

# MEETING MINUTES

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

Board Meeting: **November 30, 2023**

Schools - Principals:

Clay Charter Academy–Brian Gifford	Southshore Charter Academy – Amy Sams
Creekside Charter Academy–Sherly Laguerre	Union Park Charter Academy – Kristen Land
College Preparatory Academy at Wellen Park - Britton	Waterset Charter School – Dr. Chad McBane
Henderson Hammock Charter School–Nirvani Ramnath	Winthrop Charter School – Terry Johnson
Innovation Preparatory Academy – Meagan Smith	Winthrop College Prep Academy – Timothy 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:
November 30, 2023	4:02 pm	5:17 pm	February 8, 2023	4:00 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

**Absent: None**

### Other Attendees:

Principals and Parent Facilitators of Above-Mentioned Schools  
Board Attorney Levi Williams  
Dr. Eddie Ruiz, Florida State Superintendent  
LaShonda White, Area 1 Deputy Director  
Andres Falconi, Finance Director, CSUSA  
Adam M. , Finance, CSUSA  
Rita Weaver, Sr. Governing Board Director  
Leah Peake, Board Governance Manager

## CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 4:02 p.m. with a Call to Order by Board Vice-Chair Eric Johnson. Roll call was taken, and quorum established.

## Pledge of Allegiance

- Vice-Chair Eric Johnson asked Principal Greenier to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

### I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Board Vice-Chair Eric Johnson asked for public comments. There were none.

### II. ADMINISTRATIVE

#### Approval of the September 28, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

- The board reviewed the meeting minutes of the September 28, 2023, Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC. (“FCEF-BACF”) Meeting.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Randy Walker to approve the September 28, 2023, Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, Meeting Minutes, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

### **III. CSUSA REPORTS**

- Vice-Chair Eric Johnson moved the CSUSA Report further down on the agenda.

### **IV. FINANCIALS**

#### FY23 Audit Review

- Mrs. Weaver presented the FY23 Audit Review completed by Keefe McCullough CPA Firm to the board. The FY23 Audit results were an unmodified opinion, which is the highest assurance the auditors can give. There were no financial issues noted and no uncorrected statements to be made.
- Randy Walker, Board Treasurer, provided the board with an update from his meeting with the finance committee.
- Vice-Chair Johnson thanked to schools and management company for the work leading to an unmodified opinion for the FY23 Audit Review.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Randy Walker and seconded by Steve Knobl to approve the FY23 Audit Review, for the Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, portfolio of schools, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

#### Q1FY24 Financial Review

- Adam Maali, Senior Financial Analysis, CSUSA, presented the board the Q1FY24 Financial Review.
- Mr. Walker provide an update on his meeting with the financial team pertaining to the Q1FY24 Financial Review.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Randy Walker and seconded by Steve Knobl to approve the Q1FY24 Financial Review for Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

#### FY24 Charter School Salary Distribution Plan

- The board reviewed the FY24 Charter School Salary Distribution Plan as presented.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Randy Walker to approve the FY24 Charter School Salary Distribution Plan, Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### Classical K-12 Charter Application – Sarasota

- Mrs. Weaver provided the board with an update on the Classical K-12 Charter Application.
- Dr. Knobl asked if this school would be a lottery system like other charter schools? Mrs. Weaver provide the information on how the lottery system would work for the new school.

- Vice-Chair Johnson stated his pleasure with CSUSA on preparing the Classical Model for the new application. He stated that this model shows we are at the forefront of offering education opportunities in Florida and other states.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Randy Walker to accept the filing of a Classical K-12 Charter Application in Sarasota County on behalf of Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

Lake County Charter MSID Application Name Change: Groveland Preparatory Academy

- Mrs. Weaver presented the board with the Lake County Charter MSID Application Name Change from Groveland Preparatory Academy to Cherry Lake Preparatory Academy.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Randy Walker and seconded by Valora Cole to approve the MSID name change from Groveland Preparatory Academy to Cherry Lake Preparatory Academy. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

Special Magistrate Parental Rights in Education Policy

- Mrs. Weaver presented the board the Special Magistrate Parental Rights in Education Policy for ratification.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Valora Cole and seconded by Steve Knobl to approve the ratification of the Special Magistrate Parental Rights Policy. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Business Development

- Mrs. Weaver presented the board with the opportunity to file a Letter of Intent in Polk County for new charter school applications.
- Vice-Chair Johnson commended the team for providing new business development opportunities.
- Dr Ruiz stated that Polk County will be adjusting the district education model to focus on magnet programs and low enrollment schools.
- Vice-Chair Johnson stated his concern with having three charters at the same time in a new county. He asked if one charter should be done first then follow with the other applications. He also asked if we could fill the schools with the current growth rate.
- Dr. Ruiz stated that filling the schools would not be an issue.
- Mrs. Weaver reminded the board the requested action at this meeting is to approve the issuing of a letter of intent. She stated the number of schools could be decided at the February meeting or another date by the board. More research could be done by CSUSA to obtain more information to make an informed decision in February.
- Dr. Knobl agreed to move forward as planned and issue the Letter of Intent in Polk County.
- Chairwoman Cole agreed with Dr. Knobl in issuing the Letter of Intent. She feels that more than one school is necessary.
- Board Attorney Levi Williams asked the board to clarify the concertation for expansion in Polk County.
- Vice-Chair Johnson stated his concern is the timeline for growth. He wants to ensure that growth is steady and not all at once. He also wants clarification on the location for the schools. He asked if we could approve the Letter of Intent and readdress at the February meeting.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Valora Cole to approve the filing of a Letter of Intent in Polk County for one charter application. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

Vice-Chair Johnson turned the meeting over the Chairwoman Cole.

CSP Grant Application Update

- The board reviewed the CSP Grant Application Update for Innovation Preparatory Academy 3 and College Preparatory Academy at Wellen Park by Mrs. Weaver.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Randy Johnson to approve the CSP Grant Application for Innovation Preparatory Academy 3 and College Preparatory Academy at Wellen Park with the approval of the General Education Provision Act Plan. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

Out of Field Waivers

- The board reviewed the out of field waivers for:
  - Creekside Charter Academy
    - K. Abrahams
    - E. Butler
    - C. Contreras
    - C. Fahie
    - K. Ferdinand
    - R. Granda
    - J. Himes
    - S. Jean
    - J. Mitchell
    - M. Montas
    - K. Nicely
    - J. Richardson
    - T. Woolley
    - M. Zacherl
  - Southshore Charter Academy
    - Bukowski, Christian
    - Pacheco-Ortiz, Angely
    - Raulerson, Kayla
    - Akana, Rachel
    - Gosizk, Tonimarie
    - Boyd, Meghan
    - McClendon, Alecia
    - Rugel-Cacciatore, Jenna
    - Bridges, Jessica
    - Brown, Makeitha
    - Chase, Janie
    - Greene, Wanya
    - Guilbaud, Marthe
    - Hughes, Robin
    - Nicholson, Sasha
    - Osisek, Ameila

- Pepe, Girlie
- Reyes, Carmen
- Rosado, Sonia
- Rosario, Nancy
- Thomas, Naomi
- Troyer, Julia
- Zintel, Amber
- Rodriguez, Nathaniel
- Murphy, Miiya
- Waterset Charter School
  - Sonja Armstrong
  - Maria Barbin
  - Tacita Bowen
  - Cayla Contreras
  - Brandy Darr
  - Nicole DeCicco
  - Scott Ehrlich
  - Justone Ellison Sharp
  - Rachel Espinosa
  - Owen Heckman
  - Kaitlin Horch
  - Peggy Hovey
  - Tina Keating
  - Prova Ciree Lafuente Martin
  - Janice Leavitt
  - Marci Lewis
  - Faith Lissitz
  - Kylee Macy
  - Heidi Mahoney
  - Jessica Marano
  - Lacita Meggs
  - Tracey Mineo
  - Lauren Mossing
  - Carmen Prada
  - Cecilia Rhoads
  - Kathryn Rivera-Torres
  - Whitney Rodriguez
  - Lanitra Sanchez-Moore
  - Taylor Stapleton
  - Kelli Starks-Harris
  - Lauren Swain
  - Rhonda Vogt
  - Andrew Von Preysing
  - Taylor Wilcox
  - Jessica Wright-Lester
  - Megan Wood
  - Margaret Woodward-Thym (Adams)
- Winthrop Charter School
  - Kimberly Fowler
  - Kelsey Samples

- Kristahl Parker
- Katelyn Reid (Mack)
- Danyele Schneider
- Sara Azinger
- Willie Brown
- Chelsey Williams
- Erika Ford
- Vickie Trice
- Nickolas Ayers
- Jill Maxwell
- Ernest Watkins
- Winthrop College Preparatory Academy
  - Colon, Celines
  - Combs, Karen
  - Cunningham, Andrew
  - Morakis, Michael
  - Cox, Amanda
  - Medina, Emily
  - Peer, Kylee
- Woodmont Charter School
  - Rosemarie Sledge
  - Gabriela Avila
  - Pamela Elliott
  - Jeff Chandler
  - Dafe Eslabon
  - Anastasia Whitehead
  - Aleous Chambers
  - Brenda Ellis
  - Dwayne Watts

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Randy Walker to approve out of field waivers, for the above-mentioned schools as presented. Motion was approved unanimously. (4-0, 0 absent)**

Agreement to Earn

- The board reviewed the Agreement to Earn at Woodmont Charter School.
- Vice-Chair Johnson stated his displeasure with the Agreement to Earn. He noted that we need to have highly qualified teachers and this teacher did not uphold her part. Mr. Johnson stated that we will not be approving any more agreements to earn after this point. He will not approve out of field waivers for teachers and then not have them follow through with the commitments that they make.
- Dr. Knobl said he agreed with Vice-Chair Johnson and if this issue was coming to them in May, then he would be voting a different way. However, with it being mid-school year he does not want to put the school in a bind and will agree to this to keep stability within the school.
- Randy Walker agreed with the other board members and the teacher needs to follow through with the agreed upon commitments.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Steve Knobl and seconded by Randy Walker to approve the Agreement to Earn. Motion was approved. (3-1, 0 absent)**

Chairwoman Cole called State Superintendent Dr. Ruiz to present his report to the board.

### III. CSUSA REPORTS

#### State Director Update

- Dr. Ruiz thanked the Board for their volunteer work and for attending the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event.
- Dr Ruiz presented the School Report Cards for the schools in the portfolio.
- He provided an update on the accountability retreat and the roll Marketing and Enrollment plays in moving the schools forward.
- New school grades should be issued from the state before winter break.
- Tier 3 schools are continuing to receive support at a State Level
- He reviewed the Tier 3 FTE results and discussed the initiatives for schools with low enrollment, including Keysgate.
- Dr. Ruiz stated that Keysgate is moving forward and working on new initiatives to improve the school. The management company review the possibility of combining charters for Keysgate. However due to the bond issuances belonging to different boards, Keysgate cannot be combined and will need to remain as two charters.
- Dr Ruiz reviewed the Fall Survey results. The FECF/BACF schools have scored higher in almost every category compared to other schools across the network.

### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: A motion was made by Randy Walker and seconded by Steve Knobl to adjourn the Florida Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. and Bay Area Charter Foundation, LLC. November 30, 2023, Board Meeting at 5:17 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**



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Valora Cole, Chair

Date: 2/08/2024