

MINUTES OF THE
CAPE CORAL
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 14, 2016
City of Cape Coral Council Chambers
9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board of Lee County, Florida, met on June 14, 2016, at Council Chambers, a Regular Governing Board Meeting. Chair Cosden called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

INVOCATION: Chair Cosden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
All in attendance

ROLL CALL: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Koepke, Lucas-Ross, McMillan, Winstead, Zivkovic

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Buztrey, Assistant City Attorney
Nelson Stephenson, Superintendent, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Shannon Treece, Principal, Oasis Charter High School
Steve Hook, Principal, Oasis Charter Elementary School
Jacque Collins, Principal, Christa McAuliffe Charter Elementary School
Elisa Collins, Assistant Principal, Oasis Charter Middle School
Chris Fennell, Assistant Principal, Oasis Charter Elementary School
Amanda Sanford, Curriculum Coordinator, Oasis Charter High School
Danielle Jensen, Director of Procurement and Food Services, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Mary Anne Moniz, Business Manager, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Vicki McAtee, City of Cape Coral, Human Resource Liaison to Charter Schools
Erich Boerner, Dean of Students, Oasis Charter High School
Rachel Boerner, Community Member
Don Teasley, American Legion
Kristy Krempski, Parent, Oasis Charter High School
Gregory Krempski, Parent, Oasis Charter High School
Greg Krempski, Post Graduate, Oasis Charter High School
Anja Lorenz, Parent, Oasis Charter High School
Susanne Perstad, Parent, Oasis Charter High School
Vincent Perstad, Post Graduate, Oasis Charter High School
Adam Logan, Community Member

Clint Atkinson, School Resource officer, City of Cape Coral Police Department
Mary Hess, Student, Oasis Charter High School
Tyler Baston, Post Graduate, Oasis Charter High School
Wendy Hess, Parent, Oasis Charter High School
Joshua Mamott, Post Graduate, Oasis Charter High School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Governing Board Meeting of May 10, 2016 with corrections was made by member Boyer and seconded by member Donaldson.

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All “Aye’s,” motion carries.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA REGULAR MEETING:

Motion was made by vice chair Zivkovic and seconded by member Donaldson to approve the agenda with the following change:

- Move item #9 (Public Comment) before item #6 (Superintendent Report).

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All “Aye’s,” motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lieutenant Retired Erich Boerner states that from 2005-2015 he served as the Jr. ROTC Senior Army Instructor and established the Oasis program six years ago. Last year he assumed the position of Dean of Students. On May 26, 2016 he was informed by Mr. Stephenson that while he was doing an excellent job some allegations have been made by students. Mr. Boerner was directed to leave campus for his protection and not return until an investigation was completed. Mr. Boerner remained off campus for the rest of the school year with no official information about the allegations or his rights. On June 10, 2016 he was interviewed by DCF. Mr. Boerner states that his personal and professional reputations have been the subject of negative social media posts and televised reports questioning his integrity. Dangerous precedents have been set this year. He states that he applied conduct related consequences in a combination of mentorship and compassion while maintaining discipline. He knew his actions had to be based on the procedures outlined by the code of conduct. Throughout his military and teaching careers totaling 33 years he has effectively mentored, disciplined and inspired thousands of young adults.

Don Teasley is the District Chairman for the JROTC program, assigned by the American Legion. He has had several occasions to observe the professionalism of Colonel Boerner. The American Legion post represented by Mr. Teasley gave more trophies, medals, certificates and awards to the cadets at Oasis

High School last year than the other 4 high schools combined. That is strictly due to the leadership, respect, honor, high moral character and bar that was set by Colonel Erich Boerner. The choice for Colonel Boerner to move to the Dean of Students was heart breaking. Mr. Teasley states that he couldn't think of a better individual that anyone or any school system or company could have hired than Colonel Boerner. Mr. Teasley states that if we had JROTC instructors teaching our kids that are half the character and leader of Colonel Boerner the program in Lee County would receive national recognition on a constant basis due to his moral, integrity, standards, and leadership. The freedoms we stand for and the men and women in uniform that currently serve overseas in harm's way stand for the rights for us to exercise our freedom and expect to have justice served.

Susanne Perstad states that she got to know Colonel Boerner when her son was in the JROTC program at Oasis High School. Regardless of how much parents try to talk, spend time and care for our children, some kids just won't listen. Parents have a hard time breaking through the teenage wall. Colonel Boerner was a mentor to her son. When her son dropped from an A student to a C and D student, Colonel Boerner took him under his wing and talked to him several times. He did not give up. Colonel Boerner got into her son's world where parents weren't allowed. He inspired her son to be the best he could be. Colonel Boerner always gives his best to the people around him regardless of day and time and doesn't expect anything in return.

Vincent Perstad states that he was part of the first four year JROTC graduates. He states that Colonel Boerner taught him L.E.A.D.E.R.S.H.I.P. (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage). These simple little things got him through high school, are getting him through college; they allow him to say no to temptations, they allowed him to say no to getting in a car with an intoxicated driver and allowed him to make the decision to join the US Coast Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Boerner is one he would trust at his side in any fight and never turn his back on. Vincent read a statement from former JROTC cadet Logan Woods.

Kristy Krempski states that they are not questioning Mr. Boerner's military record. Some of their issues have been addressed but most have not. There are still questions about what happened, the punishment and the non-following of the code of conduct. Her son has always strived to promote the positive about the school. They have always been able to get resolutions to problems until this year. There is lack of communication from Mrs. Treece. Ms. Krempski states that she has over 140 signatures on a petition, this is a large problem. The issues have been addressed with Ms. Treece and Mr. Stephenson. She states Mr. Boerner does not belong in the school as Dean of Students. Mr. Boerner's credentials as Dean of Students needs to be questioned.

Gregory Krempski states that Mr. Stephenson did address a very important part of their son graduating. The issue is the code of conduct. Lee County Code of Conduct is a general guideline for disciplining students. It states that all parties should be involved (parents, teachers, student, principal, dean of students). Mr. Krempski states that his son did something wrong. The question is how it was dealt with and going forward, in the future, how will it be dealt with? Mr. Krempski would like the board to look into how many kids were suspended this year versus the previous year. He was there to donate some items for the graduation breakfast and happened to hear a female student ask about Mr. Boerner. Another student said, "He's on administrative leave, I believe there's an investigation." Student was quoted saying, "Thank God, what took so long?" Mr. Krempski thinks the code of conduct needs to be a

lot clearer. The dress code in the code of conduct is not clear. Mr. Stephenson is handling it but going forward they want to make sure it is handled correctly. This isn't a military school.

Anja Lorenz states that she has had 3 kids in the Oasis school system. Her oldest son is graduating this year and her middle son is switching schools. The biggest reasons he is switching schools are Mr. Boerner and the weird rules this last year. Ms. Lorenz states that she has tried to get information for her graduating student about college. She was not able to get an appointment with the counselors; she emailed and called the school. In one conversation she received more information from a counselor at Cape High than she did at Oasis. She states that the flow of information at Oasis between parents and staff is not good. She met with Mr. Stephenson in reference to the incident discussed at the last board meeting. Mr. Stephenson stated that he would take care of it. Her concern is the remark in her son's file. She tried to obtain the information in her son's file but couldn't. She states that Mr. Stephenson notified her via email that everything would stay the same.

Greg Krempski states that he graduated this past year and has been part of the Oasis family for 12 years. He states that he was able to walk at his graduation a couple of weeks ago because of Mr. Stephenson. His concern is for the upcoming students that will enter Oasis High. He cares about the school and it has been like a family until this year. The teacher turnover rate has been astounding. He does not believe Ms. Treece and Mr. Boerner are suited for their positions.

Mary Hess states that she is going into her senior year at Oasis. She hears students in class complain about the rules imposed. She states that it is the kids who are breaking the rules and not respecting the rules that are complaining. If the kids would follow the dress code it wouldn't be an issue. Kids are being held to a higher standard to prepare them for the real world. A lot of students are misinformed about the rules.

Officer Clint Atkinson with the Cape Coral Police Department states that he will be the school resource officer for Oasis High next year. Officer Atkinson states that he can attest that the United States Army doesn't inadvertently and accidentally place someone in a position to control very delicate information. As a company executive officer/company commander he relied on information provided to him by people like Erich Boerner. The real world will absolutely happen to these children and they will be held to a higher standard.

Wendy Hess states that she is here in support of Colonel Boerner. As a parent she wants her children held accountable and have appropriate consequences. Colonel Boerner is preparing our students for real life and the real world. She feels like it is an injustice that his character is in question. She wants to hear another news story exonerating him. She disagrees that Oasis is becoming a military school.

Tyler Baston states that he graduated from Oasis High School a couple of years ago. Colonel Boerner helped him, pushed him and inspired him to become what he is today. Tyler states, "People you hear saying things that he is doing wrong are typically people who have multiple problems and problems following the rules." Colonel Boerner is disciplining them and trying to make them into better people.

Vice Chair Zivkovic reads a letter from staff member Stacy Delacuesta who could not be present. Ms. Delacuesta extends her personal support to Colonel Erich Boerner. Mr. Boerner has been a vital part in the development, support, encouragement, and guidance for her son. Mr. Boerner has spent countless

hours of encouragement and providing advice as her son made decisions about his future. Upon graduating college he will become a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. What Mr. Boerner brings to OHS is what most high schools are missing.

Discussion held.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Mr. Stephenson states that he appreciates the feedback from the parents who took the time to come and speak.

Mr. Stephenson thanks Vivian Theriault and her media students for making it possible to broadcast the graduation ceremony via Periscope.

Mr. Stephenson states that the graduation ceremony went very well; Ms. Treece and Ms. Sanford did a great job.

Mr. Stephenson states that we are getting another SRO (School Resource Officer). We will have 2 SRO's now.

Mr. Stephenson states that he will attend the National Charter Schools Conference at the end of the month.

Mr. Stephenson thanks Jami DiMaria, Tod Baldwin and Danielle Jensen who have been working on our field. We have received over \$6000.00 in donations towards our field. Work will begin shortly.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Chair Cosden states that she attended her first Foundation Board meeting a couple of weeks ago. She is excited to be a part of that.

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Mr. Stephenson states that as a goal the foundation is going back to classroom grants. This will allow the foundation to assist in getting dollars directly to the classrooms.

STAFF AND BOARD COMMENT:

Director of Procurement and Food Services

Danielle Jensen states the food service numbers for this year will be finalized next month. We will be \$70,000.00 favorable to budget.

Danielle Jensen states the regular lunch service should come in slightly favorable to budget and she believes the expenses will come in at budget. Christa will be a little over spent. The revenue was up so CME had to purchase more food but the high school's revenue was down, so as a department we will come in just where we should be.

Danielle Jensen states the National School Lunch Program application has been completed.

Danielle Jensen states that she has been informed we will be audited next year. Documents have been completed and submitted. They will inform us of the dates.

Danielle Jensen states that the National Wellness Committee meeting was held in May and she will present those results to the board at the August meeting.

Danielle Jensen states they are working on new menu options for next school year.

Danielle Jensen commends her team for all of the hard work they did at years end. They stepped up and met the challenges.

Danielle Jensen states the IT infrastructure project vendor was selected. The contract was submitted to our legal department. *Vology* was the vendor selected. Their total was \$416,000.00. The goal is to have the purchase order issued this week and the project completed over the summer. The fiber optic portion of the IT upgrade will begin June 14 or 15, 2016.

Danielle Jensen states the PO's have been issued for the \$100,000.00 list:

- The OES carpet should be installed in the next week or so.
- The CME mini-split system will be installed this month.
- We have ordered the walk-in freezer for OMS and OES and it will be installed by late August, early September.
- We are still working with the city for the concrete and electrical work for the freezer. We have two bids and are waiting on a third.
- We have one more A/C PO to get in this week.

Christa McAuliffe Charter Elementary School

Jacque Collins states we have received the test scores and Christa McAuliffe did very well. CME had the highest science scores in the City of Cape Coral. The data will be broken down to figure out where we are weak and where we are strong so we can adjust our curriculum for next year.

Oasis Charter Elementary School (OES)

Steve Hook states that 5th grade promotion was very moving and touching.

Steve Hook states OES test scores came back equally as awesome as CME's.

Oasis Charter Middle School (OMS)

Elisa Collins states that Oasis Elementary and Christa McAuliffe Elementary students have come over for a tour.

Elisa Collins states the 6th grade end of year trip was to Sunsplash.

Elisa Collins states the 7th and 8th graders went to Busch Gardens and Sea World for their end of year trips.

Elisa Collins states that Ms. Hannon had her end of the year mock interviews for the 8th grade career class. They had parent, alumni, and community volunteers and they were impressed with the program.

Elisa Collins states they had their Spring NJHS Induction Ceremony. Coach Carson was voted as the *Most Influential Teacher* and gave a very nice speech. There were 17 new members inducted.

Elisa Collins states the H2O for life program was a success. There is a link on the OMS website.

Discussion held.

Oasis Charter High School (OHS)

Shannon Treece states this year has been full of many emotions. We have a team that is committed to excellence. While there have been many difficult situations there have been many more successes.

Shannon Treece states that many have questioned the amount of turnover. She is fully confident in the decisions she has made in staff. Turnover is inevitable in a school. At this juncture all positions have been successfully filled with qualified candidates.

Shannon Treece states that AICE is on the board. Teachers have been hired and new teachers are being trained for AICE in Orlando today.

Shannon Treece states that family is important. Those who are giving everything they have to the system need to know they are supported.

Shannon Treece states that she is thankful for tough times. It is in those times that character is built.

Shannon Treece states the best is yet to come for Oasis. Oasis High school has yet to reach its full potential.

Shannon Treece states that next year's primary focus will be on building culture and sustaining excellence through a variety of instructional practices.

Discussion held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Strategic Plan-Nelson Stephenson

Nelson Stephenson states they are starting with the fiber optic part of the technology infrastructure. The RFP process is complete and a vendor was selected.

Nelson Stephenson states that he will be discussing the salary schedule in agenda item 12E.

B. NEOLA-Nelson Stephenson

Nelson Stephenson states that he will be meeting with NEOLA rep. Tom Young tomorrow, June 15, 2016 to go over the procedural part. Principals have been invited. We will be looking at the HR component and the things we need most.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Superintendent Evaluation-Chair Cosden

Motion was made by member Boyer and seconded by member Donaldson to approve the superintendent's evaluation and a 2.5% salary increase as per the superintendent's contract.

Discussion held.

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All "Aye's," motion carries.

Kristy McMillan Left Meeting at 10:51 AM.

Board Adjourned for Recess at 10:51 AM.

Lucas-Ross Left Meeting at 10:52 AM.

Board Reconvened at 11:04 AM.

- Motion was made by vice chair Zivkovic and seconded by member Boyer to add to the August agenda a review of the superintendent's evaluation format for next year.

All in favor, motion carries

B. Approval of New job Description, Bookkeeper-Nelson Stephenson

Motion was made by member Jackson and seconded by member Fisher to approve the new job description for Bookkeeper.

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All “Aye’s,” motion carries.

C. Approval of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Amendment #2-Mary Anne Moniz

Motion was made by vice chair Zivkovic and seconded by member Donaldson to approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Amendment #2.

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All “Aye’s,” motion carries.

D. Approval of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget-Mary Anne Moniz

Motion was made by vice chair Zivkovic and seconded by member Donaldson to approve the proposed fiscal year 2016-2017 operating budget.

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All “Aye’s,” motion carries.

E. Approval of New Salary Schedule-Nelson Stephenson

Motion was made by member Jackson and seconded by member Fisher to approve the new salary schedule.

Board vote: Boyer, Cosden, Donaldson, Fisher, Jackson, Winstead, Zivkovic

All “Aye’s,” motion carries.

BOARD COMMENT:

Vice-Chair Zivkovic asks if the board will see the job duties for the admin addition.
Mr. Stephenson states that the admin addition will be acting as a paraprofessional which is her current position.

Member Boyer thanks everybody for sticking together and doing an awesome job. She is proud to be a part of it.

Member Donaldson states the staff at all of the schools did a great job and it reflects in our scores and our students.

Member Donaldson states the graduation was wonderful.

Member Donaldson thanks Ms. Treece for the internship program and she hopes the program is expanded to all levels.

Member Koepke states that the test scores are a testament to the principals and the vice principals.

Member Koepke states that he supports Chair Cosden and Vice-Chair Zivkovic. He has full confidence in their leadership for next school year.

Member Koepke appreciates Mr. Stephenson's efforts.

Member Jackson states that Mr. Stephenson is the featured resident in their magazine.

Member Jackson asks a salary question, "If she were a Lee County teacher and left to teach for our system should she plan to take a pay cut?"

Mr. Stephenson explains that it is an individual process depending on the experience, we will be competitive.

Member Fisher thanks everyone for helping him on the board.

Member Fisher congratulates the class of 2016.

Member Fisher thanks the administrators, staff and teachers and hope's they can take a little break over the summer.

Member Fisher congratulates Mr. Stephenson for being a style leader in Cape Coral.

Member Winstead states that what's being accomplished here is amazing. Focus on the 90/10. There is always that 10% that you want to work on and make a little better.

Member Winstead states that he looks forward to next year.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

Regular Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday August 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Arthur
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Cape Coral Charter School Authority