

RCMA School Board Meeting
UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Center, 14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL 33598
March 26, 2018

MINUTES

	BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF ATTENDANCE
1.	Allison, Chuck		Absent	Arthur Hernandez
2.	Bayer, Michael T.	Present		Catalina Sepulveda
3.	English, Katherine		Absent	Cynthia Alvarado
4.	Ferrari, William (Bill)	Present		Ed Dickerson
5.	Hightower, Sandra	Present		Egla Cintron
6.	Hinson, Al. J	Present		Gayane Stepanian
7.	Jaimes, Minerva		Absent	Gilbert Flores
8.	Kendrick, Gloria	Present		Gloria Padilla
9.	Krome, Medora	Present		Gyla Wise
10.	Luis, Nelson		Absent	Hudelaine Deus
11.	Martinez, Ilda		Absent	Isabel Garcia
12.	Melendez, Wilma	Present		Ivette Galarza
13.	Miles-Adams, Linda		Absent	Juana Brown
14.	Perez, Joaquin	Present		Juanita Meza
15.	Price, Stephen	Present		Kathleen Roehm
16.	Pringle, Richard		Absent	Lourdes Villanueva
17.	Salustro, Larry	Present		Maria Quintanilla
18.	Stuart, Michael	Present		Mark Haggett
19.	Weisinger, Max (Jaime)	Present		Mike Facundo
20.	Wishnatzki, Gary	Present		Misty Smith
				Pam Way
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES				Patti Young
21.	Aguilar, Tiarelys	Present		Tijuanna Clemons
22.	Campuzano, Hugo		Absent	Valaria Murray
23.	Carrera, Fernando	Present		Zulaika Quintero
24.	Cuahutenango, Malena	Present		
25.	Estevez, Marcela	Present		GUESTS
26.	Gonzalez, Irma	Present		Erica Gallegos
27.	Hunter, Savannah	Present		Monica Pacheco
28.	Jose, Felix	Present		Segismundo Jose
29.	Juarez, Maria	Present		
30.	Lara, Bernarda		Absent	
31.	Martinez, MariCruz	Present		
32.	McClendon, Felecia	Present		

I. Opening remarks by the President

Medora Krome called the School Board meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Welcome and self-introductions

All present members and staff introduced themselves by name, position, and location.

III. Minutes of the January 2018 meeting

Medora Krome asked for a motion to approve the January minutes as mailed.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the January minutes as mailed. Jaime Weisinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Charter Schools Executive Committee Reports – Bill Ferrari

Bill Ferrari reported that much of the discussion during the sub-committee meeting was surrounding safety in the schools. He then introduced Mark Haggett to discuss The Academies of RCMA.

a. Director of Charter Schools overview – Juana Brown

b. The Academies of RCMA – Mark Haggett

1. Financial Statements for The Academies – Bill Ferrari – Action

The financial statements were quickly summarized. Bill Ferrari reported that Wimauma Academy had a deficit and Wimauma Leadership had a surplus. He noted that both schools were doing well this period financially. No questions were asked.

Motion: Michael Stuart made a motion to approve the financial statements for The Academies. Joaquin Perez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Proposed School Calendar 2018-2019 – Action

Mark Haggett noted that the start of the summer program would be June 4th, rather than July 11th. He stated that the calendar was very similar, but not exactly like Hillsborough County's school calendar, noting that we have more days for teacher planning.

Motion: Sandra Hightower made a motion to approve the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar for The Academies. Steve Price seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Immokalee Community School – Zulaika Quintero

1. Financial Statements for Immokalee Community School– Bill Ferrari – Action

The financial statements were quickly summarized. Bill Ferrari reported that the school was generating significant surplus due to a timing of the school closing due to hurricane Irma and explained that there was more funding from the district this year. No questions were asked.

Motion: Gary Wishnatzki made a motion to approve the Financial Statements for Immokalee Community School. Jaime Weisinger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Proposed School Calendar 2018-2019 – Action

Zulaika Quintero noted that August 3rd would be added to the calendar as a professional development day. No questions were asked.

Motion: Michael Bayer made a motion to approve the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar for Immokalee Community School. Larry Salustro seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

a. Other

During the January Board meeting, Board members requested a more detailed report of the agency's and school's actions relating to the sexual misconduct allegations at Wimauma Leadership Academy. Juana Brown addressed this request by providing each Board member with a timeline with a detailed chronology of actions pertaining to this alleged incident, beginning with DCF's visit to the school to speak to Mr. Haggett on 9/29/17 and ending with the 1/29/18 hearing of former teacher. This was the last date of any news relating to the event.

The timeline highlights steps taken by the agency and school to communicate with parents, staff, and other community stakeholders as well as steps taken to review and improve current policies, procedures, and practices to ensure the continuing safety of all students.

Medora Krome asked if staff were trained annually and how often during the year the school safety is revisited. Juana replied that all staff is trained annually, but that the same level of intensive training is not afforded to substitute and new teachers who may be hired during the year. She stated that she will be working with school principals and the HR department to develop more comprehensive training. She added that each schools holds monthly staff meetings, presenting the opportunity for administrators and teachers to discuss any safety concerns. There is consensus among school leadership of the need for more conversation and training for school staff and parents.

Michael Bayer asked about the impact of the November 13 Lessons Learned meeting on school safety plans. Juana indicated that both strengths and areas of improvement were identified. Among these were the addition of cameras in the lower school to complement those in the middle school classrooms. These have now been installed. Michael then asked if there was a policy of two teachers being present in the classroom and Juana clarified that it is not a School District policy but an RCMA charter schools' best practice not a policy. She noted that most schools cannot afford to have both a teacher and aide or second teacher together in a classroom since it is costly. She added that the schools undertake the cost and commitment in order to support our students.

Michael Bayer asked where else cameras were located. Mark Haggett listed several locations including the cafeteria.

The cost of archiving was raised, with Ed Dickerson responding that doing so would require additional IT expertise beyond what the current team could handle and it would need to be outsourced. Michael Stuart asked what was customary in the district regarding cameras. Gyla Wise responded that public schools do not have cameras in classrooms, only the parking lot and the doorways of classrooms. She shared that some teacher unions see it as intrusive, noting that there is a level of trust that is implied. A discussion ensued.

VI. New Business

a. Presentation by Parent Representatives

Marcela Estevez introduced two Wimauma Academy SAC parents, Monica Pacheco and Erica Gallegos. They shared a power point presentation with highlights of their trip to Washington, DC. Monica and Erica were part of a select group of parents invited by UnidosUS to participate in advocacy training. Erica touched briefly on the seven meet modules that were part of the training, as well as on the various speakers who addressed

the group. She shared that it was their first time to Washington, where they enjoyed themselves and learned much from the experience. They felt very blessed to have had the opportunity to attend the training.

Bill Ferrari asked the two parents if they were going to show the presentation with other parents. They commented that they had already presented it at a SAC (School Advisory Committee) meeting. They then added that school safety is parent's biggest concern right now, particularly given the events in the high school shooting.

Zulaika Quintero introduced Fernando Carrera, Immokalee Community School SAC President, who showed a slideshow of events held during Spring Break. It included the school's students giving back to the community through the Meals of Hope program, with 6th grade students making 100 sandwiches for the needy in the community. Also giving back was the Green Team cleanup with students picking up trash at parks and other community locations. Highlighted were collaborative activities within the school, with students making friendship bracelets to give one another, as well as with the Immokalee High School Beta Club, to help incentivize students. Mr. Carrera spoke showed the children in the afterschool photography club taking photos. Medora Krome asked where the students got the cameras. Zulaika Quintero responded that it was funded by NCEF and the cameras were only loaned out, not given.

Other slides included teacher training on dual language strategies with University of Florida professor, Maria Codey and School Choice week with parents expressing why parents chose Immokalee Community School.

Lastly, Michael Bayer wanted to ensure that the room read the email from Kim Graham Lawless from The Berkeley Academy. He gave kudos to Mark and Marcela.

b. Other

Segismundo Jose, a Wimauma parent and community leader among Balm families discussed some of the challenges of family displacement due to employers opting to use H-1B workers rather than longtime employees. He also discussed the fear of migration families feel during this time.

VII. Call for Public Comment

Erica Gallegos asked if there were any plans of RCMA opening up a high school in the Wimauma area. Mark Haggett replied that if it were up to him the answer would be yes, but that at this time, there were no plans.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 p.m. Larry Salustro seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Misty Smith
Office Manager**