

HERITAGE CHARTER ACADEMY

**Special Meeting of the Governing Board
Minutes**

**2107 Santa Barbara Blvd
Cape Coral, Florida 33991**

February 21, 2024 @ 6:00PM EST

Call to Order & Board Member Roll Call.

John Pantazes

Tina Pegler

Alexa Hardin

The Meeting was called to order at 6:26PM (technical issues)

PUBLIC COMMENT

This time is reserved for citizens, employees, and representatives of school groups to address the Board on items that are not on the agenda. By law the Board cannot take action upon or discuss items that are not on the approved agenda but welcomes your comments. People addressing the Board are asked to state their names and whether they are residents of the district. The Board President reserves the right to limit comments from the public as well as the amount of time spent on any one topic. (2 Min. Max)

Carianne Vavlas

VISITORS ATTENDANCE LIST – SEE ATTACHED

Choice letter from District- Choice gave report on the response back to the district regarding the letter they sent that the school was in a “Deteriorating financial condition”. They showed all the financials and the detail breakdown. Choice also told the board that they spoke with both the Auditor who did our audit and SFS and went over the details. The school is not in a “deteriorating financial condition.”

Update on potential properties Choice went over the last 5 properties that they had emailed the board and discussed each of them. Some were priced too high, and some needed rezoning. The board recommended that we keep searching and update them with any new and promising locations.

Enrollment update/outlook- Choice notified the board that parents are withdrawing students based on the conversation from the principal (Shelly) that the school will be closing and to look for another school before it's too late. We had 6-8 students withdraw (within a few days) from this message.

Present /Future of Leadership-

Choice presented the information mentioned in the above minutes along with a few other issues that's been going on. 1. Would be the most recent incident with a student that bit, kicked and clawed an administrator and made the decision to drive him home in her own vehicle which could be a great liability to the school. After dropping off the student at home didn't mention anything that just occurred other than stating he will be suspended until she talks with Mgt. Number of violations here, there is no constant leadership or support to other staff members based on a staff survey that was conducted. These were just a few items detailed given to the board along with the "school is closing" message to parents and staff which is causing a lot of havoc in the buildings. We tried to discuss this with Shelly but was confident that the school would close. Much discussion was made between the board and Shelly with no different outcome of events just mentioned. The board was deliberating on a resolution based on all information given which made Shelly ask if she could leave the meeting. The board reminded Shelly that this is a public meeting and that she is not required to leave. Shelly decided to leave the meeting anyways and said she will return. The board continued to deliberate on a resolution.

A motion was made by Alexa to ask for Shelly's resignation with 3-month severance pay. Which will include having no interaction with school staff or parents. If Shelly refuses to resign then the motion is to carry a termination of employment all effective immediately. Tina 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Shelly never returned to the meeting. The board asked me to call her on the phone to inform her of the board decision. After discussion back and forth, Shelly agreed to send her resignation letter no later than the next day (Feb 22).

Robyn Gomez will act as "Interim" Principal until the due process is completed on hiring a new Principal.

Motion to adjourn made by Tina, 2nd by Alexa.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54pm.