



RCMA School Board Regular Meeting
UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
Wimauma, FL
April 28, 2025
12:30PM – 2:00PM

Virtual:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81354198563?pwd=iPboHwvdauYpiV6LhwR0TfMP3x44Qb.1>

Meeting ID: 813 5419 8563 Passcode: Board

By phone: (305) 224 1968; Passcode: 257443

MINUTES

Attendance				
	Board Members-At-Large	Present	Absent	Staff Present In-Person
1.	Dowling, Aedan J.	In person		Garcia, Isabel
2.	Harper-Larsen, Kiley	Online		Higgins, Dani
3.	Hightower, Sandra	Online		Johnson, Ashley
4.	Lopez, Joseph A. “Tony”	Online		Johnson, Mandy
5.	Mainster Rollason, Barbara	In person		Maldonado, Elizabeth
6.	Miles, Linda A.	In person		Olson, Scott
7.	Salustro, Larry	In person		Sepulveda, Catalina
8.	Vallejo, Ansberto	Online		Torres, Amenda
9.	Weisinger, Jaime	In person		Villanueva, Lourdes
School Board Parent Representatives				
	Petra Hernandez		X	<i>Immokalee Community Academy</i>
	Rosalinda Rosales Ortiz	In person		<i>Mulberry Community Academy</i>
	Graciela Daniel	In person		<i>Wimauma Community Academy</i>
Guests Present/Online				
	Calderon, Yesenia		Absent	
	Ferrari, Bill		Absent	
	Pringle, Richard		Online	
	Walker Fuller, Connie		In person	

1) Meeting Opening

a. Roll Call

The 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 12:36 p.m.

c. Call For Public Comment

Linda A. Miles made a call for public comment. No public comments were made.

d. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were made.

2) Consent Agenda – Meeting Minutes

- a. School Board Meeting Minutes – January 2025

3) Consent Agenda – Academic

- a. 2025-2026 Charter Academies School Calendars
- i. Immokalee Community Academy School Calendar
 - ii. Mulberry Community Academy School Calendar
 - iii. Wimauma Community Academy School Calendar

4) Consent Agenda – Finance

- a. Charter Academies Financial Statements for Month Ending in February 2025

- i. Immokalee Community Academy Financial Statement
 - ii. Mulberry Community Academy Financial Statement
 - iii. Wimauma Community Academy Financial Statement
- b. 2024-2025 Charter Academies Budget Adjustment
 - i. Immokalee Community Academy Budget Adjustment
 - ii. Mulberry Community Academy Budget Adjustment
 - iii. Wimauma Community Academy Budget Adjustment
- c. 2024-2025 Charter Academies Amended Lease Agreements
 - i. Immokalee Community Academy Amended Lease Agreement
 - ii. Mulberry Community Academy Amended Lease Agreement
 - iii. Wimauma Community Academy Amended Lease Agreement

5) Consent Agenda Approval

- a. Approval of the Full Consent Agenda

Motion: Jaime Weisinger made a motion to approve the Full Consent Agenda. Aedan Dowling seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6) Leadership Report

- a. Director of Charter Schools

In the absence of the Director of Charter Schools, Ashley Johnson, Charter Principal Manager, provided an overview report. Topics included: additional funding to expand Mulberry Community Academy's (MCA) summer program; Wimauma and Immokalee Community Academies (WCA & ICA) are implementing new initiatives to support 6th-grade students; Leadership changes include the resignation of Mark Haggett, with Mandy Johnson serving as interim principal at WCA until a permanent hire. Other topics included teacher recruitment, which remains a priority amid staffing challenges, especially at ICA, where competitive salaries are offered. New guidelines restrict teacher aides from serving as teachers, limiting them to substitute roles. The board suggested exploring apprenticeship partnerships with local colleges and continuing involvement with Teach for America to address staffing needs.

- b. School Advisory Council (SAC) Parent Representatives

WCA's parent representative, Graciela Daniel, expressed confidence in the interim principal's teaching and emphasized the importance of maintaining the school's values. Dani Higgins, MCA Principal, noted that teaching assistants are moving into teacher roles and shared positive student progress stories. At ICA, a mentoring success story highlighted a student who overcame challenges to achieve strong academic results and college readiness, ranking in the top 18 percent of her class.

Ashley Johnson was tasked with providing a report on graduate student progress tracking and support. Twelve WCA students will attend a summer program for rising 7th graders. Board members were invited to the 8th-grade graduation on May 30th at ICA.

7) Old Business

- a. Board Member Resignation & Revised School Board Member List

Board Chair Linda Miles acknowledged the recent resignation of Yesenia Calderon and encouraged members to consider potential candidates to fill the vacancy.

- b. RCMA Charter Academy Website Update

- c. Other

The board and executive director held an in-depth discussion on MCA's charter growth plan, focusing on financial sustainability, expansion strategies, and the overall charter vision. Key topics included the financial model, challenges with increasing revenue and cash reserves,

and the significant hurdle of securing capital for growth. Future meetings with the Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) are planned to develop actionable steps for moving forward.

8) New Business

a. Mulberry Community Academy School Bus Quote

A board discussion took place regarding the possibility of exploring shared transportation resources or alternative solutions. It was also noted that the budget for this purchase has already been approved.

Motion: Aedan Dowling made a motion to approve the purchase of the Mulberry Community Academy School Bus. Jaime Weisinger seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Policy on Public Comment

Motion: Kiley Harper-Larsen made a motion to approve the updated Policy on Public Comment. Sandra Hightower seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

c. 2025-2026 Proposed School Board Meeting Dates

There was discussion about the importance of setting board meeting dates that allow the agency to stay on schedule with approvals and avoid delays caused by retroactive voting. Suggestions included considering a September start rather than October and being mindful of audit schedules. Ultimately, a motion was made to hold an internal discussion to determine dates that will best support timely board approvals.

Motion: Sandra Hightower made a motion to propose the 2025-2026 School Board dates at the next board meeting. Barbara Mainster Rollason seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Other

None.

9) General Discussion

a. Save the Date: RCMA's 25th Lipman Family Farm Golf Classic, May 17, 2025 - Naples Heritage Golf and Country Club.

The board discussed a new sponsorship opportunity related to the upcoming golf tournament. Funds raised through sponsorships will be directed to the school's general fund, supporting ongoing operational needs.

b. Next School Board Meeting (hybrid): June 23, 2025 – Naples, FL

c. Date Changed: Board Strategic Planning Retreat, June 24, 2025 - Naples, FL

Linda Miles announced that both the next board meeting and the strategic planning session will take place in Naples, with the board meeting scheduled for June 23rd and the strategic planning session to follow on June 24th. A few board members expressed interest in having a virtual participation option available for these meetings.

d. Other

None.

10) Closing

a. Adjournment

The school board meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Motion: Aedan Dowling made a motion to adjourn the RCMA School Board Meeting. Jaime Weisinger seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Maldonado

Elizabeth Maldonado

Executive Administrative Manager