

January 6, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the **CHARTER ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order by Chair Siddiqui, on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:03 P.M. at the East Elementary School Campus Cafeteria, 10800 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida. All stood for the pledge.

2025-2026 CHARTER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD:

PRESENT: Chair Imran Siddiqui, Members Kavita Amar, Cecilia Albornoz, Mark Phillips, Brandon Carrero, Karla McLaren, Diana Lee Baptiste,

ABSENT: Vice Chair Donald Nicolas, Member Bonnie Ng, Brian Cha, Nida Govaria, Alternate Members Bryan Fayer, Theodore Daniel

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan Bonilla, Assistant City Manager, Nalini Sohit-Vazquez, Controller, Principals Chance, Castello, Augustin and Maraj, Board Secretary Katherine Borgstrom

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jonathan Bonilla stated that the School Lottery for 2026-2027 opened on January 2 and will run through February 10. All returning students will need to re-enroll using the lottery portal. To date over 3,000 applications have been received.

Nalini Sohit-Vazquez spoke about the fundraising efforts for the charter schools by listing the various areas of participation, which include the parent donation, corporate banners and sponsorships, parent banners, email blasts from partnerships and dress down days. Ms. Sohit-Vazquez also reported on the Giving Tuesday on December 2. She stated that the Florida Pre-Paid College Scholarship Raffle Fundraiser will opened December 8 and will run through January 26 with the winner announced at the February 4, 2026 City Commission meeting.

MINUTES:

A motion by Member McLaren, seconded by Member Phillips, to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected passed unanimously.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

A motion by Member Carrero, seconded by Member Amar, to excuse Vice Chair Donald Nicolas, Members Bonnie Ng, Brian Cha, Nida Govaria, Alternate Member Bryan Fayer, Theodore Daniel passed unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Augustin introduced Giselle Rodriguez, from the Office of Innovative Learning, who made a presentation on the Broward District School's Academic Program Review and explained the process. At present the school has only been informed the review will begin January 20th, with a list of documentation that the charter school must provide to the school district by January 30th. After that a representative will visit each of the schools at each campus and spend one day observing classrooms, including teacher preparation and student interaction. At some point after the observation day, the school district will issue a report to the charter school. This review is being conducted on all of the charter schools in the county. She answered parent and board member questions.

Ms. Rodriguez also spoke about the 2026-2027 school year time change for the beginning of class. Legislation passed in 2024 to have all high school class days begin after 8:30 AM, all middle school classes begin after 8:00 AM and no specific start time for elementary classes. 2025 legislation added a step whereby districts could opt out of the new hours. In order to opt out, the district must conduct a parent survey to assess

the parents desire to change class hours. To change to the new start times, several areas will be affected, such as transportation (charter buses are used now in a staggered pattern, so that high school can be picked up and then the bus can pick up middle or elementary), sports teams and game schedule, and before and after care. Mr. Bonilla shared that if the new start hours were implemented, the City would have to provide thirty or forty additional busses for transportation due to the short overlap timing.

Principal August presented the Instruction and Non-Instruction Employees of the Year for each level at each campus.

<u>Campus/School</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Non-Instructional</u>
East Elementary	Ireti Burrell	Angelly Alcalas
Central Elementary	Erin Peterson-Barroso	Kady Cruz
Central Middle	Cecilia Moss	Sundas Paracha
West Elementary	Jennifer Bauer	Giulia Harper
West Middle	Mercy Cortes	Joe Curl

She also reported on the middle school sports, including that the girl’s basketball team won the district championship, both the boy and girls volleyball teams are in the district playoffs and flag football will begin games soon.

OPEN FORUM:

The questions focused on school lunches, having a survey in the spring for menu choices, the timing of serving lunch (10:30 AM for first graders), and how teachers do accommodate snacks if needed. Mr. Bonilla stated the State requires the schools to serve lunch between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. In order to serve all the students in a timely manner, the schedule does have to begin early.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Member Phillips, seconded by Member Amar, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 P.M. passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Borgstrom

Katherine Borgstrom
Board Secretary

ADJOURNED: 6:45 P.M.

APPROVED: 2/03/2026