



MATER ACADEMY

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM

*The Mater Academy vision is to provide exemplary educational choices by offering an innovative college preparatory curriculum; empowering confident leaders of tomorrow.*

**Mater Academy, Inc.  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
June 11, 2024**

**Directors**

Cesar Christian Crousillat, Board Chair *(Present)*

Shannie Sadesky, Vice-Chair *(Present)*

Idalia Suarez, Secretary *(Present)*

Maurene Sotero Balmaseda *(Present)*

Maria Beatriz (“Betty”) Nuñez *(Present)*

Yasmeen Hasan *(Present)*

Roberto Blanch, Esq., President *(Present)*

Kim Guilarte, Chief Operating Officer *(Absent)*

Joseph L. Raia, Esq., Counsel for Mater Academy, Inc. *(Present)*

*In an effort to allow greater public participation and to best accommodate stakeholders, this meeting was held via communications media technology with physical access sites at each of the individual school campuses throughout Miami-Dade County.*

**Minutes**

**1. OPENING EXERCISES**

- a. Called to Order at 12:08pm
- b. Established a Quorum
- c. Reading of Vision

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Laura Hernandez – Mater Brickell Parent; expressed concerns with this administration as well as the previous one; would like to appeal her son’s suspension; would like the board to investigate and let her know why the suspension was given; would like the board to investigate who can discipline and give infractions; feels there is an abuse in power; would like to see staff receive training on how to better issue disciplinary actions are issued; states concerned with academics; states that she does not have any issues with the teachers, only with the administration.





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- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve any year-end financial items which may be necessary to close the books.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Preliminary Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Accept the Annual Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information.
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Members and Officers for the 2024-2025 School Year:
  - i. Cesar Christian Crousillat, Board Chair / Director
  - ii. Shannie Sadesky, Vice-Chair / Director
  - iii. Idalia Suarez, Secretary / Director
  - iv. Maurene Sotero Balmaseda, Student Alumni / Director
  - v. Maria Beatriz (“Betty”) Nuñez, Director
  - vi. Yasmeeen Hasan, Director
  - vii. Roberto Blanch, Esq., President (Non-Voting / Non-Director)
- m. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Renew the Leadership Training Services Agreement & School Site Memorandum of Understanding with Doral Leadership Institute for Professional Development Services.
- n. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Submittal of the Mental Health Plan.
- o. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects and/or Purchase Requests: *(Note: Each project listed has been reviewed and determined to be fiscally acceptable):*
  - i. Mater Academy (0100) (Principal Chantal Morales)
    1. Interior Fencing for an amount not to exceed \$80k (paid with referendum funds)
    2. Student Laptops & Laptop Carts for an amount not to exceed \$328k (operating funds)
    3. Window Decals for an amount not to exceed \$29,000 (paid with referendum funds)

#### 4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Report & Items by the President and Board Counsel *(Roberto Blanch & Joe Raia)*
  - i. New Principal Appointments
    1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to designate Nelson Pena as the Principal of Mater Academy East Charter School #3100/#7037.  
*Motion to approve by*
  - ii. Negotiation of purchase and sale agreement, due diligence – and if acceptable - acquisition of the pre-school facility and parcel abutting Mater Brighton Lakes Academy,



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by MAF so that facility can be leased to either MAI or MAC, as determined later, so the facility can be used by Mater Brighton Lakes Academy. Price will be \$6.8 million.

1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair and/or President to enter into a Letter of intent and execute a purchase contract; further engaging in due diligence to determine the feasibility of this transaction.

*Motion to approve by Shannie Sadesky; second by Idalia Suarez; motion passed unanimously.*

- iii. Letter of Credit securing completion and maintenance of certain infrastructure works at Mater Lakes 5 acres site is being renewed in amount of \$19,107 (reduced from original amount of over \$336,000).

1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the President to execute the Letter of Credit for \$19,107.

*Motion to approve by Maurene Sotero Balmaseda; second by C. Crousillat; motion passed unanimously*

- iv. Negotiations have continued with the Town of Cutler Bay; negotiations are scheduled to be heard at next week's Town Council meeting; if all passes Mater Bay will be able to expand.

- b. Report & Items by the Chief Operating Officer (*Kim Guilarte-Gil*)

- c. Financial Report

- i. A special meeting will be held in June to present the final current and proposed upcoming school year budgets.
- ii. President Blanch requests that no one offer any staff supplements or making financial commitments prior to discussing with Alina and Kim. A Board policy is currently being worked on with this regards.

- d. Additional Items by the Board, Principals or Academica

- i. Antonio Roca informs the Board that last week Mater Virtual (private) was approved for the PEP Scholarship.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTIFICATIONS**

6. **ADJOURN MEETING AT 12:38PM**



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The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is an Officer of MATER ACADEMY, 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 minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on July 8, 2024.

MATER ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation