

# MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc.

Board Meeting: **February 14, 2023**

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:
February 14, 2023	11:31am	12:15pm	March 7, 2023	TBA	R.Weaver

**Meeting Location: Schools Listed Above**

**Attended by:**

**Board Members:**

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

**Other Attendees:**

Dr. David Christiansen, Chief of Schools  
 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

## CALL TO ORDER

- Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 12:30pm p.m. with a Call to Order by Board Chair Ken Haiko. Roll call was taken, and quorum established.
- Dr. Eddie Ruiz addressed the board and the room by announcing that the building configuration for Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy will be decided within the next week or so.

## I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair Ken Haiko called for public comments. The following were public comments from attendees at Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy.

Lexie Rossi

6th grade student concerned about the size of lower campus for 6-8 students. February is late and misleading to students and families and the delay is not right. Everyone is working so hard for the success that the facilities need to match and as a WISH school and needs to be in the correct facility and they cannot fit another grade in the building. 6th grade is shiny penny. Students are excelling and they do not have behavior issues. Decision needs to be made.

Katie Truxton

3 students, overcrowded in general and students should be moved to upper classrooms and were promised smaller classrooms and they are over in the classroom. It is not a good learning environment and putting more students and teachers in a cramped room and promised that they would be going to a larger facility and the students are very cramped. Something needs to change.

Jen Russell

6 and 5 graders at the school. Also, here to speak to the upper school building and agrees with everything previously said. When you have a school that boasts higher expectations, they expect the school to hold high to that standard too. Facility needs to match that level. As far as communicating the decision she is happy that they will be decided. School choice for manatee county and open enrollment is closing and they don't know what the hours will be and what will the locations be, etc. and these unanswered questions are concerning. Excellence. Communication of the facility with all the other questions need to be communicated.

Sara Siarianni didn't want to speak as she agrees with previous speakers.

Kerri Rome signed up to speak and was not in attendance.

Heidi LaRoy

Echos what everyone else has said. Both principals have done a phenomenal job. Getting the school off the ground. Mother of a 6th grader and mother of a 7th grader that will bring the kid over in 9th grade. They left an IB Magnet to come to LRPA because they wanted to secure the space for the children. Reiterate matching the excellence. There is no storage space. Literally filled to the brim. Critical time for middle school students to gain trust and independence and cannot differentiated with opportunities and difficult to do in a small space. The space cannot hold a k-8. Cafeteria, spots, bathrooms etc.

Tennison Sharp

Agrees with the above. Concerned with restroom issues. Going into a bathroom with no doors and crowded and concerned about that. Concerned about going outside and playing and then coming inside and the school does not have the facilities for showers etc. and wants to be able to have space etc. for the girls and staying in this building will not allow them privacy.

Toma Milbank

Dad to a 4th grader. Loves the school. Loves the energy and not having a 6th grader yet, he is supportive of the moving the 6th graders to the other building. Having a board meeting after hours because a lot of parents would attend and hear a lot more from parents etc. They would have had more weight. So, please consider having the board meeting after hours.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of the January 10, 2023, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting Minutes

- The board reviewed the board meeting minutes for January 10, 2023.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Dennis Clark and seconded by Billie Miller to approve the meeting minutes from the January 10, 2023, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. board meeting, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 1 absent)**

## III. CSUSA REPORTS

Students, Tatiana, and Rudy, from Manatee Charter School read a poem together titled "Why I Love My School".

State Director Update

- Dr. Eddie Ruiz updated the board on recent activities which included Area PLAs where each school team presented the mid-year data and mapped out short- and long-term initiatives to improve student outcomes, one of which is utilizing the Pioneer program.
- The Deputy Directors have been reviewing data with each Tier 3 school individually to implement short term initiatives to impact and improve the PM3 testing in the Spring.
- The board reviewed the Tier 3 schools with the Deputy Directors.

The board discussed their Tier 3 schools, with particular attention to Manatee Charter School as that has the lowest prediction rate. Ms. Miller asked specifically what resources have been deployed and has there been a data deep dive to understand if the ed model is being implemented with fidelity.

#### Enrollment FY24 Targets

- The board reviewed the FY24 enrollment targets for each of their schools and discussed the chronically under enrolled schools. Ms. Miller discussed that CSUSA puts too much of marketing on the schools and that the principals are not marketing experts and that is why CSUSA has a marketing department. The expectation of the board is that the principals should be focused 90% on instruction and receive support for operations and marketing from the CSUSA Support Center.
- The board requested a marketing presentation of the CRM utilized as well as, other initiatives from the marketing department.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Dennis Clark and seconded by Pat Smith to accept the CSUSA State Director's Report and FY24 Enrollment Targets, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **IV. FINANCIALS**

##### 2023 Bond Audit Engagement Letter – Keefe McCullough

- The board reviewed the 2023 Bond Audit Engagement Letter from Keefe McCullough for the Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy building and bond project.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Tom Wheeler and seconded by Billie Miller to approve the 2023 Bond Audit Engagement Letter from Keefe McCullough, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### Charter Renewal Updates

- The board discussed the Lee County schools up for renewal. The renewal packets have been sent to the district for review.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Pat Smith to approve the lease by and between Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. (Lee County Community Charter Schools, LLC) as Tenant and Red Apple Red Apple Development, LLC as Landlord, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

##### Out of Field Waivers

- The board reviewed the Out of Field Waivers in the board packet.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Dennis Clark to approve Out of Field and ESOL Waivers, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Special Magistrate Policy

- The board reviewed the Florida Department of Education memo dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regarding New State Board of Education Rule regarding Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints at Charter Schools and the requirements under House Bill 1557 Parental Rights in Education and Rule 6A-6.0791, Florida Administrative Code Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints at Charter Schools.
- The board reviewed the Parental Rights in Education Policy.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Pat Smith and seconded by Billie Miller to approve the Parental Rights in Education Policy including the Special Magistrate policy requirements for the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. portfolio of schools, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Board Chair Ken Haiko adjourned the February 14, 2023, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting at 12:15p.m.



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Ken Haiko, Board Chair

Date: 3-7-23