

DRAFT

CHARTER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

PEMBROKE PINES, FL

December 2, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the **CHARTER ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order by Member Phillips, on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:05 P.M. at the West Elementary Middle School Campus Cafeteria, 18000 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida. All stood for the pledge.

2025-2026 CHARTER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD:

PRESENT: Vice Chair Donald Nicolas, Members Kavita Amar, Bonnie Ng, Mark Phillips, Brandon Carrero, Karla McLaren, Brian Cha, Nida Govaria, Alternate Member Bryan Fayer

ABSENT: Chair Imran Siddiqui, Member Cecilia Albornoz, Alternate Members Diana Lee Baptiste and Theodore Daniel

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan Bonilla, Assistant City Manager, Nalini Sohit-Vazquez, Controller, Principals Chance, Castello, Augustin and Maraj, Board Secretary Katherine Borgstrom

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jonathan Bonilla stated that the School Lottery for 2026-2027 will open on January 2 and run through February 10. All returning students will need to re-enroll using the lottery portal.

Nalini Sohit-Vazquez spoke about the fundraising efforts for the charter schools by listing the various areas of participation, which include the parent donation, corporate banners and sponsorships, parent banners, email blasts from partnerships and dress down days. She also stated that the pre-pay dress down option should open on December 15, for the parents who want to pre-pay in advance for their student's dress down days, a flyer will be provided via email. Ms. Sohit-Vazquez also spoke of the Giving Tuesday on December 2. She also stated that the Florida Pre-Paid College

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Scholarship Raffle Fundraiser will open on December 8 and run through January 26 with the winner announced at the February 4, 2026 City Commission meeting.

[Secretary's note: Vice Chair Nicolas arrived after the City Manager's Report and took over chairing the meeting, in the absence of the Chair.]

MINUTES:

A motion by Member Phillips, seconded by Member Carrero, to approve the November 4, 2025 meeting minutes as received passed unanimously.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

A motion by Member Govaria, seconded by Member McLaren to excuse Chair Siddiqui, Member Albornoz, Alternate Members Baptiste and Daniel from the December 2, 2025 meeting passed unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Castellano introduced the Elementary A+ Committee report presented by Lisa Jean Louis, Maggie Salazar and Christy Arocha. They took questions from the board.

A motion by Member Govaria, seconded by Member Amar, to approve the final vote results presented by the Elementary School A+ Funds Committee and to send to City Commission for final approval passed unanimously.

Mr. Castellano introduced the Middle School A+ Committee report presented by Marissa Lewis. She took questions from the board.

A motion by Member Phillips, seconded by Member Fayer to approve the final vote results presented by the Middle School A+ Funds Committee and to send to City Commission for final approval passed unanimously.

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Mr. Castellano provided an un-date on the end of semester timeline and the current sports achievements, which include the girls' basketball team has advanced to the district playoffs.

OPEN FORUM:

The question was raised about parents receiving emails from the Broward District Schools, specifically about a "school showcase" and if the charter school was included in this showcase. Mr. Bonilla replied that the charter school is not involved in the showcase, that is provided to the county parents concerning magnet school possibilities available. The administration has requested that the School District does not include the charter school parents in such emails, as it confuses parents. The dates on the A+ Funds presentations were clarified.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Member Phillips, seconded by Member Amar, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 P.M. passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Borgstrom
Board Secretary

ADJOURNED: 6:42 P.M.

APPROVED: