



Donna J. Beasley Mission Statement

To support students in achieving a high school diploma and prepare them for college and career success through an individually-paced, technology-based, flexibly-scheduled program.

Minutes

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 4:00 PM at school:

Meeting was called to order at 4:08 by board chairman Mr. Stichter.

1. Roll Call: Mark Stichter, Walter McDonald, Robert Hurst
 - a. All present
 - b. Also in attendance: all teachers and staff from the school, Ms. Peters, school guidance counselor, Dr. Torregrasso, school principal, Ronald and Toni Renna, school consultants, Dr. Schroll, Lee County School Board representative, and Ms. Cannady, Lee County School Board representative.
2. Welcome visitors. Mr. Stichter welcomed Dr. Schroll and Ms. Cannady from the school district to the meeting.
3. Introduce new parent liaison Mrs. Padron. Mr. Stichter welcomed Mrs. Padron to the meeting. She told the board that she had two sons graduate from the school and now her third son is attending the school. She assured the board that she would be active in working with the board and the school.
4. Review of Public Notice- A notice was posted on the school's web site.
5. Public Comments: None.
6. Approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting on September 21, 2022. Mr. Stichter read the minutes from the last board meeting. Minutes approved 3-0.
7. Approval of new board members: Pastor Jhon Freddy Correa, and possible: Jasmine (last name not known). Pastor Correa was not able to attend the meeting. The board was presented with his bio. It was decided that we would wait to place him on the board until we are able to meet with him in person. He is to be invited to our next meeting in February. The other expected candidate for the board has not responded to our request, so at this time we will remove her for consideration. It was suggested that Ms. Padron be a board member. After some discussion, it was decided that she should attend a few board meetings before being added to the board.
8. Email and letter: Email from Dr. Schroll and our letter in reply. The board members have seen and reviewed these documents. The purpose of them being on the agenda was to officially acknowledge them and approve the letter at this meeting. Approved 3-0

9. Reports:

- a. Enrollment: Information presented: Estimated 180 students. Based on the Lee County website for DJB: As of 2nd FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program) 22 day count 251. Should be based on actual attendance before hurricane 203. This number has not been confirmed by the district. It was mentioned by Ms. Cannady that they also did a count and they came up with 197 students. The board will wait until the final FTFE documents are posted on the Lee County website to report the final numbers to the board.
- b. School grade report on incomplete grade and what is being done.
 - i. Dr. Torregrasso reported that it was his fault that the school received an “I” grade this time. He said he was trying to get the students in for testing. He realizes now that he should have withdrawn those students that were not attending. Mr. Renna reported that unfortunately, the appeal forms were not complete, therefore the state sent an email stating that the “I” grade would stand due to the fact that all the information requested in the form was not provided.
 - ii. Dr. Torregrasso has set up a plan with the leadership team and all staff to make sure that this does not happen again. He has met with the principals of two other charter schools and is waiting to meet with two more. They shared how they handle testing and make it clear that students must be withdrawn if they are not showing up for testing.
 - iii. We are also implementing incentives for students to come in and get tested. We are copying what the other charter schools do: provide gift certificates to McDonalds for students who come in and take the test.
 - iv. We provide special transportation so that all students that are required to be tested can get to school for the test.
- c. School Improvement plan (SIP): Dr. Torregrasso presented the SIP to the board. It was decided to table the review and approval of this document until the next meeting when they have had time to review it.
- d. Site report: Our realtor continues to send us possible sites. We are working with both this church and the one next door to lease the land (99 years with 2-3 renewals) so that we can put our modular building on the site. Mr. Renna presented an up to date report on meeting with realtors, business representatives in the area, the church board next door, and the church representatives of the property we currently lease. The board directed him to really focus on trying to get the site where we are located now.
- e. Financials:
 - i. review and approve financials for September approved 3-0

- ii. Revised 2022-23 budget approval (no capital outlay funding) Approved 3-0
- iii. Audit: members of the board were given hard copies of the audit. They had received electronic copies last month for their review. The board voted 3-0 to accept the audit.

10. New/Old items:

- a. Attendance policy: Mr. Renna and Dr. Torregrasso reported that late last night and today we have received over 50 pages of documents from our attorney regarding our policy. They requested that they be allowed to review these documents and present a new policy to the board at the next board meeting. They will send the board electronic copies as they develop them. However, the approval will have to take place at an actual meeting. Approved 3-0
- b. School policy and procedures manual review and approval: We asked our attorney to review our 250-page policy and procedure manual that we have used for the past eight years. We felt it needed to be updated. The board approved \$7,500 in the budget for this expense. Unfortunately, our attorney has not finished this yet. I spoke with a member of their team and expressed my concern on their progress. I was told that they would be getting back to me this week. Mr. Renna assured the board that he spoke with the attorney and was promised that this will be finished in the next month or so. Electronic copies will be sent to all board members once we have them.
- c. School bus: Mr. Renna reported that the bus situation has been a nightmare. We are spending over \$175,000 a year on busing. Buses break down! We are putting twice the number of miles on our buses as any other school bus in Lee County. Therefore they keep breaking down. When we have to rent a bus from the district the cost is exuberant. He is investigating leasing or purchasing a NEW school bus. He will be sending the board details over the next few months and would like to keep this on the agenda for the next board meeting.
- d. Principals' evaluation: tabled until next meeting

11. Board Member Matters: update on

- a. Fingerprinting: Dr. Torregrasso will work with Mr. McDonald to make sure his fingerprinting is up to date.
- b. Training: all board members are up to date. Ms. Padron should take the training.

12. Set next board meeting:

13. Adjournment: