

June 1, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the **CHARTER ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order by Chair Fernandez, on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 6:05 P.M. at the East Elementary Campus Cafeteria, 10801 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida. All stood for the pledge. Secretary Borgstrom called roll and declared a quorum.

[Secretary's note: Due to the expiration of all Governor's orders concerning virtual board meeting, this meeting was held as an in-person meeting only, with no virtual component. Parents were advised of this meeting situation in advance.]

2020-2021 CHARTER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD:

PRESENT: Chair McGovern, Vice Chair Dawkins, Members Gill, Baranwal, Crute, and Perez; Alternate Members Cambry, Phillips and Sylvester

ABSENT: Laljie, Osorio, Sabniveesu and Siddiqui

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Aner Gonzalez, City Comptroller Jonathan Bonilla; Principals Augustin, Chance, Castellano and Libidinsky (all via WebEx); Board Secretary Katherine Borgstrom

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant City Manager Aner Gonzales presented the 2021-2022 Charter School Budget for Elementary and Middle School, by campus and took questions from parents and board members.

Questions focused on the CARES Act funds from the federal government, their projected uses, and the addition of two staff members, a full time Director of Innovative Learning and a part time Solution Specialist under the Innovative Learning division. These two new positions will assist the current school counselors in providing support for students with emotional difficulties related to the pandemic or other causes. The

Principals also spoke to how these two new positions will be used for student support and support includes other areas, but not limited to, such as teacher and staff training for recognition of emotional or mental health indicators, other electronic and equipment support, and a new reading curriculum that incorporates emotional support for the students in the lessons. It was pointed out that these funds became available during 2020–2021 in response to the pandemic and the effects on students going to on-line classrooms and that the funds are available for 2021-2022, but there is no way to predict if the funds will continue into the next year. Mr. Gonzalez did report that the FEFP funds were not increased a great deal and therefore these CARES ACT-ESSER monies will help fill in some of the gaps in the budget.

Mr. Gonzalez also reported that the State of Florida has extended the free meal program for students through June of 2022, so each student will receive free meals on campus.

Parents were also concerned about students who have regressed or fallen back academically and what programs will support these students to return to academic success. Principals also spoke to the continuing efforts of the teachers and staff to assist these students as much as possible.

There were specific concerns about not offering a summer learning program. The Principals spoke to the specific issue of no summer program, stating that there is not enough staffing to open that option physically on campus during the summer, that the teachers overwhelming chose not to be available for summer learning, and they encouraged the parents to realize the teachers are also emotionally and physically drained after the last fourteen months of preparation for totally on-line learning in 2020

and then for dual learning since the fall of 2020 through this June. There will be a Summer Enrichment on-line learning program available to students over the summer that includes work that must be turned in and that should assist some students in increasing their learning success. This will be on the school website by the last day of school.

A motion by Member Crute, seconded by Member Gill, to approve the 2021-2022 Charter Elementary and Middle School Budgets for East, Central and West Campuses, and to forward to the City Commission for final approval passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Member Gill, seconded by Vice Chair Dawkins, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting as presented, passed unanimously.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

A motion by Alternate Member Cambry, seconded by Member Perez, to excuse the absence of Members Osorio, Laljie, Siddiqui, Sabniveesu from the June meeting, passed unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Augustin was assisted by Principal Chance and Principal Castellano in recognizing the advisory board members and thanked them for their service during this past year. She spoke more about the Summer Enrichment program on-line, that the free meals for students will continue through the summer with pick up sites at the East Campus and the Academic Village Campus, and congratulated the retiring Assistant Principals and the two new incoming Assistant Principals. She stated the afterschool clubs and parent support groups will return in the fall.

OPEN FORUM:

Parents asked about continuation of CDC guidelines, but this is a very fluid situation where more decisions will be made by early August and it was stated that the Charter System does follow guidelines that Broward Schools and will follow those and inform parents as soon as those decisions are handed down. On the matter of students with health problems and returning to 100% full time in person learning, the charter system is awaiting guidance from Broward County on how that will be handled. On the subject of if meetings will be offered in a virtual format next year, it was stated that the City is looking into a “live stream” being available, for volunteer hours also, that could be viewed from a computer by parents, but there would be no way to have feedback from the live stream viewers and the board members would still need to be in person for meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion by Member Gill, seconded by Vice Chair Dawkins, to change the September meeting date to September 14 passed unanimously.

Members were given a roster for the 2021-2022 advisory board and the dates for the 2021-2022 meetings and locations.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Katherine Borgstrom

Katherine Borgstrom
Board Secretary

ADJOURNED: 8:03 P.M.
APPROVED: 9/14/2021