



RCMA Regular School Board Meeting
April 3, 2023
University of Florida Gulf Coast Research & Education Center
Wimauma, FL
12:30PM – 2PM



Virtual:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717175114?pwd=R09BeHI1aERRTjZWYXdpPSkwwQ0hYZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 1717 5114 Passcode: April
 By phone: (929) 436 2866; Passcode: 971550

MINUTES

Attendance				
	Board Members-At-Large	Present	Absent	Staff Present In-person
1.	Bayer, Michael T.	In-person		Brown, Juana
2.	Bizerra, Susanne A.	Online		Garcia, Isabel
3.	Dowling, Aedan J.	Online		Haggett, Mark
4.	Gaffney, Donna	In-person		Higgins, Dani
5.	Hightower, Sandra	Online		Maldonado, Elizabeth
6.	Hinson, Al. J.		X	Moonman, Gloria
7.	Krome, Medora	Online		Sepulveda, Catalina
8.	Miles, Linda A.	In-person		Sigala, Abbigail
9.	Negrini, Mirta		X	Vega, Kathy
10.	Perez, Joaquin		X	Quintero, Zulaika
11.	Pringle, Richard		X	
12.	Robles de Melendez, Wilma		X	
13.	Rollason, Barbara Mainster	In-person		Guest Present In-person
14.	Salustro, Larry	In-person		Coats, Bill
15.	Tighe, Sonia	In-person		Vigoa-Cardet, Lissy (Interpreter)
16.	Vallejo, Ansberto	Online		
17.	Weisinger, Jaime	In-person		
Guest Present In-person				
	Headley, Eletisha	Pascual, Leonel		De La Cruz, Emig
	Hernandez, Araceli	Valerio, Venessa J.		
	Masum, Wendy	Vargas, Lorenza		
	Wilson, Sheron			

- 1) **Meeting Opening**
 - a. **Roll Call**
Roll call was conducted by Elizabeth Maldonado. A quorum was reached.
 - b. **Call to Order/Opening Remarks**
Linda A. Miles, President, called the meeting to order. The meeting began at 12:38 p.m.
- 2) **Call For Public Comment**
Linda A. Miles made a call for public comment. No public comments were made.
- 3) **Consent Agenda – Meeting Minutes**
 - a. School Board Meeting Minutes – January 2023
 - b. Charter Committee Meeting Minutes
 - i. Immokalee Community Academy Committee Minutes
 - ii. Wimauma Community Academy Committee Minutes
- 4) **Consent Agenda – Academic**
 - a. 2023-2024 Academic School Calendars
 - i. Immokalee Community Academy
 - ii. Mulberry Community Academy

- iii. Wimauma Community Academy
- b. Mulberry Community Academy RFA and Letter of Intent of FDOE

5) Consent Agenda – Finance

- a. Finance Committee Minutes
- b. Financial Statements
- c. Financial Budget Adjustments

6) Consent Agenda Approval

- a. Approval of the Full Consent Agenda
Linda A. Miles asked if there was any interest in withdrawing Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Linda A. Miles called for a motion. Medora Krome suggested to make name correction for Linda A. Miles and Barbara Mainster Rollason across all minutes.

Motion: Medora Krome made a motion to approve the Full Consent Agenda. Barbara Mainster Rollason seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

7) Leadership Reports

- a. Charter School Committee Chair
Linda A. Miles shared the RCMA Mulberry Community Academy application and Letter of Intent that was the result of work from the staff. RCMA receives financial support from the Charter Growth Fund as well as assistance from several consultants. Linda shared updates on the Mulberry School opening in the Fall of 2023. At the subcommittee meetings there have been discussions of numerous ways that having multiple Charter Schools is helping look at data across the schools, helps identify new interventions, figure out which teachers are having the greatest impact, and sharing different ways to engage parents. Linda wanted to highlight the work that is being done behind the scenes to open the Mulberry School. The prototype will help so many children in the future, and it is an exciting time.
- b. Director of Charter Schools
Juana Brown shared details and an update on the Mulberry Process. Community outreach has been conducted in and around the Mulberry area. Juana recognized Dani Higgins' efforts toward informing the community at large. There are 16 applications for 1st grade and 40 applications for Kindergarten. New coming applications will require a process that prioritizes those students who are already enrolled at the RCMA childhood centers. It is expected for there to be 50 to 60 applications for the Kindergarten enrollments. The campus will be open for RCMA teachers at the end of July, and students will be starting at the beginning of August. Superintendent Hyde guided RCMA on a tour of the Kingsford facility, with the hope of considering the facility as a temporary home for the Charter school. RCMA's requests to the district include environmental studies, site plans, architectural renderings, and a second tour day for Mike Facundo and other members of the leadership team. On March 11th, the RFA was submitted, this was mentioned by Linda previously. The Letter of Intent was also submitted and acknowledged by the Superintendent and the Office of Charter at Polk. Sonia Tighe asked why the school was closed in the first place, Sue Bizerra replied that a new school was built and housed close to 1,000 students. Sue further explained the setup of the Kingsford school. Larry asked about the cost to utilize the facility, Juana explained that the Superintendent will provide that information and the total is to be determined..
- c. Principals
Mark Haggett shared that Spirit Week was celebrated the first week of April and thanked those who participated in the campus tour. The dashboard is typically shown during board meetings; however, data was being collected due to assessments that occur during April and May. The board typically views Social Emotional Learning in which it is a part of the assessment data. Mark further mentioned enrollment information, the application numbers were shared by Maria Juarez. Teacher recruitment discussions with the Talent and Recruitment manager, as there is a teacher shortage. The Wimauma Community Academy is looking into options for expanding space on campus and allocating monies that are to be used by September 2024. Diana Perez is a former student of the Hillsborough County School System who is the Graduate Support Coordinator. In addition, the percentage of at-risk students who were retained is 20% from grade levels 1st to 6th.

Linda A. Miles explained who Ramon Bosquez is, Alex Sink, a previous board member, introduced Ramon to RCMA and participated in the Wimauma Community Academy tour. Ramon's tour experience led to their becoming an RCMA mentor to a student.

Barbara Mainster Rollason is a mentor at Lennard High School and mentions that the facility is large and impersonal. The importance of parent involvement was expressed to prepare and support children from RCMA facilities to larger public schools. In the board packet, immigration information included that families requested information on current legislation. Jaime Weisinger shared if there can be research conducted to be shared with the board for the next meeting.

Michael T. Bayer was impressed Wimauma Community Academy campus and requested an update on the current status of the campus security and fence changes. Mark Haggett responded about his communication with Bethel CDC to continue safety measures with the fences. Donna Gaffney provided information regarding the security measures in place at the charter school and suggested direct communication with a third-party camera surveillance team.

Zulaika Quintero provided a summary of Fall enrollment, tutoring services with the Immokalee Foundation, and a fentanyl drug bust in Immokalee. Parent meetings were held to bring awareness and provide information to keep the community safe. Mr. Michael Gonzalez, a teacher at RCMA Immokalee Community Academy, received the Golden Apple.

Linda A Miles recognized the successful math school tactic. Michael T. Bayer also requested Zulaika to provide an update about the campus safety, Zulaika further elaborated on the campus security and safety. Discussion ensued.

Juana Brown explained Dani Higgins' absence, due to travel and shared information in Dani's stead. A summary was provided about the recent tour of the League of Women Voters about the Charter and its roles. Recruitment is going well for new teachers that are coming into Mulberry. Ansberto commented about potential students visiting current RCMA charter schools.

d. SAC Parent Presidents

Maria Juarez notified the board that parents are interested in participating in meetings, and a large group of parents are involved in the Student Advisory Committee (SAC).

8) Old Business

a. Mulberry Capital Campaign

Isabel Garcia elaborated on the east coast center Abriendo Puertas, where a parent raved about dual language RCMA charter school in Mulberry. RCMA's vision and mission are nationally known as it is a one-of-a-kind model.

Linda A. Miles recognized the Development department by working closely with Donna Gaffney and Bill Ferrari on the Capital Campaign project. Gloria Moorman, director of development, elaborated on the Mulberry Capital Campaign. Larry Salustro and Jaime Weisinger both were in the initial steps and encouraged RCMA to receive consultation from Carter Global. The Culture of Philanthropy consists of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, where Linda A. Miles as chair, Donna Gaffney, Bill Ferrari, Jaime Weisinger, Sandy Hightower along with her Husband Dorsey. Jaime Weisinger congratulated Gloria Moorman's role and the relationship with RCMA. A check presentation was scheduled to occur on April 14, 2023, at the Immokalee Community Academy. A Board Match Challenge was presented, where any dollars that RCMA can secure from board members will be matched dollar per dollar.

b. Other
None.

9) New Business - Action

a. Audit Engagement Letters

Larry Salustro presented the Audit Engagement Letters for each Charter school for approval from the Board. A discussion ensued.

Motion: Medora Krome made a motion to approve the Audit Engagement Letters as noted corrected from Zomma Group. Sonia Tighe seconded motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. 2022-2023 Memorandum of Understanding – Collier County Sheriff’s Office

Motion: Jaime Weisinger made a motion to approve with the changes of years 2022-2023 to 2023-2024. Medora Krome seconded motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Other
None.

10) General Discussion

- a. Michael T. Bayer made requested the Charter Subcommittee to address issues about changing doors at Immokalee Community Academy to discuss at the next meeting to report back about safety issues.

Sandra Hightower discussed the continuity for students of all grade levels. Linda A. Miles responded that it is a work in progress with graduate support. Jaime Weisinger requested clarification about the Kingsford Elementary School and whether RCMA will move forward to use it as a temporary charter facility. Juana Brown replied with the follow-up with requests including environmental studies, and a discussion ensued.

- b. Other
None.

11) Closing

- a. Adjournment
The School Board meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Motion: Barbara Mainster Rollason made the motion to adjourn the School Board meeting. Jaime Weisinger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Maldonado

Elizabeth Maldonado
Executive Administrative Manager