

## MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc.

Board Meeting: **November 8, 2022**

Schools and Principals:

Bonita Springs Charter School - Carroll	Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy -Warren/Cendan
Collier Charter Academy - Thompson	Manatee Charter School - Brett
Gateway Charter School - Carter	Mid-Cape Global Academy - Trotter
Gateway Intermediate Charter School - Jensen	Six Mile Charter Academy - Fields
Gateway Charter High School - Jensen	

*The minutes of Sunshine Law meetings need not be verbatim transcripts of the meeting. These minutes are a summary of the events of the meeting.*

Date:	Start	End	Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
November 8, 2022	3:35pm	4:33pm	December 7, 2022	TBA	M. Llanes/R. Weaver

**Meeting Location: Schools Listed above and Renaissance Charter School at Goldenrod**

**Attended by:**

**Board Members:**

Ken Haiko, Chairman  
Tom Wheeler, Treasurer  
Billie Miller, Director  
Paul Sallarulo, Director  
Pat Smith, Director  
Dennis Clark, Vice-Chair

**Absent:**

None

**Other Attendees:**

Bonnie Brett, Principal Manatee Charter School  
Bradley Warren, Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy  
Dr. Cheryl Cendan, Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy  
Dr. Eddie Ruiz, State Superintendent and Director of Florida  
Rachel Windler-Freitag, Area 2 Deputy Director  
Dr. Sara Capwell, Area 3 Deputy Director  
Levi Williams, Esq., Board Attorney  
Rita Weaver, Sr. Director of Board Governance  
Maggie Llanes, Executive Coordinator for Board Governance

### CALL TO ORDER

- Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 3:35 p.m. with a Call to Order by Board Chair Ken Haiko. Roll call was taken, and quorum established.

#### I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Board Chair Ken Haiko called for public comments.
- Lisa Cambra - inquired about main questions around disciplinary actions for school lots of other parents, expectations from family of students and disciplines happening and reoccurring with certain individuals. Parents are considering withdrawing their kids since they do not feel safe in the school setting. There is a lot of red tape with more difficult behavior such as sexual harassment, and threats high level things.
- Suzzane Brown – shared that there are a lot of teachers wondering what is the expectation?
- Keri Rowe – shared that she has 3 children in school and the teacher retention in the primary grades is crucial, they are too stressed-out during the day, what can we do to support teachers who want to be here?
- Leslie Toscano – shared that, like Lisa, loves teachers and principals at the school who are amazing, but there is a big concern with discipline, threats, and behaviors in other grades from children and other parents. Reminded that the handbook says 0 tolerance and there is hitting taking place. There is a big concern on the lack of support, maybe a change in behavior plan is needed?
- Jen Russell inquired as to when will answers be given to parents. Mrs. Weaver advised that due to FERPA, individual student discipline cannot be discussed.

- Board Chair Ken Haiko thanked all who came to speak and assured them that all the issues mentioned will be addressed.
- Roxanne Ellingson– shared that she has a first grader and a ninth grader and has a main concern about teacher retention. 1st grade didn't have a teacher, 9<sup>th</sup> grade middle school set up but not prepared at all, there is a concern, therefore, before enrolling should have resources for them to succeed. School is good at setting up classrooms but have student struggling and they are not sure how to go about helping them. Contacted teachers and they are trying but are not sure how to go about it. Don't want kid feeling like a failure – knows school and admin but don't think is the only one with a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, so will high school be same next year?
- Cynthia – shared that she has a 4<sup>th</sup> grader and 6<sup>th</sup> grader, and both came from an exemplary school to come to this school and were very excited, but so far it's been informational only and teachers and principals are doing a fantastic job working 48 hours a day, great academics, great culture but discipline behavior has been a big concern and hope all have the support needed to stay on top of issues and follow up with kids. Never been in a charter school before and don't understand how it works but hopes there is support since there are great opportunities with this school. Other schools have a thicker layer of admin support and is wondering if they will get assistance. Mrs. Weaver reminded the audience that the school follows up with conduct issues.
- Jen Russell – shared she has a Kindergartener and a second grader opportunity to provide aids, not a brand-new model, wondering what resources are going to be offered – kids struggling and teachers struggling.
- Board Chair Ken Haiko thanked all parents for being here and commenting on their concerns.
- Mrs. Weaver advised the group that the school follows the Manatee County Code of Conduct.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

### Approval of the October 5, 2022, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting Minutes

- The board reviewed the board meeting minutes for October 5, 2022.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Tom Wheeler to approve the meeting minutes from the October 5, 2022, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc., board meeting, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.**

## III. CSUSA REPORTS

### State Director Update

- Dr. Eddie Ruiz thanked parents for coming to the board meeting to share their concerns, and for choosing Lakewood Ranch as their school. There are 64 charter schools in Florida and their structure works well. This is not a new model, and we have high expectations for school and what we can do. We made sure we hired the right leadership, and these are outstanding principals which you have recognized they work tirelessly and have had to find the right teachers into this model, we are looking into several ideas, possible aids and will look at challenges to ease the stress of teachers. The discipline issues are followed through Manatee County's code of conduct and every child is treated fairly; we follow a process. Speak to leaders and work with Dr. Capwell, the deputy director of that area. We will make sure we continue to make this school safe.
- Dr. Ruiz congratulated Principal Amber Jensen and her school for winning the district 4A championship.
- Dr. Ruiz also updated the board on Tropical Storm soon to be Hurricane Nicole preparations and school closings which only impact the Manatee schools.



Tier 3 Updates

- Dr. Ruiz updated the board on ongoing support being provided at all Tier 3 schools which included testing prep, small group instruction, and visits from the Directors of School Support.

Enrollment October FTE

- The board reviewed the October FTE Enrollment numbers.

Advocacy Report

- Kirianne Suriano presented to the board the new advocacy initiative from CSUSA creating a network of ambassadors which would include leadership, teachers, staff, parents, and students. Parents will be invited to participate by the school leader.
- The board discussed the initiative and the timeline and were reminded that due to 501c3 restrictions, the board would not be participating in the advocacy initiatives but would continue to provide guidance and oversight for their schools.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Dennis Clark and seconded by Billie Miller to accept the CSUSA State Director's Report, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.**

**IV. FINANCIALS**

FY22 Audit Results

- Cindy Calvert, audit partner for Keefe McCullough, reviewed the FY22 Audited Results with the board. The audit issued was an unmodified opinion and there were no schools to be found in a financial emergency and all website compliance requirements were met by all the schools.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Charter Renewal Updates

- Lee County has not communicated any updates for the charters up for renewal this year.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Out of Field Waivers


- The board reviewed the Out of Field Waivers.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Pat Smith to the Out of Field Waivers, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.**

The board discussed the rescheduled ribbon cutting scheduled on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The next board meeting is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> and times will be noticed accordingly.

**VII. ADJOURMENT**

- Board Chair Ken Haiko adjourned the November 8, 2022, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting at 4:33 p.m.

  
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Ken Haiko, Board Chair

Date: 12-7-22