***UCF MCKNIGHT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE NAS***

***GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR***

***April 16th, 2022***

**Current Officers:**

**Students                                              Parents**

**President: Trinity Rosa President:  Sylvia Ruiz**

**Vice President: Josh Washington     Vice President: Markita Rina**

**Secretary: Symone Ham Secretary: Cheryl Ham**

**Asst. Secretary: Antonio Ayala            Assistant Sec: Suzanne Higbie-Long**

**Historian: Simone Thomas             Treasurer: Natasha Demosthenes**

**Parliamentarian: Dirgham Deis**

Meeting started at 9:08 am by Lorena Roedan

Lorena Roedan gave a brief of the schedule for the meeting and split up for the 2022-2023 Elections at 9:11 am.

Breakout Session for Elections - Student Elections:

* The election was held to seek candidates for roles in President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Treasurer.

**Winners:**

* President - Joshua Washington
* Vice President - Shareese Ham,
* Secretary - Morgan Stevens
* Vice Secretary - Elise Rina
* Parliamentarian - Dirgham Deis
* Historian - Michael Freeland III
* Treasurer - Genia Tyson

Julie Hale Maschhoff & the American Disabilities Act:

* The speaker of the meeting was Julie Maschhoff, a speaker, author, teacher, and professor with aspects from all her life, all while being blind.

* The key concept here is that she wants to show equality within people even though she is blind.

* She uses students and gives them different colored apples and different bookmarks to represent how, even though people may be different, we are all human.

* Stories are told of her vision issues and what makes her herself. Important questions are given also about her cane and struggles or challenges with it.

* FAQs are given for Canes, Glasses, and the concept of technology as it helps her sight and hearing necessities.

* She talks about her Service Dog and the benefits that her dog, Spartacus, has towards her disabilities or any disabilities.

* The presentation wraps up with the advocacy of those with disabilities and makes those of NAS know that making the world a better place for the disabled.

American Disabilities Escape Room

* 8th through 12th Graders participated in an Escape Room themed through the challenges that Disabled people have.

Student Meeting Ended at 11:23 am.

Meeting concluded with a farewell to Julia Maschhoff and students were given gift bags themed with things to encourage and empower students.