

Miami Community Charter Schools

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, August 31, 2021 @ 6:30 P.M.

Meeting Place: <https://mccsedu-org.zoom.us/j/5461941419>

Meeting ID: 5461941419

Passcode: 083121

Call to Order: Ana Torres, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Board members Present: Ana Torres, Howard Murphy, William Presswood, Carmen Marinelli, Shawn Khosravi

Other Attendance Present: Jila Rezaie, Raina Fiallo, Stephany Papili, Janet Velez, Ashley Delgado, Roomy Rodriguez, Mildred Rieumont, Raquel Mejia, Ralph Arza, Jeff Wood, Lauren Hollander, Richard Moreno, Ruben Saavedra

Approval of April 20, 2021 minutes: Mr. Presswood made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Murphy second it. Minutes approved, 4 Yes, 0 No.

Title I -The 2021-2022 Title I budget for Miami Community Charter Elementary, Middle and High schools was approved.

Public Comments: No public comments were made.

- 1. Executive Report:** Jila Rezaie presented the attached executive report. The outline of the Executive report are as follow;

1.1 – Academic Planning

- 1.1.1** – Early assessment of the students' academic loss & plans-June 2021
- 1.1.2** – Spring 2021 FSA/EOC/FCAT 2.0
- 1.1.3** – Summer Programs, June 14 – July 30, 2021
- 1.1.4** – Data driven decision making for students' academic placement in school year 2021-2022. The demographic of the school has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

The year around after school tutoring program for all students is in place. The program period is September 2021 –May 2022.

1.2 – Students & Staff

1.2.1 - Student's enrollment is currently 3% over the projected number.

We monitor the enrollment daily.

1.2.2 – The teacher/staff retention rate from last year to this is 93%.

1.2.3 – Middle and high school has a new assistant principal, Raquel Mejia. Romy Rodriguez is accepted to the first School Leaders Fellowship program.

1.3 – Additional Actions in Response to Moving Forward Beyond COVID-19

1.3.1 – Additional armed, unarmed securities, surveillance cameras to increase school's safety.

Additional instructional staff to support the delivery of live instruction within the DI groups and class coverage during the quarantine periods.

2. **Academic Reports:** Raina Fiallo and Stephany Papili presented the attached academic reports.

- Elementary school's scores has dropped significantly from "B" to "F". Mathematics scores shows the largest decrease. The projected school grade in 2021-2022 is "C".
- Middle school's scores has dropped from "B" to "D". Like the elementary school, mathematics scores were the lowest. The projected school grade in 2021-2022 is "C".
- High school's grade has decreased from "B" to "D". The projected school grade in 2021-2022 is "C".
- Schools have a healthy enrollment. 99.9% of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 students are located, and have returned to school.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Khosravi inquired about the school plans to improve the math scores. The principals shared the school plans for intensive courses during the school day, combined with after school tutoring program during the school year. Also additional instructional materials and platforms are purchased to support the mathematics program in all three schools.

3. **Governmental Relations Update:** Ralph Arza presented this item. He commended the work is done by Miami Community Charter Schools for this community, particularly during the pandemic. The students' academic performance has dropped across the country. We keep informing the board and Dr. Rezaie of all information impacting education in Florida. Currently the mask mandate has become a court matter. The Governor's office will appeal the court ruling. The legislative session will begin in January 2022. In late June and early July, we met with MDC to expedite the construction process. However, the Surfside tragedy has turned all the attention to the recertification of condominium buildings. Mr. Arza informed the board that his office has expended and now his son, Mr. Rafael Arza is working with the group. Mr. Rafael Arza has met with Dr. Rezaie.
4. **Tuition Matching Fund:** The board reviewed Karinne Lopez' applications for the Tuition Matching Fund. Jila Rezaie recommended Mrs. Lopez to receive the tuition matching fund. This fund will be awarded in three consecutive school year.

Mr. Murphy made the first motion for Karinne Lopez to receive the tuition matching fund. Dr. Marinelli second the motion, Motion was approved 4 Yes, 0 No.

5. Construction & School Expansion Project

The Board members and General Contractor engaged in a detailed and lengthy discussion about the status of school's construction and expansion project. Following is the summary of the discussion, and consequent outcomes.

First Lauren Hollander informed the board that the land use attorney and civil engineer are working diligently to resolve the road closure issue in the county, and move to zoning process and obtaining the permits. She emphasized that the closure of the public road is the main focus. The Surfside condominium catastrophe has redirected the county's attention to all buildings' safety, and therefore the work on other matters has slowed down notably. We are expecting to be in the county commissioners' meeting agenda probably in November 2021. In spite of this set back, we stay with the time line, and we have to shrink our construction windows. However, there are couple of key concerns because of the technology shortage, such as the elevators. In spite of all said, we do anticipate completing the project by July 2022 (new building by May 2022, and renovation of the existing building by July 2022), and we do believe that we can accelerate the construction, and complete the project as quickly as possible.

In response to the report, board members Howard Murphy, Shawn Khosravi, Carmen Marinelli, and Board Chair Ana Torres, expressed concerns and questions about the project's delay. In summary, the board concerns are as follow;

- The tentative winter 2022 ground breaking could seriously delay the completion of the project on time, in spite of the GC's intention.
- Least likely the road closure, zoning and construction permits make to the County Commissioner's September, October or perhaps November meeting.
- Delay of the project adversely impacts school's academic plans and progress.
- Delay of the project is a potential financial risk for the school. Each time the closing date is postponed, school faces additional risk factors, including the possibility of increase of the interest rate.
- The project time line has changed a few times, and at this point there is no assurance that January grand breaking can take place. This would be detrimental to the school academically, financially and operationally. Moreover, there is a language in the contract, which gives the GC liberty to withdraw from the contract if the project does not start within 18 months.

Jila Rezaie stated the school wait time has practically decreased to none, and any further changes in the finish time, will result in logistical concerns for the school during the transitional time. She emphasized that financially the school is prepared to move forward with the project. However, the closing of the bond should take place 90 days prior to the ground breaking.

Ralph Arza spoke about the importance of lobbying on county level to expedite the road closure, zoning, and permit process. Mr. Arza is not a registered lobbyist in Miami Dade County, however he will continue calling and meeting with people he knows personally and professionally.

Shawn Khosravi offered the board's assistance in this process. Jila Rezaie spoke on the importance of following a unison plan, and all parties moving on one direction. In general, the school and the GC reaffirmed their intension of completing the project.

Ralph Arza made a recommendation to the board to have the board Council to begin lobbying with the Miami Dade County Board of Commissioners with respect to the project.

Carmen Marnelli made the motion to accept the recommendation.

Howard Murphy second it. Motion approved unanimously.

Shawn Khosravi asked Jeff Wood to prepare an addendum to section 3.2 in Page 6. Jeff Wood replied that he would reach out the GC's council to discuss this matter. However, the contract provides the same provision for the owner the right to terminate the contract.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is a Director and/or Officer of Miami Community Charter School, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, and that the above is a true and correct copy of the meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of said corporation & the individual charter schools sponsored by the said corporation.

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on November 2, 2021.

Miami Community Charter School, Inc.

A Florida not-for-profit Corporation

By: _____

[Handwritten signature] for Ana Torres