

**RCMA School Board Meeting
UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research & Education Center
14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL 33598**

January 27, 2020

MINUTES

	BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF IN ATTENDANCE
1.	Bayer, Michael T.	Present		Booe, Phyliss
2.	Ferrari, William (Bill)	Present		Brinson, Shakira
3.	Gaffney, Donna	Present		Brown, Juana
4.	Higgins, Dani		Absent	Call, Martin
5.	Hightower, Sandra	Present		Carey, Barbara
6.	Hinson, Al. J	Present		Chopra, Olivia
7.	Jaimes, Minerva	E-Present		Clemons, Tijuanna
8.	Kendrick, Gloria	Present		Coronado, Beatriz
9.	Krome, Medora		Absent	Facundo, Amy
10.	Miles-Adams, Linda	Present		Garcia, Isabel
11.	Perez, Joaquin		Absent	Gonzalez, Leticia
12.	Pringle, Richard	E-Present		Haggett, Mark
13.	Robles de Melendez, Wilma		Absent	Jacques, Jackie
14.	Roka, Fritz		Absent	Leal, Guadalupe
15.	Rollason, Barbara Mainster	Present		Moorman, Gloria
16.	Salustro, Larry	Present		Olson, Scott
17.	Stuart, Michael		Absent	Quintanilla, Maria
18.	Vallejo, Ansberto	Present		Quintero, Zulaika
19.	Weisinger, Jaime	Present		Sepulveda, Catalina
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES				Shannon, Tramika
20.	Allen, Kanta	Present		Smith, Misty
21.	De la Cruz, Emig	Present		Villanueva, Lourdes
22.	Fair, Fannie	Present		Way, Pam
23.	Johnson, Carrie	Present		Williams, Cindy
24.	Jose, Claudio	Present		Wise, Gyla
25.	Landeros, Claudia	Present		Young, Patti
26.	Martinez, Erik		Absent	HONORARY BOARD MEMBER
27.	Pina, Maria	Present		McClendon, Felecia
28.	Villeda-Hernandez, Refugio	Present		GUEST
29.	White, Hiedi		Absent	Tur, Angel (interpreter)

I. Opening Remarks by the Vice President – Larry Salustro

Larry Salustro, Vice President, called the School Board meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Self-introductions

All Board members and staff stated their name and position.

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Action

Larry Salustro asked for a motion to approve the October minutes as presented.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented. Al J. Hinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

IV. Call for Public Comment

Larry Salustro made a call for public comment. No public comments were made.

V. Charter School Committee Reports – Linda Miles-Adams

a) Director of Charter Schools – Overview – Juana Brown

1. The Academies of RCMA Site Visit Review and Contract Renewal
Juana Brown discussed the consolidation of the two Wimauma charter schools to be a K-8 school in the near future. The school will be named Wimauma Community Academy. Juana explained that a thorough review was conducted by the Hillsborough school district. The district has asked us to send a letter regarding the name change.
2. Advocacy
Juana Brown referred to several key issues from her report, such as: five charter school students who visited Tallahassee for Children's Week, immigration, E-verify, driver licenses, and education. Other key issues noted were: increases in teacher salary, gun violence and mental health.
3. Charter School Strategic Plan (Abacus update) with Isabel Garcia
Juana Brown asked that this topic be covered later in the meeting.
4. Immokalee Community School Temporary Leadership Plan
Zulaika Quintero shared that during her maternity leave, Amy Facundo, who has been employed with RCMA for 15 years, will be fill in for her until her return.

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

1. Attendance/Enrollment
Mark Haggett quickly summarized student attendance/enrollment.
2. Out-of-Field Teachers – *Action*
Mark Haggett explained the educational requirements that the newly hired teachers were working towards.

Motion: Barbara Mainster Rollason made a motion to approve two out-of-field teachers: Natalie Rios in ESOL and Donald Holt in Social Studies for The Academies of RCMA. Ansberto Vallejo seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Statements – *Action*
Bill Ferrari reported on The Academies of RCMA financials which covered six months' worth of data, noting that we had lost almost two-thirds of the United Way revenue, however, the schools still maintain a healthy surplus.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve Financial Statements for The Academies of RCMA. Michael T. Bayer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Adjustment – *Action*
Bill Ferrari summarized the budget adjustment. He noted that a portion of the Spurlino funding was carried over from the prior year and that we are still running higher on salaries than expected.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the adjusted budgets for The Academies of RCMA. Barbara Mainster Rollason seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. School Community Activities
Mark Haggett shared about recent activities such as: five charter school students who visited Tallahassee during Children’s week, their undefeated soccer and street hockey team, the Grange Club animal hatching, aquaponics with their expanded garden and approximately (22) 6th graders who applied to Berkeley Academy.
6. Monitoring Student Progress
Mark Haggett reported on MAP reading scores, explaining that 5th and 6th grades had difficulties due to the testing environment. In addition, 6th grade had a high teacher turnover which most likely resulted in lower scores. On the other hand, there were high scores among 3rd graders and 4th and 5th grades showed a slight dip.

c) Immokalee Community School (ICS) – Zulaika Quintero

1. Attendance/Enrollment
Zulaika Quintero summarized the ICS student attendance/enrollment, stating that there was a dip in attendance in part due to the dual language program which is creating a few challenges, making it is tougher to enroll children in 2nd grade and higher if they are not already familiar with reading and writing in Spanish.
2. Financial Statements – **Action**
Bill Ferrari reported on the ICS financials, stating that a large item listed was a \$50K revenue item from the Charter School Growth Fund for the charter school strategic plan.

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

3. Budget Adjustment – **Action**
Bill Ferrari summarized the budget adjustment, mentioning again the \$50K revenue item listed for Charter School Growth Fund which shows as being spent under ICS financials.

Motion: Bill Ferrari made a motion to approve the adjusted budget for Immokalee Community School. Al J. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. School Community Activities
Zulaika Quintero shared about recent activities such as: the Migrant Education Program, the annual Tamalada, backpack program implementation, mindfulness, yoga, the ICS garden and the running club.
5. Monitoring Student Progress
Zulaika Quintero discussed iReady math data points, showing goals and data for students who have met the 60th percentile. Those performing 10% above their grade level. She showed MAP Spanish ready scores reporting that there has been lots of growth in that area, but that it does not include 6th graders.

VI. Old Business

- a) Board Training
Mark Haggett shared that the Hillsborough school district is very strict about governance renewal trainings. Because we receive a grade on that, it reflects on the school when School Board members have not completed their trainings in a timely manner.
- b) Other
None.

VII. New Business

a) Other

Linda Miles-Adams reported on the charter school strategic plan that has been conducted by Abacus, who will present a plan in April. She shared that it has been a very involved process, not just affecting our charter schools, but the entire organization. Market analysis has been conducted. Isabel Garcia reported that it has been a great learning process for all of RCMA. Abacus has used our early childhood education (ECE) data to make sure it aligns with our mission. The idea is that our ECE programs will serve as a feeder program into the charter schools. Juana Brown added that they have been deliberate about the process. Abacus has never worked for an organization that has been around for more than 50 years, is mature and well established. She stated that a PowerPoint presentation would be emailed to School Board members. Linda Miles-Adams stated that the Charter School Sub-Committee planned to meet on March 4th in Tampa to discuss the entire strategic plan in more detail. All School Board members were invited and the meeting details will be noticed at a later date.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Motion: Al J. Hinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 p.m. Barbara Mainster Rollason seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Misty Smith

Misty Smith
Executive Administrative Manager