



# GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

## *Regular Meeting*

### City of Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board

### **Oasis Middle School - Makerspace**

### **Monday, November 13, 2023**

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Dr. Guido Minaya

A Regular Meeting of the City of Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board of Lee County, Florida, met on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 5:30p.m., at Oasis Middle School - Makerspace, 3507 Oasis Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33914.

#### 2. Moment of Silence

Chair Guido Minaya

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Chair Minaya

#### 4. Roll Call

Dr Guido Minaya (Chair), Kristifer Jackson (Vice), Mykisha Atisele, Karen Michaels, Cathy Stout Parent representatives: Jennifer Hoagland, OHS/SAC, Gregor Schade, OMS, Jose Soto, OES, Caroline Rozeau, OEN

Absent: Keith Long, Dist. 6

Also Present: Jacquelin Collins, Superintendent

Jackie Corey, Principal, OHS

Cyndi Chiorello, AP, OHS

Marybeth Grecsek, Principal, OES

Carrie Abes, AP OES

Kevin Brown, Principal, OEN

Amy Brown, CSA HR Manager

Mark Moriarty, Assistant City Attorney, CCC

**Mark Mason, Finance Director and Interim Human Resources Director, CCC  
Crystal Feast, Deputy Finance Director, CCC  
Andrea Clark, Senior Accountant, CCC  
Jennifer Koehn, Assistant Accounting Manager, CCC  
Damon Grant, Public Works/Facilities Project Manager, CCC  
Gary Cerny, Foundation President  
Christopher Kessler, CPA, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP**

***APPROVED UNANIMOUS* Motion made by Member Atisele, Second by Member Michaels to Allow Chair Minaya to Relinquish the Chair's Gavel to Vice Chair Kristifer Jackson, who will conduct the balance of the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the City of Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board on Monday, November 13, 2023. Unanimous**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

***APPROVED UNANIMOUS* Motion made by Member Michaels, Second by Member Minaya, to Approve the Minutes of the Charter School Authority Regular Governing Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Unanimous.**

**6. Approval of Regular Agenda Meeting**

***APPROVED UNANIMOUS* Motion made by Member Jackson, Second by Member Michaels, to Advance New Business, Item 15A, to Superintendent's Report, Item 9A, and Continue with the Balance of the Agenda, Regular Meeting, November 13, 2023. Unanimous**

**7. Public Comment**

***Oasis Charter School Teachers attended the meeting to share their concerns regarding salary increases that are happening in the School District of Lee County (due to the new pay increase schedules), and not in the Oasis Charter Schools K-12 system.***

- 1. Karen C - Oasis Elem South: current CSA pay isn't career competitive or livable***
- 2. Angela S - Oasis Elem South: current CSA pay doesn't cover the cost of living or affordable housing; many teachers have to supplement their incomes with 2<sup>nd</sup> and sometimes 3<sup>rd</sup> jobs***
- 3. Deanna B - Oasis High: - increasing CSA teacher pay is a good investment because investing in dedicated educators is also an investment in student achievement, and the continued success of the school system and community***
- 4. John B - Oasis High: encouraged superintendent and governing board members to consider the human impact of what not providing an increase and/or providing too low of an increase will have on the morale and livelihood of Oasis teachers and staff***

5. **Christina McL- OHS: this school year transitioned from the District to Oasis only to discover she forfeited an \$11,000 salary increase, however, she loves the CSA and intends to stay**

**Member Michaels: Concerned about the trickle down effect on departing teachers, student performance, and the greater community. She will be asking Mark Mason, City Finance Director, to discuss any options available to address the disparity.**

**Member Atisele: Thanked the teachers for coming together and sharing their concerns and circumstances with the board, and wanted them to know the board supports them and will advocate to the best [of their] ability for them. She also encouraged teachers to attend the next City Council meeting and let them know their situations, as well.**

**Member Jackson: Thanked teachers for bravery of speaking out and sharing their concerns and circumstances. Assured teachers the board will do what they can do to help increase teacher pay.**

**Member Stout: Shared with teachers that if they can't attend a City Council Meeting please e-mail councilmembers. Stout is confident all councilmembers read their e-mails and will respond if possible.**

**Member Minaya: Due to Hurricane Ian affordable housing and cost of living is a major Lee County issue. Mindterm projects like Resilient Lee may possibly provide relief, as well as longer initiatives like the half-cent sales tax can relieve other expenditures for schools outside of capital funding. In the short-term board members will be focused on finding ways to fund higher teacher pays including using some of the new Strategic Plan initiatives.**

## **8. Consent Agenda**

**Motion made by Member Minaya, Second by Member Atisele to Approve the Consent Items as Presented. UNANIMOUS**

**8A APPROVED Request for Approval to Accept the August 2023 Auctioned Funds from the Royal Auction Group, Lot No. 272, Control No. 36140, for the Sale of the 2011 ICC PB105 City of Cape Coral Charter School Authority School Bus in the Amount of \$7,000.00, which is to be added to the Cape Coral Charter School Authority Transportation Budget and Used for Additional Fuel and Expenses.**

**8B APPROVED Request for Approval to Accept the TAPS 24A283, Florida Department of Education Science of Reading Literacy and Tutoring (SoRT) Program FY 2023/24 General Appropriations Nonrecurring Funding, Section 96, in the Amount of \$11,110.26 for Oasis Elementary South that is based on the Third Grade SY 2022-2023 FEFP Fourth Calculation.**

***8C APPROVED Request for Approval to Accept the TAPS 24A283, Florida Department of Education Science of Reading Literacy and Tutoring (SoRT) Program FY 2023/24 General Appropriations Nonrecurring Funding, Section 96, in the Amount of \$9,883.57, for Oasis Elementary North, that is based on the Third Grade SY 2022-2023 FEFP Fourth Calculation.***

**9. Superintendent's Report**

**9A. Presentation of the Cape Coral Charter School Authority Audit Results 2023-Christopher Kessler, CPA, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP**

**9B. STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT: Working on three main goals: Student Achievement, Continuous System Improvement, and Community Engagement. Also discussed innovation platforms, sources of outside revenue for sustainability, and of course, increasing teacher salaries. Final Strategic Planning Retreat Day 3 is December 8, 2023.**

**9C. OHS JROTC CYBER PATRIOTS: The team is #1 in the State of Florida, and #2 in the Nation! Congratulations Oasis Cyber Patriots!**

**10. City Manager's Report**

**Mark Mason, Director of Financial Services, Interim Director, Human Resources, City of Cape Coral**

**NO REPORT**

**11. Chairman's Report**

**Dr. Guido Minaya, Chair: The #1 issue facing our communities right now is workforce recruitment and retention but affordable housing isn't there right now to support communities. Large chunks of funding has been set aside and is coming, but not as fast as we need it, but it's coming our way. Thank you teachers for coming out tonight and letting us hear your voices; we are all working together to support you.**

**Kristifer Jackson, Vice Chair:** Invited all teachers to return to the next governing board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 for a follow-up discussion.

**12. Foundation Report**

**Gary Cerny, Foundation President**

- Rally on the Green final tally incoming but the day was a great success and provides scholarships for students.
- Lighthouse Awards nominations are opening up and the Foundation website is seeing a lot of nomination traffic - the Awards are April 19, 2024

**13. Staff Comment**

**No Activity**

**14. Unfinished Business**

**On October 10, 2023:**

***Motion made by Member Jackson, Second by Member Michaels to have the Superintendent and Assistant City Attorney draft a resolution [regarding proposed new term limits for board members] which will be presented to the CSA Governing Board at their next Regular Meeting, and then presented to the City Council. Unanimous***

**ORDINANCE 84-23:** The Ordinance amends Chapter 26 board member terms to two-year(2) terms for a maximum of two(2) terms, with all terms having the same beginning and end term in the respective years. All current member terms will expire on November 30, 2023 with the option of applying for Council reappointment in December. Everyone must reapply. Initially, terms are three(3) voting members serve one(1)year, and four(4) voting members serve a two(2) year term with the possibility of an additional 2-year term for a maximum four (4) years served. A Public Hearing of this Ordinance is set for October 18, 2023. New Board appointments will be held on December 6, 2023.

**Member Atisele:** Our focus right now should be with the concerns of the teachers we just heard from and how we can support them. The priority and focus should be with the teachers; our time is best spent trying to address as best we can, and advocating for teacher needs.

**Member Michaels:** Asked the board attorney how the proposed resolution would work procedurally since the Ordinance has already been approved. Mark Moriarty, City Attorney advised the board's resolution wouldn't override the Ordinance but it is simply accepted as a board communication to the Council. There is a possibility that at some point should Council could change their mind, the board's current position and communication on this issue would be on record.

**Member Stout:** Reminded everyone that she's here for the students and teachers, and intends to keep focused on supporting them whatever the outcome of how the new terms are applied.

**Member Minaya:** Our board issues are complex and sometimes come with long-term effects. The new terms do not provide enough time for members to gain the appropriate amount of knowledge they will need to make sustainable decisions.

**Member Jackson:** Agrees with Minaya. Since the Ordinance has been approved, the Board should still submit the Resolution for consideration and to get it on record.

***Motion made by Member Minaya, Second by Member Michaels to have the Governing Board Attorney, Mark Moriarty, present the resolution regarding new board term limits to the City Council for consideration. Unanimous***

**15. New Business**

**Item 15A. has been moved to Item 9A.**

**16. Final Board Comment and Discussion**

**Chair Minaya:** Told the teachers [we] don't want to lose you. We don't want to experience what Lee County did because they lost some great teachers - some of whom came here. The youth, the workforce, can't afford to lose you. You have provided enough trust and service that we have to make it work [it] work for you. So it is top priority. We (board members and teachers) have to express your situations to the City Council and whatever the outcome, a decision will be made with eyes wide open.

**Vice Chair Jackson:** Agreed with Minaya and added that we can never lose sight of the children; they are not numbers they are our future. Thanked the Foundation for all they do supporting teachers and student scholarships. Impressed with Strategic Planning Retreat Day 1 and the goals and road maps that were developed. Gave teachers his word by December's meeting the board will hopefully return with some information and perhaps some options.

**Member Michaels:** She is deeply disappointed there was not a City Manager Report from Mark Mason, City Finance Director, because she wanted to ask him about any options for teacher salary increases, and any funding sources that are available, as well as the audit report's overage - could it be used for teacher salaries?

*Mason apologized that he had no further information but he did not attend the Strategic Planning Retreat where teacher pay was discussed. However, he is looking into exactly how the School District of Lee County raised salaries because they received the same amount of funding as as Oasis Charter Schools, so he is looking into how they did what they did, and will share information once it is available.*

*Mason repeated the charter schools live on an "fixed income." However, the last two years the schools have lived off ESSER I, II and III funding approaching about \$5million. When the ESSER funding ends, the schools will be back to utilizing their normal recurring funds for their expenditures and this presents a concern. Mason will return next meeting to answer any financial statement questions the board may have.*

Member Atisele: Enjoyed participating in today's Strategic Planning Retreat. She has also been enjoying the online auctions and thinks it's a great fundraiser and promotes the system well.

Parent Representative Rouzeau/OEN: She has been learning a lot during her short time on the board, and was very touched by the teacher salary impact statements and wants them to know Oasis families appreciate and support them.

Parent Representative Schade/OMS: He asked Mr Mason to find out exactly how the District managed to raise teacher pay and share any information by the next meeting.

Member Atisele has agreed to speak for Member Michaels who will be unable to attend the new term appointment meeting on December 6, 2023 at 2p.m. in City Council Chambers.

17. Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Regular Governing Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2024 at 5:30p.m., at Cape Coral City Council Chambers, 1015 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral 33990

18. Adjournment

The Governing Board Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:53p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Paul-Evans, Secretary

Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board

BOARD  
APPROVED

DEC 12, 2023

CITY OF CAPE CORAL  
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Date of approval

Secretary



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