

**Palmetto Charter School Board of Directors Meeting
May 25, 2022**

Call to Order, Pledge to Flag and Welcome	The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Board Chairperson, Ron Witt. In attendance were Mary Johnson, Even Guido, David Fernandez, Mike Mears, and Kelli Douglas as well as non-voting member, Jelane Broxson. Mrs. Woithe joined during agenda item #4.
Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes	Mr. Guido made a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Dr. Mears seconded the motion. No discussion. All approved 6-0.
Public Comments	Mr. Logan wanted to thank the Board and Administration and Mr. Bustle for a great year. He also wanted to voice concern regarding what happened in the last few days (Uvalde) and encourage the Board to keep up vigilance with our security measures.
Ameris Bank	Bill Lutes – Representative of Ameris Bank made a presentation to the Board with information and guidance regarding federal laws, FDIC, Caps, etc. Regarding our Ameris Accounts, Dr. Mears made a motion to keep our accounts as they are. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion. All approved (7-0). No discussion. Mrs. Johnson made a motion to move what monies we have left in Bank OZK to Ameris Bank. Fernandez seconded the motion. All approved. (7-0) No discussion.
Gym Rental Agreement	Coach Christian Leavitt put together a proposed Gym/Cafeteria Rental Agreement for the Board to review. There was some discussion. Mr. Fernandez made a motion to accept the Gym/Cafeteria Rental Agreement but to add that the renting organization needs to be non-profit and present their non-profit Tax-Exempt Certificate, add our Mission Statement and that general liability be listed as 1mil. Mrs. Woithe seconded the motion. All approved. (7-0) No discussion.
Principal Updates	<p>A. Enrollment – remains strong. We continue to have lengthy waiting lists.</p> <p>B. Testing - Went very well this year. The State will be doing progress monitoring next year rather than FSA. Three times a year, etc. We hope to have more information regarding this soon.</p>

	<p>C. Athletics – We participate in 9 different sports, and we made it to 6 championships, and received Sportsmanship of the Year in the league. Another successful year for our sports program.</p> <p>D. 8th Grade Trip to Tallahassee and St. Augustine – the group toured the Supreme Court, Museum of Florida History, Florida Senate to do a mock session, old Florida Capitol and to FSU. Saturday, they went to the Caverns in Marianna and headed to St. Augustine. What was supposed to be the highlight of the trip was the Kennedy Space Center Overnight Adventure. However, we had a stomach bug go through our group. We skipped Rainbow River the next day. Despite that, the KSC complemented our students and said that our group was one of the best groups that has ever come through.</p> <p>E. Personnel Additions/Changes - Mr. Durrance updated the Board on our upcoming staffing changes. We received or will soon receive ESSER funds from the state to cover two new remedial positions. We have hired Mrs. Smith full-time to do math remediation. Mrs. Chancey will be moving out of the classroom and into a 4-day per week reading remediation position. We hired a 2-day per week Speech/Language Pathologist. We hired Hannah Pryor as a full-time aide. In addition to those positions, we hired a new Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd grade teachers. All have years of experience and came very highly recommended. We have also hired a part-time custodian and a full-time Guardian.</p> <p>F. Rental Agreement with Church On The Rock – it will cost us \$2500 a month to rent the Youth Building. Mrs. Broxson discussed the importance of us giving Mrs. Teets as much support as we can during the transition and while she is occupying the Youth Room. All agreed this was important. A motion was made to rent the youth building from Church On The Rock for our music classes for not more than \$2500 per month for up to 3 months. Dr. Mears seconded the motion. Mr. Durrance made a suggestion to modify the motion to 4 months instead of 3 in case the building project goes a bit longer. Mr. Fernandez revised his motion to rent the youth building from Church On The Rock for our music classes for not more than \$2500 per month for up to 4 months and Dr. Mears seconded the motion. No other discussion. All in favor. (7-0)</p>
<p>21-CA-4310; Vitale v. Palmetto Charter School, et al.</p>	<p>Mr. Fernandez updated the Board on the outcome of the lawsuit that was filed against the school and one of our Board Members. (21-CA-4310; Vitale v. Palmetto Charter School, et al.) The court made its ruling and we are happy to report that based on the findings of the court, the school performed admirably and responded even faster than needed to. Our staff did a wonderful job fulfilling the records request. Right now, we are in a 30-day appeal window. The court left it open on whether it would award attorney's fees to the school, however the most critical part was that the court ruled in our favor. We will keep everyone updated.</p>

Building Project Update	<p>Our biggest challenge right now is material procurement for the metal roofing and the windows; however, Mr. Roby was happy to report those have been secured at are being stored at the subcontractor's warehouse. On August 15 they will install the elevator. There were no questions for Mr. Roby. He will be available for a brief walk-through when the meeting concludes for anyone that would like to look at the progress.</p>
2021–2022 Revisions & 2022-2023 Budget	<p>A motion was made by Mr. Fernandez to accept the revisions to the 2021-2022 Budget. Mr. Guido seconded the motion. Mrs. Woithe had a question about the insurance coverage of the attorney's fees. Our insurance will cover up to \$100,000 with a \$5,000 deductible. To date, we have paid a little over \$104,000. We will work with the insurance company to get reimbursed for these in the next few days. All approved. (7-0).</p> <p>A motion was made by Dr. Mears to accept the Budget Proposal for the 2022-2023 School Year. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion. All approved (7-0). No further discussion.</p>
Principal Evaluations	<p>Mrs. Douglas thanked Mrs. Council for her help in gathering the data.</p> <p>Mrs. Douglas provided the Board with positive feedback from the staff members as well as things they felt could be improved upon. Overall, the staff had very positive and constructive comments. They were both found to have Highly Effective evaluations, once again this year.</p> <p>A motion was made by Mr. Fernandez to accept the evaluations as presented by Mrs. Douglas. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. Mrs. Woithe mentioned that from some of the comments and comparing comments from the previous year, there is an opportunity to strengthen consistency with discipline and communication. Bringing Coach Leavitt into a role as a part-time Discipline Dean will help with this a lot. All approved (7-0). None opposed.</p>
Family Petitions	<p>There was discussion about how parents present their "case" surrounding their tardies, absences, and volunteer hours. This year's number of petitions was unprecedented. Going forward, the Board would like to be provided with a little more information beforehand so that they can make a more knowledgeable recommendation. The administration will work on this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnold Family (absences) - Motion made by Mr. Fernandez to make an exception to allow this student to continue next year. Dr. Mears seconded the motion. All approved. • Rico-Leon Family (absences) - Motion made by Mr. Fernandez to make an exception to allow this student to continue next year. Mrs. Douglas seconded the motion. All approved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cruz Family (tardies) - Motion made by Dr. Mears to make an exception to allow this student to continue next year. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion. All approved. • Ross Family (tardies) - Motion made by Mrs. Johnson to make an exception to allow this student to continue next year. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion. All approved. • Zirkelbach Family (tardies) - Motion made by Mr. Guido to make an exception to allow this student to continue next year. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion. All approved. • James Family (tardies) - Motion made by Mr. Fernandez to make an exception for this student to continue next year. Dr. Mears seconded the motion. All approved. <p>Dr. Mears volunteered to work with the Administration on how we can shore this policy up and make it so that the Board does not make these decisions with limited information.</p>
Board Resignation and Consideration of New Board Member	Mr. Witt tendered his resignation as a Board Member of Palmetto Charter School. He thanked everyone and joined the gallery as a new recommendation was made. Mr. Bustle recommended the Board consider Dr. Mears as the new Chairperson. A motion was by Mr. Fernandez to appoint Dr. Mike Mears as the Chairperson. Mary Johnson seconded the motion. Dr. Mears accepted the recommendation. All were in favor (7-0). There was another recommendation that Carly Lambert be asked to join the board. Mr. Fernandez made a motion to accept Carly Lambert as a new Board Member and that she become Parent Liaison. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. All approved. (7-0) Mrs. Lambert accepted the nomination.
Board Comments	Mrs. Johnson welcomed Mrs. Lambert to board and extended a special thank you to Mrs. Douglas for her thorough Principal Evaluations again this year.
Adjourn	Mr. Fernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28pm. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. All approved (7-0).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO RECORDS OF PALMETTO CHARTER SCHOOL BY SECRETARY, KELLI DOUGLAS.

Dr. Michael Mears

DR. MICHAEL MEARS, CHAIRPERSON

Recorded by Thresea Council, Registrar Palmetto Charter School

9/14/22

DATE