

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc.
 Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC.

Board Meeting: **August 22, 2024**

Schools - Principals:

Clay Charter Academy–Brian Gifford	Southshore Charter Academy – Amy Sams
Creekside Charter Academy–Sherly Laguerre	Union Park Charter Academy – Meagan Smith
College Preparatory Academy at Wellen Park - Britton	Waterset Charter School – Farrell Thomas
Henderson Hammock Charter School– Brittney Romeo	Winthrop Charter School – Terry Johnson
Innovation Preparatory Academy – Danielle Reynolds	Winthrop College Prep Academy – Tim Greenier
Keys Gate Charter School – Corinne Baez	Woodmont Charter School – Marvin Jones

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 22, 2024	4:03 pm	5:15 pm	September 26, 2024	1:00 pm	R.Weaver/ L. Peake

Meeting Location:

On-Site Location: At each school listed above

Attended by:

Board Members:

Valora Cole – Chair
 Eric Johnson – Vice-Chair
 Randy Walker – Treasurer
 Dr. Steve Knobl – Director
 Andrea Coyle - Director

Absent: None

Other Attendees:

Principals and Parent Facilitators of Above-Mentioned Schools
 Board Attorney Levi Williams
 Dr. Eddie Ruiz, Florida State Superintendent
 Dr. Nirvani Ramnath, Area 3 Deputy Director
 Rita Weaver, Sr. Governing Board Director
 Leah Peake, Board Governance Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 4:03 p.m. with a Call to Order by Board Chair Valora Cole. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken, and quorum established.

- Vice Chair Johnson, reiterated the need to start meetings in a timely manner to honor the time of those in attendance.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Board Chair Valora Cole asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- There were no Administrative Items.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- There were no Committee Reports.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of June 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 2. TSIA Final Expenditure Reports
 3. Principal and Parent Facilitator Appointment
 4. CSUSA Internet Policy
 5. Memorandum of Understanding between Florida Charter Education Foundation and Southshore United Methodist Church for Southshore Charter Academy
 6. Miami-Dade Referendum Settlement Agreement
 7. FL Progressive Disciplinary Policy
 8. Out of Field Waivers
 - South Shore Charter Academy
- Board Vice-Chair, Eric Johnson pulled item 2. TSIA Final Expenditure Report from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Randy Walker to approve the Consent Agenda excluding item # 2, TSIA Final Expenditure Reports, for Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 0 absent)

Pulled Items from Consent

Item 2. TSIA Final Expenditure Report

- Mrs. Weaver provided an update on the TSIA Final Expenditure Report, she stated that the state Florida Legislature approved an initiative to increase teacher salary to a base rate of \$47,500. The distribution included in the packet is the actual disbursement of those allocated funds and aligns with the plan previously approved by the governing board.
- Vice Chair Johnson commended the good work that CSUSA and the board is doing to adhere to the legislative advice and direction from the Governor's office to provide a base salary of \$47,500 for our teachers. We are doing our best to ensure our teachers are paid competitively for the work they do. Teachers are one of the most valuable assets we have and thus ensuring a quality education for our students.

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Steve Knobl approve the TSIA Final Expenditure Report for Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (5-0, 0 absent)

V. CSUSA REPORTS

State Superintendent Update

- State Superintendent, Eddie Ruiz, provided the board an update on the start of the school year. Impact training, New Teacher Orientation, and Returning Teacher Orientation.

- Dr. Eddie Ruiz provided the board with updates on Principal Leadership Academy changes and deputy-level leadership changes.
- Deputy Ramnath provided the board with an update on school grades.
- Dr. Ruiz stated that school goals would be discussed at the September meeting.
- Dr. Ruiz noted the challenges to the start of the school year including Air Conditioning issues, and carline procedures. He stated that all issues were continuing to improve.
- Deputy Ramnath provided the board with an update on school grades.
- Vice Chair Johnson commended the schools that were very close to achieving the next school higher school grade. He is happy we have high goals and continue to push the schools each year.
- Vice Chair Johnson is very concerned with the learning gains and lack of growth at Winthrop Charter School. He stated that he understands an occasional slip; however, a double digit in proficiency is unacceptable. What steps are being taking to remedy this and ensure growth next year. We have a great staff at the school and state level and next year we need to ensure next year these numbers are higher. We cannot rest on our laurels.
- Vice Chair Johnson highlighted the growth at the high school. He congratulated Principal Greenier for getting the school to a "B" in his short time at WCPA. You have done a "tremendous job with this." He challenged Principal Greenier to take the high school to a "A" new year.
- Vice Chair Johnson said the CSUSA Governance team did an amazing job at the Board Retreat. The time was very beneficial, having a collaborative conversation with other boards and an environment to improve the ability to work together to help students and parents be successful within our system. Everyone in attendance came out knowing more than they did. He looks forward to continued growth as a board member.
- Vice Chair Johnson said the Florida education team is very supportive and always listens to his concerns.
- Chairwoman Cole commended the board, CSUSA, and the State Team for always being proactive in addressing any issues or concerns with any school. They work together collaboratively to bring solutions to the issue. She stated that change is inevitable, and we must always grow. She thanked the governance team for all the work they put into the retreat and they expertise they provide.

Winthrop Charter School Expansion

- Dr. Ruiz provided the board an update on the expansion of Winthrop Charter School
- He noted that there were traffic issues, and they are working on the procedures and they issues are getting better each day.
- Randy Walker left at the meeting at 4:54pm.
- Dr. Knobl thanked the team for the hard work and encouraged every to use the date to drive instruction.
- Andrea Colye stated she was pleased with the grades and encouraged the schools to keep up the good work.

- Board Vice Chair, Eric Johnson stated the addition of new buildings at Winthrop has caused some traffic issues, however, they are manageable, and he hopes the developer, or the county will provide some assistance to ensure safety of the students. The new buildings look spectacular.

VI. FINANCIALS

Hamlin Capital Engagement Letter

- The board reviewed the Hamlin Capital Engagement Letters as presented by board attorney Levi Williams and Governance Manager, Leah Peake

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Steve Knobl to approve the Hamlin Capital Engagement Letter. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Rescind Innovation Preparatory School 3 CSP Grant

- The board reviewed the Innovation Preparatory School 3 CSP Grant and discussed the lack of availability of land making it necessary to defer the opening of the school to 2026.

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Andrea Coyle to rescind the Innovation Preparatory School 3 CSP Grant, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Winthrop College Prep Academy Charter Renewal

- The board reviewed Winthrop College Prep Academy Charter Renewal. Vice Chair Johnson commended Principal Greenier on attaining the "B" and the leverage this provides during the renewal process.

Lease Agreement between Red Apple at Apollo Beach, LLC and Florida Charter Education Foundation, Inc.

- The board reviewed the Lease Agreement between Red Apple at Apollo Beach, LLC and Florida Charter Education Foundation, Inc. as presented by Board Attorney Levi Williams.
- Ms. Colye stated in reviewing the documents and property for rent in the area, the lease prices was fair based on the size and location of the building.

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Andrea Coyle to approve the Lease Agreement between Red Apple at Apollo Beach, LLC and Florida Charter Education Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)

FY26 Hillsborough County School Calendar

- The board reviewed the FY26 Hillsborough County School Calendar

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Steve Knobl to approve the FY26 Hillsborough County School Calendar for Florida Charter Education Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)

Keys Gate Use Agreement

- The board reviewed the Keys Gate Use Agreement.

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Andrea Coyle to approve the Keys Gate Use Agreement for Florida Charter Education Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)

- Vice-Chair Johnson asked the board to come together for Strategic Planning.

MOTION: Motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Andrea Coyle to have Rita Weaver from CSUSA and the external affairs team start the process of Strategic Planning and bring it back to the board within the next 60 days with the next steps for the Strategic Planning for Florida Charter Education Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)

IX. ADJOURMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Eric Johnson and seconded by Steve Knobl to adjourn the Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC. August 22, 2024, Board Meeting at 5:15 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 1 absent)



Valora Cole, Chair

Date: 11/5/24