at 3:30pm and bi-monthly meeting with Mr. Peltier (T) at 2:00pm **AND** Audit-Related Correspondence.



- E. **Follow-up / Reoccurring Items:** MS-HS four year-long courses compressed into one semester; Attendance based on Google Classroom participation (daily); Uniform polo required during distance learning, but exceptions are made as needed.
- F. **Assessment** – Future of State Testing (MAP, WIDA, SBAC, ACT expected) and NSPF unknown – awaiting NDE. EOC Exams suspended for 20-21 School Year.

6. CSMC Saenz provided the financial update.

a.) CSMC Saenz reported on the FCALV Audit Delay and Memo – SPCSA. SPCSA has been informed and denied FCALV's request. The regulating agency is the NDE and Legislative Bureau. CSMC Saenz and Superintendent-Principal Fick contacted auditor about the denial of an extension until January 1, 2021. Auditor then agreed to complete final Audit in compliance with NRS by Friday, November 20, 2020 with a preliminary report by November 13, 2020. President Brooks and Treasurer Trupp led discussion on the "next steps" and direct contact with the Auditor from Treasurer Trupp, requesting a possible earlier completion date and cost deduction due to the lateness of delivery of the Audit to the GBODs.

b.) CSMC Saenz presented of balance sheet and budget v actual for September 2020.

7. President Brooks led the sharing of Committee Reports.

a.) Audit Committee

i. Treasurer Trupp reported a committee meeting on October 26, 2020, reporting no anomalies or discrepancies.

b.) Governance Committee

i. Mr. Hernandez reported no action of the committee.

c.) Risk Management

i. Mr. Hernandez reported no action of the committee.

8. New Business

a.) President Brooks led the discussion to review and authorize a one-time commensurate compensation to be paid directly to Mr. Fick that is equal to the difference between the anticipated and actual payment to PERS as previously allocated and approved in the Superintendent-Principal contract approved on 2/25/2020. Superintendent-Principal Fick presented previous "for information only" correspondence with the Governance Committee on this issue to the entire GBODs and explained his rationale for the commensurate compensation. President Brooks motioned to authorize a one-time commensurate compensation to be paid directly to Mr. Fick that is equal to the difference between the anticipated and actual payment to PERS as previously allocated and approved in the Superintendent-Principal contract approved on 02/25/20 – a one-time, taxable payment of \$2,716.60) to be paid on 11/10/20. Director Waite seconded. President Brooks offered discussion that the minutes of this meeting be attached to the Superintendent-Principal's contract. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.



b.) Superintendent-Principal Fick led the discussion to authorize a school name change from Founders Academy of Las Vegas (current name) to Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas (new name). Superintendent-Principal Fick explained to current school name status and shared the recent correspondence with staff at the SPCSA. Treasurer Trupp motioned to authorize a school name change from Founders Academy of Las Vegas (current name) to Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas (new name). Director Hernandez seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

c.) Superintendent-Principal Fick led the discussion to authorize the Superintendent-Principal to request a Good Cause Exemption with the SPCSA to facilitate an immediate school name change from Founders Academy of Las Vegas (current name) to Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas (new name). Superintendent-Principal Fick again explained to current school name status and shared the recent correspondence with staff at the SPCSA. Treasurer Trupp motioned to authorize the Superintendent-Principal to request a Good Cause Exemption with the SPCSA to facilitate an immediate school name change from Founders Academy of Las Vegas (current name) to Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas (new name). Director Hernandez seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. President Brooks called for public comment. None offered.

10. President Brooks shared the next Board Meeting to be held Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. without objection.

11. President Brooks called for Meeting Adjournment at 6:51 p.m. without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Approved on: _____

Drafted by Mr. Ron Fick

Signed by: _____

Mrs. Danielle Butler, Secretary

Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas