

RCMA School Board Meeting
UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research & Education Center, Wimauma, FL
October 8, 2018

MINUTES

	BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF ATTENDANCE
1.	Bayer, Michael T.	Present		Alina Chaney
2.	Ferrari, William		Absent	Catalina Sepulveda
3.	Hightower, Sandra	Present		Clay Hollenkamp
4.	Hinson, Al. J	Present		Ed Dickerson
5.	Jaimes, Minerva (via phone/Webex)	Present		Florencia Patino
6.	Kendrick, Gloria	Present		Gilbert Flores
7.	Krome, Medora	Present		Gyla Wise
8.	Melendez, Wilma	Present		Hudelaine Deus
9.	Miles-Adams, Linda	Present		Irma Chappa
10.	Perez, Joaquin	Present		Isabel Garcia
11.	Price, Steve	Present		Juana Brown
12.	Pringle, Richard	Present		Juanita Meza
13.	Salustro, Larry	Present		Lourdes Villanueva
14.	Stuart, Michael		Absent	Maria Quintanilla
15.	Weisinger, Max (Jaime)		Absent	Mark Haggett
16.	Wishnatzki, Gary	Present		Mike Facundo
				Misty Smith
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES				Pam Way
21.	Acevedo, Norma	Present		Patti Young
22.	Aguilar, Tiarelys		Absent	Scott Olsen
23.	Campuzano, Hugo		Absent	Valaria Murray
24.	Cuahutenango, Malena	Present		Zulaika Quintero
25.	Estevez, Marcela	Present		GUESTS
26.	Gonzalez, Irma	Present		Angel Tur (interpreter)
27.	Hunter, Savannah		Absent	Barbara Mainster
28.	Jose, Felix		Absent	Beatriz Martin (auditor)
29.	Lara, Bernarda		Absent	Bill Coats
30.	McClendon, Felecia	Present		Dorsey Hightower
31.	Martinez, MariCruz		Absent	Ileana Alvarez (auditor)
32.	Miranda, Patricia	Present		Marco Lopez (auditor)

I. Opening remarks by the President

Medora Krome called the School Board meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Welcome and self-introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves by name, position, and location.

III. Minutes of June 2018 meeting

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

Motion: Michael Bayer made a motion to approve the June minutes as mailed. Gloria Kendrick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Charter Schools Audit Reports – Prager Metis, CPAs, LLC – Action

Betty Martin, Senior Auditor, introduced herself and covered a PowerPoint presentation with information on the three Charter Schools. Betty covered Immokalee Community School reports first, highlighting the following: they had a deferred revenue of \$440K, excess revenue of \$18K and their school grade remained a B. She then covered Wimauma Academy, highlighting the following: they purchased \$102k of fixed assets, they had a deficiency of \$174k - mostly due to decrease in revenues and increase in expenses from payroll, and that their school grade also remained a B. Steve Price interjected, noting that health insurance was another factor of increase in expenses. Lastly, Betty covered Leadership Academy, highlighting the following: their cash decreased, they had a deficit of \$23K also mostly due to payroll and that they earned a B grade. Mark Haggett interjected, noting that they were the only middle school with grade B in their area.

Betty asked if the Board or public had any questions -- Larry Salustro asked what the school ended up doing with security and whether they were needing a police officer. Mark Haggett responded that Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office assured the schools that they would provide a deputy. In the months of August and September, The Academies of RCMA did have a deputy on campus. He shared that The Academies will receive invoices based on the salary rate of the deputy, however, they now have a trained school resource officer who will fill that role. Larry Salustro asked what the annual cost would be. Mark responded that he was not sure at this time, sharing that other factors were to be considered regarding the pay rate, such as years of experience. Juana Brown then shared that The Academies would have to pay 50% of costs and that she was unsure what the State would give towards it. For Immokalee Community School, Zulaika Quintero reported that they receive a different deputy daily. The local police station is currently understaffed. To date, ICS has not paid or received an invoice to pay for the deputy on duty. She also was not sure of the costs at this time.

Motion: Larry Salustro made a motion to approve the Charter Schools audit reports as emailed. Steve Price seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Charter Schools Executive Committee Reports

a. Director of Charter Schools overview – Juana Brown

Juana Brown reported that Linda Miles-Adams would step in as the Chair of the Charter School Committee and that Bill Ferrari would be taking a different role within the School Board.

Juana shared that they have enlisted two important partnerships. The first is with Save the Children - an international organization that came to support RCMA after hurricane Irma. They have provided two programs: hurricane disaster preparedness and Journey of Hope, which is a training that allows staff to be able to support children, students, and families in crisis and trauma. She explained that it is a robust program and they are already meeting with parents. Patricia Miranda, the newly elected Immokalee Community School SAC President, has been trained along with the school social worker and a few other key staff. Juana then reported that The Academies has hired a new part-time social worker thanks to the Save the Children funding.

Juana reported that the second partnership was with Aetna – and although they are not RCMA's largest partner, they are, however, bringing us national recognition. They are offering a two year program titled *Saludos* which focuses on health and wellness. It offers weekly health education. The program also includes distribution of fresh produce and meal planning, physical fitness program, and a mindfulness initiative that offers yoga to students and parents at all 3 of our Charter Schools. Both students and families are able to participate.

1. Florida State Assessment (FSA) Results & School Grades (verbal/ presentation)

Juana Brown explained that the Florida State Assessment (FSA) results for all three schools would be discussed by both Principals via a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted achievements and growth in math, reading, and science. Data was shown

comparing RCMA Charters' results to neighboring District schools, followed by the process that the Florida Department of Education uses to calculate each of the three schools' grades. Total percentages resulted in Immokalee Community School earning a B with 376 points, Wimauma Academy earning a B with 385 points, and Leadership Academy earning a B with 499 points. Also, Mark Haggett shared that because 8th grade students did so well at Leadership Academy, they were treated to a fun day at Busch Gardens theme park, paid for by Tropicana/PepsiCo.

2. Funding Partnerships for Health and Wellness Initiative

Informational only. Item discussed in previous section and included in the written report.

b. The Academies of RCMA – Mark Haggett

1. Attendance/Enrollment

Mark Haggett quickly summarized student attendance/enrollment.

Out-of-Field Teachers – Action

Mark Haggett briefly explained the educational requirements that the newly hired teachers were working towards. He further explained there is a new state requirement that all Middle school students must take a computer course prior to high school which meant he would need Board approval to classify teachers to be experts in-field.

Motion: Gary Wishnatzki made a motion to approve Charlotte Bethany and Rebecca Wilson, two expert in-field teachers in computer science/coding. Joaquin Perez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Linda Miles-Adams made a motion to approve Shawn Geitner, Susan Reyes, and Morgan Garcia, three out-of-field teachers in ESOL. Sandra Hightower seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Financial Statements for The Academies – Action

The Financial Statements were quickly reviewed by Pam Way, who explained there was nothing unusual. No questions were asked.

Motion: Larry Salustro made a motion to approve Financial Statements for The Academies. Gloria Kendrick seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Immokalee Community School – Zulaika Quintero

1. Attendance/Enrollment

Zulaika Quintero summarized the ICS student attendance/enrollment.

2. Out-of-Field Teachers – Action

Zulaika Quintero briefly explained the educational requirements that the newly hired teachers were working towards.

Motion: Steve Price made a motion to approve Maria Esquijarosa, Ana Zapata Duque, Suaidy Cheo-Cruz, and San Juana Schellhas, four out-of-field teachers in subject area who are currently working towards their certification. Joaquin Perez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Linda Miles-Adams made a motion to approve Delmarie Davila, Michael Gonzalez, Sarah Anzualda, Suaidy Cheo-Cruz, and Ana Zapata Duque, five out-of-field teachers in ESOL. Michael Bayer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Statements for Immokalee Community School – Action

The Financial Statements were quickly summarized by Pam Way, who explained there is a current positive fund balance and the school is within 85% of their budget. No questions were asked.

Motion: Sandra Hightower made a motion to approve Financial Statements for Immokalee Community School. Gloria Kendrick seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

- a. Safety and Security (reference the Director of Charter Schools Report)**
Reference Item IV, Charter School Audit Reports.
- b. Other**
None.

VII. New Business

- a. Fingerprint and Governance Certificates Update (verbal)**
Juana Brown quickly mentioned that Al J Hinson would be up for renewal for Governance Certification in January 2019. Juana noted that the matter would be discussed further during the Board of Director meeting to follow.
- b. Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan Ratification – Action**
Juana Brown reported that there was new funding that had been set aside to pay for a mental health program for all three Charter Schools and it required a plan to be put in writing in order to apply and qualify for the grant. She shared that both Principals put the plan together and sent it to their districts. In addition, the grant further required School Board approval. An electronic action vote was held by the Executive Committee of the RCMA Board of Directors and the plan was submitted over the summer months while school was not in session.

Upon discussion of this plan and the action vote that was made by the Executive Committee of the RCMA Board of Directors to approve this plan for submittal, there was a debate as to whether it was allowable according to Sunshine Law. Richard Pringle went into further detail to clarify the situation and a discussion ensued.

Motion: Richard Pringle made a motion to retroactively approve the Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan which was submitted during the summer months. Steve Price seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Other**
Mark Haggett introduced The Academies of RCMA new SAC President, Norma Acevedo, to the School Board. Norma shared a few words and expressed that she was happy to be the new SAC President. Zulaika Quintero introduced the new ICS SAC President, Patricia Miranda, to the School Board. Patricia shared a few words and expressed how honored and excited she was to be able to participate with both SAC and School Board.

VIII. Call for Public Comment

Medora Krome asked for public comments. There were no comments made. Richard shared at this time, that call for public comment should come earlier in the beginning of the meeting, rather this late on the agenda, for future meetings.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Motion: Larry Salustro made a motion to adjourn the School Board meeting. Gary Wishnatzki seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Misty Smith
Community Relations Coordinator**