**SARASOTA ACADEMY OF THE ARTS**

**MINUTES OF THE March 25, 2015**

**STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) MEETING**

**Location**:

Sarasota Academy of the Arts

4466 Fruitville Road

Sarasota, FL 34232

**Council Members Present in Person**:

Cecilia Blankenship, School Principal

Kathy Bechtel, School Staff Member

Jeffrey Kolowith, School Staff Member

Joseph Solano, School Board Member and Parent

Sabrina Lugo, SAC Secretary and Parent

Leyanit Barron-Moreno, Parent

Sally Malatesta, Community Member

**Council Members Absent**:

Grace Washburn, Student Council President

Kyle Turoff, Parent

Mike Henry, Parent

**Guests Present**:

None

**Call to Order**:

The meeting was called to order at 4:21 p.m.

**REPORTS:**

**Secretary’s Report:**

Minutes from the February meeting were distributed and reviewed by all. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2015 meeting. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Business Discussed**

New technology will be added to academy program. With more testing on computers, the need for bandwith and hardware has increased. Sixty new Dell computers and 60 tablets have been ordered as part of the remaining Charter Start-up Grant ($175,000).

New playground equipment has also been ordered.

As the need for space increases, one option is leasing the present JRA office. The issues of noise and security are to be explored.

Currently the enrollment for next year stands at 216 students confirmed with a target of 220 students. Conflicts arise when not all siblings can be accepted because of class caps. There will be two classes at the fifth through eighth grade levels.

Testing continues to be a topic among teachers and parents. This year’s school grades will be based on percentiles rather than points. School grades will be released in the fall of 2015.

SAA is considering running an after-school program beginning in the fall. There would be a sliding scale for fees and a structured program of events with homework support.

The next SAC meeting is May 13, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Cecilia Blankenship for Sabrina Lugo