

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundations: Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc.

Board Meeting **April 29, 2026**

Schools and Principals:

Bonita Springs Charter School - Gerschick	Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy – McBane, 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:			Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
April 29, 2026	12:32PM EST	1:16PM EST	June 18, 2026	12:00PM	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
 Billie Miller, Director
 Pat Smith, Director
 Matt Ohlson, Member

Absent:

Dennis Clark, Director

Other Attendees:

Principals and Parent Facilitators at above listed schools (or their designees)
 Jeff Spiro, Area 3 Deputy Director
 Levi Williams, Board Attorney
 Leah Peake, Board Governance Manager

CALL TO ORDER

- Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 12:32 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.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Election of Officers

- Appointment of Officers and Directors

MOTION: Motion was made by Pat Smith and seconded by Paul Sallarulo to retain the current slate of officers and directors for the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1)

2. Conflict of Interest

MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Tom Wheeler to approve the conflict-of-interest policy for the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1)

3. Board Book

MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Matt Ohlson to approve the FY26-27 Board Book for the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1)

4. FY26 Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Motion was made by Tom Wheeler and seconded by Matt Ohlson to approve the FY26-27 Meeting Schedule for the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1)

5. Committee Appointments

1. Governance – Paul Sallarulo
2. Education – Billie Miller and Matt Ohlson
3. Finance – Paul Sallarulo and Dennis Clark
4. Community Outreach – Pat Smith

MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Pat Smith to approve the current slate of Committee Appointment for the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1)

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. February 11, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. March 5, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
- C. 26-27 Academic Calendars
 1. Lee County
 2. Collier County
 3. Manatee County
- D. Out of Field Waivers
 1. Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy
- E. A+ Plus School Recognition Funds
 1. Bonita Springs Charter School
 2. Gateway Charter School
 3. Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy

4. Manatee Charter School
 5. Innovation Preparatory Academy of Naples
 6. Innovation Preparatory Academy of S. Ft Myers
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- F. FY26-27 Internet Policy
 - G. Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Single Audit Rep Letter
 - H. Technology Decommissioning
 - I. FY26 YTD February Financial Review
 - J. FY26 YTD February School Financials – Variance Analysis Report
 - K. Parent Student Handbook Template

Ms. Miller Pulled items from the Consent Agenda: 6 & 11

MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Tom Wheeler to approve the Consent Agenda with exception of items 6 & 11 for Southwest Charter Foundation; Inc. as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (7-0, 0 absent)

Discussion on items

FY26-27 Internet Policy

- Billie Miller – Asked how the schools monitor the IT policy and violations of the policy. Dr. Ruiz provided Ms. Miller with an update and answered all her questions.

MOTION: Motion was made by Bille Miller and seconded by Matt Ohlson to approve item 6, FY26-27 Internet Policy, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1)

Parent Student Handbook

- Billie Miller – Asked about the Parent Student Handbook and dress code. Mrs. Weaver and Dr. Ruiz answered all of Ms. Millers questions.

V. Financials

VI. Old Business

- 9th Grade Expansion Update
 - Manatee Charter School
 - Innovation Preparatory Academy South Ft. Myers

MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Billie Miller to approve the opening of 9th grade private school for Manatee Charter School and Innovation Preparatory Academy of South Ft. Myers and enroll as a registered operator under Step-Up for Students (6-0, 1)

- Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Vs. School District of Lee County

MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Pat Smith to accept the Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc vs. School District of Lee County. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1 absent)

VII. New Business

- Dual Enrollment Agreement – Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy and University of South Florida

MOTION: Motion was made by Matt Ohlson and seconded by Billie Miller to accept the Dual Enrollment Agreement between Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy and University of South Floris. Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc vs. School District of Lee County. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1 absent)

- Charter Renewals
 - Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy

MOTION: Motion was made by Paul Sallarulo and seconded by Billie Miller to request a 15-year charter renewal for Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy. (6-0, 1 absent)

VIII. CSUSA Reports

- **State Superintendent Update**
 - Marketing Update
- Dr. Ruiz presented the State Superintendent Update and answered all the board's questions. He congratulated Principal Gifford on the amazing work happening at Treaty Oaks Prep. He thanked the board for everything they do for the schools.
- Dr. Ruiz updated the board on Marketing and Enrollment goals for the 26-27 school year.
- Linda Hall provided the board an update on marketing and enrollment.

MOTION: Motion was made by Billie Miller and seconded by Tom Wheeler to approve CSUSA Report for Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. portfolio of schools as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. (6-0, 1 absent)

ADJOURNMENT

- Hearing no objections, Board Chair, Ken Haiko adjourned the April 29, 2026, Southwest Charter Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting at 1:16 PM EST



Ken Haiko, Board Chair

Date: 6.18.26