

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundations: Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc.

Board Meeting: August 27, 2025

Schools and Principals:

Bonita Springs Charter School - Gerschick	Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy – Geary, HoS
Innovation Preparatory Academy of S. Ft. Myers - Laine	Manatee Charter School - Anda
Gateway Charter School – Jenson, HoS	Mid-Cape Global Academy – Lemos
Innovation Preparatory Academy of Naples – Thompson-Panto	

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

Date:	Start	End	Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
August 27, 2025	12:32PM EST	1:18PM EST	October 16, 2025	2:30PM	R. Weaver/ L. Peake
Meeting Location: At Each School Above					
Attended by:					
Board Members: Ken Haiko, Chairman Tom Wheeler, Vice Chair and Secretary Paul Sallarulo, Treasurer Dennis Clark Billie Miller, Director Absent: Pat Smith, Director		Other Attendees: Principals and Parent Facilitators at above listed schools (or their designees) Dr. Eddie Ruiz, State Superintendent of Florida Jeff Spiro, Area 3 Deputy Director Nirvani Ramnath Area 2 Deputy Director Rita Weaver, Sr. Director of Board Governance, CSUSA Leah Peake, Board Governance Manager			

CALL TO ORDER

- Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 12:31 PM EST with a Call to Order by Chairman, Ken Haiko. Roll call was taken, and quorum established.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Board Chairman, Ken Haiko called for public comments.
- Parents for Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy gave public comment:
 - Tom Milbank - stated his concern with the changes at the school surrounding the Head of Schools. Concerns of staff morale, student and teachers leaving, and hostile environment is due to the new structure. Teacher turnover and student retention is hurting the reputation of LRPA.
 - Rebecca Milbank – stated her concerns with the management of the school. Teachers and staff are leaving. Something needs to change.
 - Teresa Orlando – yield time to Mr. Milbank. Mr. Milbank finished his statement: There is a continued disconnect between the school and CSUSA. Local families will not attend LRPA. Record turnover of staff, students, and teachers. Head of School left in the middle of the parent meeting.

- Jaclyn Arrington – represents the elementary school families. Last year ended great and now has concerns over the new administration, teachers leaving. She would like to know the number of teachers the left, how is CSUSA supporting the teachers and staff, what is considered adequately staffed. How to you support the village model? Concerned about the slander of the school on social media. What are we doing to make the school better?
- Cayolyn Presutti – as a former business owner she understands that turnover is detrimental to the school. Why are teachers leaving so early, why are teachers teaching out of field, why does her daughter not have a science teacher. Why can I see a teacher and principals social media account and view their political views and other content.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- **BOARD COMMITTEE**
 - The board reviewed the potential new board member, Matt Ohlson's resumé.
 - Discussion occurred about adding Mr. Ohlson to the Auxiliary Board Membership Committee for a duration of one year.

MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Billie Miller to approve the addition of Matt Ohlson to the Auxiliary Board Membership Committee for a one-year term. (5-0,1 absent)

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. A June 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes
2. FY25 TSIA Final Expenditure Reports
3. FY26 Principal and Parent Facilitator Adoption
4. School Improvement Plan
 - Innovation Preparatory Academy of Naples
5. FY26 CSUSA Internet Policy

MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Dennis Clark to approve the Consent Agenda for Southwest Charter Foundation; Inc. as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 1 absent)

V. FINANCIALS

FY25 Q4 Unaudited Financial Review

- Andres Meza Falconi presented the FY25 Q4 Unaudited Financial.

MOTION: Motion was made by Dennis Clark and seconded by Tom Wheeler to approve the FY25 Q4 Unaudited Financial Review for Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 1 absent)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Gateway Charter School Handbook Addendum

MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Paul Sallarulo to approve the Gateway Charter School Handbook Addendum for Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 1 absent)

Cell Phone Policy

- Mrs. Weaver presented the board the Cell Phone Policy

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Charter Renewals

- Innovation Preparatory Academy of Naples

MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Tom Wheeler to approve the charter Renewal for Innovation Preparatory Academy of Naples. The motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 1)

Charter Amendment VPK

- Innovation Preparatory Academy of Naples
- Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy
- The board discussed adding VPK 3-4 to Innovation Preparatory Academy at Naples.

VIII. CSUSA REPORTS

State Superintendent Update

- District Salary Comparison
- FY25 School Grades
- Human Resources Update
 - Staffing Analysis
- Absentism Update

Board member Miller request the number of international teachers with H1-B Visas and updated staffing numbers as of August 31, 2025. She also requested the payout dates of merit increases and referendum money to staff.

MOTION: Motion was made by Tom Wheeler and seconded by Paul Sallarulo to approve the CSUSA Reports for Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 1 absent)

ADJOURNMENT

- Hearing no objections, Board Chair, Ken Haiko adjourned the August 27, 2025, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting at 1:18 PM EST



Ken Haiko, Board Chair

Date: 10-16-25