



AMERICAN CLASSICAL
CHARTER ACADEMY

2395 Hickory Tree Road, Saint Cloud, FL 34772
Phone: 407-593-2909
www.acschools.org

AMERICAN CLASSICAL CHARTER ACADEMY

Board meeting Agenda July 18, 2022 2:00pm
2395 Hickory Tree Rd. St. Cloud, Fl. 34772

Agenda

- I. Roll Call
- II. Prayer/Pledge
- III. Public Comment
- IV. New Business
 - a. Waiver Request to FL DOE
- V. Adjourn

Time: July 18 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222286100?pwd=OU52a1BlbEgwekpKQ09vajhzSnF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 882 2228 6100 Passcode: 907552

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DRAFT/DRAFT/DRAFT/DRAFT

Florida Department of Education

Florida State Board of Education

Mr. Manny Diaz, Commissioner

Mr. Tom Grady, Chair

Turlington Bldg., Suite 1514

Tallahassee, Fl. 32399

Dear Mr. Grady and Mr. Diaz,

Recently our charter school, American Classical Charter Academy of St. Cloud was issued a 90-day termination letter and action was taken by the Osceola County School Board in a 4-1 vote on April 5, 2022. We disagree with many of the School Board's assertions and have appealed their decision through our attorney, Mr. Michael Nardella, of Orlando. At this time, we are awaiting the outcome of the hearing held before an Administrative Law Judge. However, due to the outstanding academic progress made this 2021-22 school year, the Governing Board voted in an emergency meeting on Monday, July, 18, 2022, to exercise our option to appeal directly to the State Board of Education within the required 15-day timeframe, and to overturn the Osceola County School Board's termination based on our academic performance, F.S. 1002.33 section 9 (See Attached).

Please note the following historical and supporting information which we believe justifies our request to be placed on the August 17, 2022, State Board of Education agenda:

- During the summer, 2021, our Governing Board voted to sever with Charter One, LLC an out of state management company. Charter One was replaced by the school's founder who was brought in to manage business operations. The school was being poorly run. The educational component was not in line with our charter contract. Moral among teachers, staff, parents, and students was very low.
- In August, 2021, a retired and highly experienced interim principal was brought in to stabilize the school's academic operations, an educational consultant with 36 years of experience in Florida schools was also utilized through a contract with our founder to build and execute an academic plan which focused on teaching Florida's standards to students and training the school's staff on numerous aspects of Florida's academic requirements.
- In September, 2021, after an extensive recruitment search, a teacher who had worked at the school since its opening was promoted to principal. She worked through the school year while being trained and supported by the educational consultant and the interim principal, who was retained in a part-time capacity. This contrasted to the prior year in which the school worked under five different principals.
- In the 2021-22 school year, the school grew by over 100 new students to an enrollment high of 368. Seven school clubs and activities were added, before and after school

tutoring took place, the Aftercare program added an academic component, parent events were added, special academic enrichment camps were added on Saturdays, during winter and spring breaks, and a supplemental Florida standards-based curriculum was added that saw nearly 80,000 extra work attempts in Math, Science, and Civics questions by our grade 3-8 students.

- The first 2021-22 scores we received were our third-grade ELA (Reading). The attached chart details our results and with a 62 % score we beat state and school district averages, as well as all of the seven neighboring schools who tested in third-grade ELA (Reading). (See Attached)
- When school grades arrived, we saw our rating move up to a solid “B” with a schoolwide 61% score. In the eight cells where we received scores, we outperformed the school district in each one, four by double digits. The total difference between our eight cells scored and the school district’s eight cells scored was a substantial 97 points.
- The attached chart also shows comparisons to our neighboring school district schools and charter schools. Starting with our school rating of 62%, our overall score was higher than all 10 schools. Our reading proficiency was better than 9 of the 10 neighboring schools and our math proficiency was better than five of the 10 neighboring schools. In the four ELA and Math Learning Gains and Low 25% Learning Gains with 40 cells among the 10 schools, we were equal or better in 31 of those cells.
- Additionally, our students excelled on the Civics state test. Our 85% score was better than both state and school district averages, as well as all of the schools who tested on Civics on the comparison sheet. In Science, our school improved to a 54% score which was better than 8 of the 10 comparison schools.

I hope that this request and the information provided shows the level of academic success and improvement that American Classical Charter Academy has achieved in its third year of operation. The restructuring that we voluntarily undertook in the summer of 2021 has definitely begun the process of improving our academic environment and setting the tone for future years. Our school has received many inquiries about its status for the 2022-23 school year – and with the State Board’s assistance in overturning the termination issued by the Osceola School District, our parents and students, will have the opportunity to be part of American Classical Charter Academy, one of the Top 8 performing schools among 73 school district and charter schools in the county.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Loeb, Chair, ACCA Governing Board
cc: Mrs. Chiara Ajo, Principal
cc: Mark Gotz, Founder
cc: Michael Nardella, Attorney

AMERICA CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL (ACCA) REQUEST HANDOUT

1002.33 – Charter schools

(SECTION 9)

c. The state board grants the charter school a waiver of termination. The charter school must request the waiver within 15 days after the department's official release of school grades. The state board may waive termination if the charter school demonstrates that the Learning Gains of its students on statewide assessments are comparable to or better than the Learning Gains of similarly situated students enrolled in nearby public schools. The waiver is valid for 1 year and may only be granted once. Charter schools that have been in operation for more than 5 years are not eligible for a waiver under this sub-subparagraph.

ACCA CHARTER WITH OSCEOLA COUNTY CONTRACT LANGUAGE EXCERPT

2. Ninety (90) Day Termination. The Sponsor shall notify the Governing Board in writing at least ninety days prior to renewing, non-renewing, or terminating this Charter. If the Sponsor issues a notice of non-renewal or termination, the notice shall state in reasonable detail the grounds for the proposed action and stipulate that the Governing Board may, within 14 calendar days of receipt of the notice, request a hearing. A request for a hearing must be authorized by a vote of the Governing Board and shall be served on the Superintendent and the Attorney for the Sponsor. **Upon the receipt of a timely written request for a hearing, the Sponsor shall abate any action to formally terminate or not renew the Charter until such time as the hearing procedure is completed.**

The hearing shall be conducted by an administrative law judge within ninety (90) days after receipt of the request for hearing and in accordance with chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes. The administrative law judge shall submit a final order to the Sponsor and shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the administrative proceeding and any appeal. The Charter School's Governing Board may, within 30 calendar days after receiving the final order, appeal the decision pursuant to s. 120.68, Florida Statutes.

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR RESULTS– COMPARISON OF OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND VARIOUS CHARTER SCHOOL FSA SCORES TO AMERICAN CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL’S SCORES

District Number	District Name	English Language Arts Achievement	English Language Arts Learning Gains	English Language Arts Learning Gains of the Lowest 25%	Mathematics Achievement	Mathematics Learning Gains	Mathematics Learning Gains of the Lowest 25%	Science Achievement	Social Studies Achievement	Middle School Acceleration	Graduation Rate 2019-20	College and Career Acceleration 2019-20	Total Points Earned	Total Components	Percent of Total Possible Points	Percent
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**** OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – TOTAL OF ALL SCHOOL’S RESULTS 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Osceola County School District 3rd Grade Reading Score -45 %

OSCEOLA	47	51	39	43	51	44	48	65	78	90	54	610	11	55	98	B
49																

**** (0981) AMERICAN CLASSICAL K-8 CHARTER ACADEMY– 3rd Grade Reading – 62 %**

AMERICAN CLASSICAL CHARTER ACADEMY	60	60	45	49	67	65	54	85					485	8	61	99	B
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OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS – Vicinity COMPARISON

(0202) MATER ACADEMY ST. CLOUD – 3rd Grade Reading -34 %

0202	MATER ACADEMY AT ST CLOUD	44	59	53	35	51	45	33	67				387	8	48	100	C
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(0192) CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS OF ST. CLOUD – 3RD Grade Reading – 54 %

0192	CREATIVE INSPIRATION JOURNEY SCHOOL OF ST CLOUD	48	47	34	29	35	44	33					270	7	39	99	D
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(0184) BRIDGEPREP ACADEMY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY – 3rd Grade Reading -34 %

0184	BRIDGEPREP ACADEMY OSCEOLA COUNTY	32	42	36	30	41	32	22	49	61			345	9	38	100	D
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CONTIMUED ,PAGE 2– COMPARISON OF OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOLS TO AMERICAN CLASSICAL CHARTER ACADEMY

(0881) PM Wells Charter Academy –, 3rd Grade Reading – 29 %

0881	P. M. WELLS CHARTER ACADEMY	47	49	45	44	52	49	35	65	61			447	9	50	99	C
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(0162) St. Cloud Prep – 3rd Grade Reading- 53 %

0162	ST. CLOUD PREPARATORY ACADEMY	37	41	38	30	44	50	35	59	55	100	36	525	11	48	97	C
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OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS – VICINTY COMPARISON

(4.0 miles away) (0271) Michigan Avenue Elementary – 3rd Grade Reading- 59 %

0271	MICHIGAN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	56	59	43	57	61	36	41					353	7	50	100	C
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(2.4 miles away) (0501) Hickory Tree Elementary – 3rd Grade Reading- 53 %

0501	HICKORY TREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	57	64	56	61	69	55	48					410	7	59	100	B
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(4.1 miles away) (0272) St. Cloud Middle School

0272	ST. CLOUD MIDDLE SCHOOL	48	46	40	55	60	60	62	79	82			532	9	59	98	B
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(4.1 miles away) (0043) Narcoossee Middle School

0043	NARCOOSSEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	65	65	46	64	66	44	59					409	7	58	99	B
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