

cMINUTES OF THE
CAPE CORAL
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
Christa McAuliffe Elementary School
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board of Lee County, Florida, met on March 8, 2016, at Council Chambers, a Regular Governing Board Meeting. Co-Chair Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

INVOCATION: Chair Jackson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
All in attendance

ROLL CALL: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Lucas-Ross, Teblum, Zivkovic

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Buztrey, Assistant City Attorney
Nelson Stephenson, Superintendent, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Shannon Treece, Principal, Oasis Charter High School
Keith Graham, Principal, Oasis Charter Middle School
Steve Hook, Principal, Oasis Charter Elementary School
Jacque Collins, Principal, Christa McAuliffe Charter Elementary School
Danielle Jensen, Director of Procurement and Food Services, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Mary Anne Moniz, Business Manager, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Tod Baldwin, Operations Manager, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
CME: Penny Faulkner, Kathy Rivadeneira, Kevin Rivadeneira, Joana Alves, Stacie DelaCuesta, Kellie Kelly, Lauren Collins, Melissa Meehan, Brandi Bertoni, Heather Fisher, Melissa Downey
OCES: Jean Ricciadella, Ana Dieadue, Radka Rusinko, Alex M., Anne Nowicki, Licille Bifano, John Bifano, Katie Chaney
OMS: Marci Noegel, Rich Valente, Alex Brea, Robbie Reamer, Dan Lumadue, Rebecca Gormley, Heather Kavanagh, Kristen Signore, Lawrence Signore, Lawrence Signore, Jr., Andres Quintana, Lina Quintana, Kelly Jackson
OES, OMS and OHS: Tim Bloch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections for the Regular Governing Board Meeting of February 9, 2016 was made by member Boyer and seconded by member Zivkovic.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA REGULAR MEETING:

Motion was made by member Cosden and seconded by Co-Chair Donaldson to add item 12 D to the agenda: Motion to approve the Technology Infrastructure Plan-Nelson Stephenson

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by Co-Chair Donaldson to approve the amended agenda.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

Motion was made by Co-Chair Donaldson and seconded by member Boyer to change the Next Meeting Date from April 8, 2016 to April 12, 2016.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Mr. Stephenson states that 27 students in the Technology Student Association (TSA) attended the Florida State Conference. They competed in 28 events and placed in the top 10 in 19 of those events. They received a variety of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards; including a 1st place trophy for Overall Charter Spirit. They were ranked 7th overall in the state.

Mr. Stephenson introduced Adam Nowicki, teacher leader of the TSA student group. Mr. Nowicki states that he is here to celebrate the TSA student’s accomplishments and to plant a seed. Mr. Nowicki would

like our system to offer a TSA class at the middle and high school. Other schools we compete against offer TSA classes to their students. There are huge opportunities tied to this organization.

Mr. Nowicki introduced a couple of the TSA officers to speak:

- Oasis Middle School Chapter President Nick Quintana states that he was not 100% on board with having 5th graders on the team. As the year progressed he watched them mature and take things more seriously. If there were a TSA class at Oasis High School he has no doubt their projects would fair extremely well at the Florida State Conferences.
- Oasis Middle School Sergeant at Arms Alexander Brea states the TSA has made a great impact in his life, not only in education but in character. TSA teaches kids leadership, communication, people skills, and technology. By adding a TSA class to middle and high school it will allow our schools more recognition and give the students more opportunities for greatness.
- Christian Lumadue states that the TSA teaches kids more than technology. It teaches interpersonal skills, public speaking, interviewing, and working under pressure. He states that colleges really care about TSA. Winning at TSA competitions looks really great on a college resume. With the boards help and support he would like to make it possible for every student to have a chance to join TSA and make it a class at both the middle and high school.

Mr. Stephenson states that the Light House Award winners have been named. They are:

- CME-Kathy Rivadeneira
- OES-Katie Chaney
- OMS-Andi McCarthy
- OHS-Frank Haba
- Support Person-Paul Pescatrice

Mr. Stephenson states that we received an email from the Department of Education that recognized 273 Lee County public school teachers as High Impact Teachers. The following were recognized from the Charter School Authority:

- CME- Carrie Abes, Kathleen Dooley, Diane Fenton, Michelle Fogle, Tanya Sykes
- OHS-Shannon George, Matt Laubhan, Lisa Stevens
- OMS-Kristen Totten
- Former CCCCSA teachers: Amy Elizabeth Reynolds and Melanie Lavengood

Mr. Stephenson thanks the Governing Board and the administrative team for their effort to get NEOLA updated. This is the framework for our rules and how we operate. Staff members will have access to the bylaws and policies. Hopefully they will be posted in April.

Mr. Stephenson thanks Penny Faulkner for updating our websites. She has spent hours working on them and still has a lot to do. The new websites will allow more consistency across all grades.

Mr. Stephenson states that we are heading for an AdvancEd/SACS accreditation process. Other reviewers will come in and look at our system to see what we are doing right, what we can do better and some of the things we are doing right that we can share with others. Mr. Stephenson gave an AdvancEd overview.

Mr. Stephenson recognizes present staff members that have been working on the accreditation. There is a team of about 40 staff members working on the accreditation.

Mr. Stephenson states that each of the governing board members will need to complete the Self-Assessment Workbook for School Systems as part of the AdvancEd process. Mr. Stephenson states he would like these returned to him by March 14, 2016.

Mr. Stephenson states that we will have a budget workshop. The principals will state the case for the things they need and are interested in having and adding. The board will have a say in making this budget.

Mr. Stephenson states that he wants to recognize two of the governing board members whose service has come to an end. They have been serving with us and doing a great job on our board.

Mr. Stephenson states Ms. Tammy Anderson's service is appreciated and has been invaluable. You can see the results and fruit of her labor in the growth over time.

Mr. Stephenson states that he would like to thank Mr. Daryl Teblum for what he has done for our system, especially on the financial side by working on and securing grants.

Mr. Stephenson states that a board meeting has been called for May 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm at the council chambers. Board members will receive the accreditation report. No vote will be taken.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Chair Jackson thanks members Anderson and Teblum for all their hard work.

Chair Jackson states there was a little bus incident but everyone was kept informed and everyone was ok. Our bus did nothing wrong.

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Mr. Hook states that the foundation and the four schools are working very well together on the Rally. Ticket sales are in full swing and we've had good support from the community. The Rally will be held March 20, 2016 from 12:00-6:00 p.m. The raffle for the Jamaican cruise will be held around 5:00 p.m. There will also be about 20 other great prizes given away along with some great entertainment and food.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jean Ricciadella states that she had a wonderful time as a TSA chaperone during their competition trip. She was able to watch firsthand the team's integrity and character, team building, communication skills, problem solving, autonomy and critical thinking. We were out sourced, out funded and outnumbered. Imagine what our kids could do if TSA were offered as a class at middle and high school. The April

budget workshop is a great time to discuss this. She challenges the board to make our children number one and to push them forward.

Discussion held

Rich Valente states that he was a chaperone on the TSA 2016 Florida Conference trip. Our middle school had a strong showing at the conference but our high school had no participation. The conference showed that some counties are putting great resources behind TSA. He would love to see the program expanded and the resources made available to make this a full time program at both OMS and OHS. There were 1600 students at this year's conference; there were 1200 last year so you can see the growth. The kids did a fantastic job.

Dan Lumadue states that it was his privilege to be the parent of a TSA student and to attend the state competition in Orlando a couple of weeks ago. He has spent many years working with teenagers in different venues. He was excited to watch many values emerge through the TSA program. Advance planning, goal setting, teamwork and discipline were evident in the student's preparation as well as the actual competition. Success also builds confidence in our students. The playing field is not level; our students compete against others who have TSA as a class not just a club. He would like to make the field level by offering TSA as a class. He urges the board to invest in the TSA program.

Kathy Rivadeneira states that she has been asked to read a letter on behalf of several teachers and staff at Christa McAuliffe. The letter was written after the January board meeting. Several CME Teachers are concerned with how a particular situation was handled at the January meeting. Board meetings are held during times when teachers are not able to attend. Teachers would like to see the meeting times changed. As teachers we try to act in a professional manner and when we see our board member act in a way contrary to this standard it causes concern and embarrassment. The opinion of the students being unsafe and field trips being discriminatory is not the general opinion of CME staff. Nothing has been added or taken away to cause any sudden concern or begin to indicate discrimination in any way. Please consider this a public response from certain staff members that we adamantly disagree with the actions and accusations from the board member who questioned the CME principal. We are 100% confident in our administrative staff's ability to keep our students safe and provide field trips for all students within the curriculum established at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School.

Krista Zivkovic states the first reason she is here is to support the TSA group. Mr. and Mrs. Nowicki have been amazing and their efforts do need to be congratulated. The TSA group is just a small portion of how great our school system is. Due to the influence of Mr. Nowicki and the TSA group her son can help with anything technologically and while kids are playing Xbox he is creating websites. The opportunity is there but it is very small. Students need more than half a year of technology. We have an amazing system but let's make it even more amazing. She states that she would like the board's support for a middle and high school TSA class.

Krista Zivkovic states that she volunteers as OMS track coach, assisting Coach Montag. Right now they are running on a grass field and using their imagination to run in lanes. She thinks it might be a good time to ask the City of Cape Coral for funding to build a track and field arena or sports complex. We are losing bright kids to other schools because we don't offer certain sports. She requests the board to ask the city for the funding.

STAFF AND BOARD COMMENT:

Chair Jackson called Mrs. Zivkovic back to the podium to discuss the job shadow program. Mrs. Zivkovic currently allows students to shadow her with patients in her medical practice.

Discussion held

Member Zivkovic states that it is nice to have other people at the meeting.

Member Zivkovic states that the board is appointed by city council to oversee our charter school system. We have very limited power.

Member Zivkovic states that we get part of our funding from tax dollars. Lee County School Board has elected to keep some of the funds. We are working on trying to get some of this funding back into our system. We do a lot with a lot less.

Member Zivkovic states that the TSA program epitomizes what a STEM program is all about.

Member Zivkovic states that he is in support of making TSA into a class.

Member Zivkovic states that we have to be a loud voice to the city. Good intentions have to be followed up with action.

Member Zivkovic thanks the teachers for speaking their voice.

Member Zivkovic states that Mr. Nowicki inspires and excites his kids. We have a lot of good teachers.

Member Teblum states that TSA is definitely something we need to look at expanding. Private partnerships and grants may be the way to fund TSA.

Member Teblum states that TSA should be a part of STEM. STEM includes technology so why shouldn't we have a full time technology class offered to all students who would like to be a part of it?

Member Teblum states that today is his last day on this board and he is thankful to have been on the board. He has met some amazing people and he is glad he was a part of this great system.

Member Boyer thanks everyone for attending the board meeting.

Member Boyer congratulates the Light House Award Winners and the other teachers who participated.

Member Boyer thanks Kelly Jackson for coordinating the Light House Awards.

Member Boyer states that we have two evening meetings a year to allow teachers and parents to participate. If parents and teachers would come and be active in the evening meetings the board could work on offering more evening meetings.

Co-Chair Donaldson states that it is a thrill to see the TSA students. As a retired teacher she knows what it is to watch a child grow and perform and feel good about themselves. It's about the whole child not just the academic child.

Co-Chair Donaldson recognizes the TSA parents.

Member Cosden states that she is definitely in support of expanding TSA.

Member Cosden states that TSA should be cautious if planning to go before city council. She urges them to speak with her first as she is the council liaison to the governing board.

Member Cosden states there is a new tax and assessment that city council will use to catch up on capital projects.

Member Anderson states that it has been a pleasure to serve on this board.

Member Anderson states that she is proud of the TSA group and congratulates them on a job well done.

Member Lucas-Ross congratulates the TSA and states that she knows the amount of work that went into their competition.

Member Lucas-Ross states that she supports expanding TSA.

Director of Procurement and Food Services

Danielle Jensen states that January numbers were favorable to budget.

Danielle Jensen states that year-to-date revenues were slightly down in December but have gained against budget and we are favorable in our expenses.

Danielle Jensen states the freezer went down at OES and it will take a week to ten days to be repaired. Schools will share freezer space and the orders will be changed this week to make it work.

Danielle Jensen states that she has been working on submitting her budget, which will be reviewed at next month's budget meeting.

Danielle Jensen states the contracts for the new landscaping vendors have been completed.

Danielle Jensen states that she continues to get quotes for the \$100,000.00 capital list.

Danielle Jensen states that the OMS gym curtain has been installed and we now have separation between our elementary and middle school students.

Danielle Jensen states that she will continue to get A/C quotes.

Danielle Jensen states they have met with our security vendor and they are helping us to focus on what our long term goals for security should be.

Danielle Jensen states that we have been working with the city IT department. John Carrington has been working with our IT team on the specs for the infrastructure project.

Christa McAuliffe Charter Elementary School

Jacque Collins states the K-Kids were awarded a banner from the Lymphoma Society for raising \$3,000.00.

Jacque Collins states that the Wounded Warriors Boot Camp will be held in May. They will be selling t-shirts to earn money that will go to the Wounded Warriors Anglers Club in Matlacha.

Jacque Collins states that CME has raised \$13,567.00 to date for the Rally.

Jacque Collins states they are working on the accreditation process and it is taking a lot of time, a lot of effort, and a lot of data collection.

Jacque Collins shows a short video of Ms. Stafford's class reciting the vision and mission statements which they have memorized.

Oasis Charter Elementary School (OES)

Steve Hook congratulates the TSA team. Mr. and Mrs. Nowicki and lots of people put in endless hours to make their success happen.

Steve Hook states the Odyssey of the Mind team attended another competition and all teams did well.

Steve Hook states they had great reviews on their production of Shrek.

Steve Hook states they had VPK registration over the past week.

Steve Hook states their PTO has been in full swing.

Steve Hook states Mr. Fennell and Ms. Chaney have been working on accreditation.

Steve Hook states their goal is to expand the horizon and look at things differently. Technology is an integral part of what we do every day.

Discussion held.

Oasis Charter Middle School (OMS)

Keith Graham states the FSA writes exam went without a glitch. He thanks Mr. Theriault for setting up the computer rooms and all the technology necessary for the testing. He also thanked Ms. O'Reilly for scheduling the testing so it doesn't impact the teachers too much.

Keith Graham states the STEM groups went to the Yacht Club to participate in the Sea Perch activities.

Keith Graham states the Odyssey of the Mind group did well in the regional tournament in Riverdale.

Keith Graham states the Youth in Government group went to competition in Haines City and did very well.

Keith Graham congratulates the TSA group and the Nowicki's for an outstanding job at the competition.

Keith Graham states that Mr. Nowicki is this year's Chamber of Commerce Award recipient.

Keith Graham states that OMS is working on accreditation.

Keith Graham states that Ms. McLain, Ms. Porfidio and himself will be attending the Deeper Learning Conference in San Diego, California.

Keith Graham states they have collected \$7,750.00 dollars for the Rally.

Keith Graham states that he plans to increase TSA. Mr. Nowicki will help find someone who can teach TSA as a class.

Keith Graham states that he is planning to expand the STEM program.

Keith Graham states that every teacher will implement STEM lessons.

Discussion held.

Oasis Charter High School (OHS)

Shannon Treece congratulates the TSA team and says she cannot wait until they transition to OHS.

Shannon Treece states that next generation learners require a much different approach. What used to work will not be sufficient for these students.

Shannon Treece states that it is critical to begin looking at all of the opportunities across the board.

Shannon Treece states that AICE is a critical foundation for our students but we have to expand that vision beyond just AICE preparation.

Shannon Treece states that if we can make cross curricular connections then it is likely to be more meaningful for students.

Shannon Treece states that there are already conversations being held at OHS in reference to creating a position for a course such as TSA. They are also discussing how to team teachers so that a core group of teachers would share students.

Shannon Treece congratulates OHS Light House winner Frank Haba. He is not the typical PE teacher, he is above the bar.

Shannon Treece states that Light House Support Person winner, Paul Pescatrice, is stationed at OHS. She states he is like a miracle worker.

Shannon Treece states that testing coordinator Charlene Long has done a fabulous job scheduling the testing and making it flow.

Shannon Treece states that OHS is currently fully staffed. OHS is being very critical of who they hire and who they bring in. We aren't settling, we are looking for rock stars.

Shannon Treece states that she appreciates the board's work on the NEOLA policies. It will allow them some leverage at the school level to look at their own building policies.

Shannon Treece states the English language arts department has been working on their curriculum maps and they are due to Principal Treece by March 17, 2016.

Shannon Treece states that the math department is meeting on March 16, 2016 and they will have the same procedures for curriculum mapping.

Shannon Treece states they haven't spent a lot of time on scheduling due to accreditation. The accreditation process has been time consuming but it has allowed us to hone in on where our gaps are.

Shannon Treece states that OHS is hosting the first Google Boot Camp in SW Florida on May 14, 2016. It will be open to any teacher in our area. If it fills up, we get 3 free seats. This will allow teachers to get Google certified.

Shannon Treece states that she is attending the Deeper Learning Conference. It is critical to get out and see what the best schools in the country are doing.

Shannon Treece states that tomorrow, March 9, 2016, she is hosting two parent sessions. One will be at 8:00 am and the second will be at 6:00 pm. She plans to address what has happened up to this point in the school year and be very transparent with the parents. They plan to air it live on Google Hangout for those who cannot be there in person.

Shannon Treece states the rally is not doing real well at OHS. They have tried to put out some good prizes but nothing seems to be working.

Discussion held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Strategic Plan-Nelson Stephenson

One of the things identified for the strategic plan was the CME expansion. Once we finish with accreditation the focus will switch to removing the modular classrooms.

Next month the employee salaries will presented to the board. We have been working very hard and are excited to bring a plan for teachers' pay.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the 2016-2017 Charter School Authority Calendar-Nelson Stephenson

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Boyer to approve the 2016-2017 Charter School Authority Calendar.

Discussion held.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All "Ayes," motion carries.

B. Approval of the Administrative Office-Lease Negotiation Proposal-Nelson Stephenson

Motion was made by member Boyer and seconded by Member Teblum to approve the Administrative Office-Lease Negotiation Proposal.

Discussion held.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All "Ayes," motion carries.

C. Approval of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate Invoice of \$130,411.82-Shannon Treece

Motion was made by member Boyer and seconded by co-chair Donaldson to approve the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate Invoice of \$130,411.82.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

D. Approval of the Technology Infrastructure Plan-Nelson Stephenson

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Cosden to approve the Technology Infrastructure Plan.

Discussion held.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Jackson, Teblum, Zivkovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

Member Teblum stated that Mrs. Faulkner did an amazing job on the websites.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

Regular Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday April 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Council Chambers.
Regular Board Meeting followed by Budget Workshop in the Green Room.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Arthur
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Cape Coral Charter School Authority