

RCMA School Board Meeting
UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research & Education Center
2685 State Road 29 N., Immokalee, FL 34142
June 17, 2019

MINUTES

	BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF ATTENDANCE
1.	Bayer, Michael T.	Present		Brown, Juana
2.	Ferrari, William (Bill)	Present		Call, Martin
3.	Gaffney, Donna		Absent	Carey, Barbara
4.	Hightower, Sandra	E-Present		Chappa, Irma
5.	Hinson, Al. J	Present		Deus, Hudelaine
6.	Jaimes, Minerva	E-Present		Dickerson, Ed
7.	Kendrick, Gloria	Present		Facundo, Mike
8.	Krome, Medora	Present		Flores, Gilbert
9.	Miles-Adams, Linda	Present		Garcia, Isabel
10.	Perez, Joaquin	E-Present		Gonzalez, Gloria
11.	Pringle, Richard	E-Present		Haggett, Mark
12.	Robles de Melendez, Wilma		Absent	Hollenkamp, Clay
13.	Rollason, Barbara Mainster	E-Present		Jacques, Jackie
14.	Salustro, Larry	Present		Moorman, Gloria
15.	Stuart, Michael	Present		Murray, Valaria
16.	Vallejo, Ansberto		Absent	Osmenaj, Anjeza
17.	Weisinger, Max (Jaime)		Absent	Pascual, Adriana
				Quintanilla, Maria
PARENT GUESTS		GUESTS		Sepulveda, Catalina
De la Cruz, Emig		DeMattia, Robin		Smith, Misty
De la Luz Gonzalez, Maria		Trevino, Marcela (Interpreter)		Vega, Kathy
Johnson, Carrie				Villanueva, Lourdes
McClendon, Felecia				Way, Pam
Santay Santay, Francisco				Williams, Cindy
White, Hiedi				Wise, Gyla
				Zamarripa, Marbelia

- I.** Opening Remarks by the President
Medora Krome called the School Board meeting to order at 12:29 p.m. A quorum was present.
- II.** Welcome and Self-introductions
All present members and staff introduced them self by name, position, and location. Gloria Moorman introduced newly contracted employee, Robin DeMattia. Robin shared a few facts regarding her work history as a communications leader.
- III.** Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Medora Krome asked for a motion to approve the April minutes as presented.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the April minutes as presented. Linda Miles-Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Call for Public Comment

Medora Krome made a call for public comments. No comments were made.

V. Charter School Committee Reports - Linda Miles-Adams

Linda Miles-Adams extended a huge thank you to all staff and Board members who contributed to the attainment of the new Wimauma Academy coordinator position.

(a) Director of Charter Schools – Overview – Juana Brown

Juana Brown introduced Mark Haggett who then presented the reports for The Academies of RCMA and Immokalee Community School.

(b) The Academies of RCMA – Mark Haggett (Wimauma Academy & Leadership Academy)

1. Enrollment

Mark summarized the current attendance and projected enrollment statistics, pointing out that at least 13 scholars would be effected by the sale of a well-known farm and adjacent property in which they reside on. He also noted that the waiting list for kindergarten is vast.

2. Financial Statements – *Action*

Bill Ferrari reported that both Academies had a surplus as of April 2019. No questions were asked.

3. 2018-2019 Budget Adjustment – *Action*

Bill Ferrari summarized the adjusted budget and expense report for Wimauma Academy only. No questions were asked.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the financial statements for The Academies of RCMA AND the 2018-2019 budget adjustment for Wimauma Academy only. Al J. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. 2019-2020 Budget – *Action*

- a. Bill Ferrari reported on the Wimauma Academy budget of \$3.3M and noted there are no expected changes in expenses. No questions were asked.

Motion: Michael Stuart made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 proposed budget for Wimauma Academy. Michael T. Bayer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Bill Ferrari reported on the Leadership Academy budget of \$1.2M. He stated the primary difference from last year to this school year will be the addition of the new coordinator position mentioned earlier in the meeting, by Linda Miles-Adams. No questions were asked, however, Isabel Garcia pointed out the incorrect year at the top of the report (should reflect 2019-2020).

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 proposed budget for Leadership Academy. Linda Miles-Adams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. 2019-2020 Lease Agreement – *Action*

- a. Bill Ferrari quickly explained the Wimauma Academy lease agreement, stating that we used capital outlay funds to pay back RCMA for property (\$85K which we

expect to receive in capital outlay funds). He also stated that for the first time, we are including vehicles. Transportation has always been provided. Barbara Mainster Rollason asked if we increased the capital outlay regarding the new law that the State has to give us tax monies. Bill replied yes, that was taken care of.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 lease agreement for Wimauma Academy. Linda Miles-Adams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Bill Ferrari quickly explained the Leadership Academy lease agreement, stating that they too added vehicles to the request for capital outlay funds.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 lease agreement for The Academies of RCMA. Linda Miles-Adams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

(c) Immokalee Community School – Mark Haggett on behalf of Zulaika Quintero

1. Enrollment

Mark Haggett quickly summarized the current attendance and projected enrollment statistics. He also noted that the waiting list for kindergarten is vast.

2. Financial Statements – *Action*

Bill Ferrari summarized the financial statements quickly. No questions were asked.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve Financial Statements for Immokalee Community School. Michael Stuart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. 2019-2020 Budget – *Action*

Bill Ferrari reported on the budget of \$3.3M. Barbara Mainster Rollason asked about a large amount ICS received for capital outlay, however Bill responded there was no large amount for the upcoming school year - that was the prior school year.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 proposed budget for Immokalee Community School. Michael T. Bayer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously

4. 2019-2020 Lease Agreement – *Action*

Bill Ferrari quickly summarized the lease agreement of \$160K. No questions were asked.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 lease agreement for Immokalee Community School. Richard Pringle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

(a) Charter School Growth Fund – Stages and Gates – Juana Brown (*PowerPoint presentation*)

With a PowerPoint presentation on display, Juana Brown discussed the Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) and the many benefits of being included in their portfolio of schools. Currently there are 64 school networks in the CSGF portfolio. A network is a series of schools operated by a Charter Management Organization (CMO). RCMA is considered a CMO (we have finance, HR, facilities coming together to support the school). There are over 900 schools in the portfolio, among them are the country's top performing charters. Most of these are located in large cities including Dallas, DC, and NY.

The process of being accepted into the portfolio involves moving through several Stages and Gates, with Stage 1 beginning with the initial meeting and school visits. This Stage also includes completing the blind application. Andee Hendee represented CSGF and toured both the Wimauma and Immokalee campuses. She was extremely impressed with what she saw and heard after on her classroom visits and in her conversations with school leadership, Board members, and parents. Andee agreed that we had the potential of being a model of rural education excellence and praised our unique educational model of serving students and families from crib to high school and beyond. Completing Stage 1 also requires the submission of three years of school data, including demographic, financial, and academic data. Juana was informed that this step can pose a challenge to many applying schools since once submitted, the data is evaluated by a committee to determine if it is consistent with the profile of high achieving schools in their portfolio. Juana learned that it can take several rounds of subsequent applications for schools to move onto the next stage of the process. Juana then highlighted the four key areas CSGF evaluates in the due diligence process as academic performance, potential for growth, financial sustainability, and leadership capacity. Barbara Mainster Rollason shared that Bill Ferrari and Linda Miles-Adams were present during the application visit. She also stated that CSGF's funding is given as grant money rather than loans and added that CSGF desires to do more work in Florida and more in rural areas and that they only fund non-profits.

- (b) Other
None.

VII. New Business

- (a) School 3rd Grade FSA Data – School Principals (*PowerPoint presentation - verbal*)
Juana displayed the results on the projector screen and provided hard copies (not in the packet).

Juana explained that the Department of Education only provides early results of 3rd grade Reading since these are needed to determine promotion or retention in this “gate” grade. No other grade level results were available to share with the Board at this time. The data displayed showed our RCMA Charters’ results in comparison with neighboring Title I schools. The data was broken down to show percentage of students at each achievement level on a spectrum of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest level. Also included on the table were the percent of Latino students at each school. As expected, both Wimauma and ICS had the highest number of Latino students, with 99% for the former and 97% for the latter.

Historically, Wimauma Academy’s student are the best performers among this group of Hillsborough County Schools and this proved true once again. Wimauma Academy led the way in student’s achievement with 41% of 3rd graders achieving a score of three (proficient) or better.

Immokalee Community School’s (ICS) FSA results were also shared, with 40% of ICS’ 3rd grade students attaining a three (proficient) or higher. Juana noted that although Highlands Elementary School had the highest percentage of proficient students at 67%, it was important to remember that ICS’ students are in a dual language program. This required all students to learn all their academic content in both Spanish and English. Sadly the State only tests in English, so students are not able to comprehensively demonstrate all their mastery of standards.

(b) Other

Mark Haggett brought up the revision of the Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan which would need School Board approval. A discussion ensued and it was determined that the revised plan documents should be sent to all members following the approval of the plan.

Motion: Al J. Hinson made a motion to approve the revised Mental Health Assistance Allocation (MHAA) plan for the Academies of RCMA. Barbara Mainster Rollason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

The School Board meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:28p.m. Al J. Hinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Misty Smith".

Misty Smith
Executive Assistant