



Minutes

July 22, 2025

Regular Meeting and Public Hearing – 5:30 PM
Manatee County School District
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
www.manateeschools.net

Times Indicated Are Approximate

1) CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Status
Mr. Derek Jensen, Acting Superintendent / Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services	Present
Rachel Sellers, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services	
Joseph Ranaldi, Deputy Superintendent of Operations	
Chad Choate, Chair	
Cindy Spray, Vice-Chair	
Heather Felton, Board Member	
Charles Kennedy, Board Member	
Richard Tatem, Board Member	
Stephen Dye, Board Attorney	
Kevin Pendley, General Counsel	

Chair Choate called the Meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2) READING OF THE DISTRICT'S VISION

Chair Choate read the District's Vision.

3) INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Ronnie King

4) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Choate led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

5) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

5.1. Motion to Approve Agenda as Amended

RESULT:	Adopted [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Heather Felton
SECONDER:	Charles Kennedy
AYES:	Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy, Richard Tatem

The Chair finds good cause to amend the agenda to include:

Agenda amended Thursday July 17, 2025, to remove agenda section Student Celebrations.

Agenda amended Thursday July 17, 2025, to add attachment to Reports and Presentation item *2024-2025 FLDOE School and District Grade Update*.

Agenda amended Thursday July 17, 2025, to update attachment of Consent Agenda item *Approval of the Appointments, Change of Assignments, Promotions, Reappointments, Reassignments, Resignations, Retirements, Suspensions, Terminations, and Transfers*.

Agenda amended Thursday July 17, 2025, to add attachment to Consent Agenda item *Approval of the Renewal Agreement Between the School Board of Manatee County and YMCA of Southwest Florida Inc., to Provide Before-School and/or After-School Programs for Middle School Students During the 2025-2026 School Year*.

Agenda amended Monday, July 21, 2025, to add attachment *K12 UniformAssessmentCalendar2526* to Consent Agenda item *Approval of the 2025-2026 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar*.

Agenda amended Monday, July 21, 2025, to add all attachments to New Business (Non-consent) item *Approval to Publish a Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (General Fund)*.

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Motion to Approve the Minutes of the May 23, 2025, School Board Workshop, May 29, 2025, Special School Board Meeting, June 10, 2025, School Board Meeting and Public Hearing, and June 10, 2025, School Board Workshop

RESULT:	Adopted [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cindy Spray
SECONDER:	Charles Kennedy
AYES:	Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy, Richard Tatem

7) REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Board Discussion with Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Regarding Superintendent Search

Dr. Bill Vogel, Board Liaison for the Superintendent search, provided an update to the Board members regarding the following topics:

- Community Input update
- Finalist Community Tour
- Interview Schedule / Meet and Greet update
- Request a time for the August 12, 2025, meeting

The Board asked questions and held discussion. After discussion it was agreed by the board the time for the August 12, 2025, meeting would take place at 9:00 am.

7.2 2024-2025 FLDOE School and District Grade Updates

Mr. Derek Jensen, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services, provided a presentation regarding the following:

- 2024-2025 FLDOE School and District Grades

- FAST Progress Monitoring
- School and District Grade Components 2024-2025
- 2024-2025 Grading Scale
- 2024-2025 School Grades
- 2024-2025 District Grade
- 2024-2025 School and District Grade Highlights
- Grading Scale Changes for 2025-2026
- Critical Areas of Work
- Instructional Initiatives for 2025-2026

The Board asked questions and held discussion throughout the presentation.

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS (Up to 30 Minutes)

The following public comments were made:

- Jailyn Gentile
- Jack Lowrance
- Paulina Perez
- Diana Victoria Taveras
- Zaire Kekahuna-Samedi

9) Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

RESULT: **Adopted [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Cindy Spray

SECONDER: Heather Felton

AYES: Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy, Richard Tatem

9.1 Approval of the Appointments, Change of Assignments, Promotions, Reappointments, Reassignments, Resignations, Retirements, Suspensions, Terminations, and Transfers (No Financial Impact) - updated 7/17/2025

9.2 Approval of the New Agreement Between the School District of Manatee County and Sunnah Smiles for Clinical Experience for Manatee Technical College (MTC) Dental Assisting Students for the 2025-2028 School Years (No Financial Impact)

9.3 Approval of the New Agreement Between the School District of Manatee County and Stewart Family Orthodontics, PA for Clinical Experience for Manatee Technical College (MTC) Dental Assisting Students for the 2025-2028 School Years (No Financial Impact)

9.4 Approval to Apply, Accept, and Expend the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), Formerly Known as the Carl D. Perkins Secondary Grant for the 2025-2026 School Year in the Amount of \$537,120 (Incoming Federal Grant Funds)

9.5 Approval to Apply, Accept and Expend the 2025-2026 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, K-12 Entitlement, in the Amount of \$15,781,595.25 (Incoming Federal Grant Funds)

9.6 Approval to Apply, Accept and Expend the Following Federal Grants for the 2025-2026 School Year: Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D; and Title IX, Part A, in the Amount of \$13,263,515.67 (Incoming Federal Grant Funds)

9.7 Approval to Apply, Accept, and Expend the 2025-2026 National Farmworker Jobs Program Discretionary Competitive Grant, Including Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the School District of Manatee County and the Suncoast Workforce Board, Inc. dba CareerSource Suncoast, in the amount of \$237,195.00 (Incoming Federal Grant Funds)

9.8 Approval of the District and Food Service Petty Cash Funds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the Amount of \$900.00 (General Fund and Food Service Funds)

9.9 Approval of the Food Service and School's Internal Accounts Change Funds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, in the Amount of \$33,675.00 (Food Service and Internal Account Funds)

9.10 Approval to Renew the Contract Between Pace Center for Girls, Inc., and the School Board of Manatee County for the 2025-2026 School Year (No Net Financial Impact)

9.11 Approval to Renew the Agreement Between AMIKids Manatee County, Inc. and the School Board of Manatee County for the 2025-2026 School Year (No Net Financial Impact)

9.12 Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the School Board of Manatee County, Florida and Empath Stratum, Inc. dba Empath Health for the 2025-2026 School Year (No Financial Impact)

9.13 Approval of the Renewal Agreement Between the School Board of Manatee County and YMCA of Southwest Florida Inc., to Provide Before-School and/or After-School Programs for Middle School Students During the 2025-2026 School Year (No Financial Impact)

9.14 Approval of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Pace Center for Girls, and AMIKids Manatee, Inc. 2025-2026 School Calendars and Bell Schedules (No Financial Impact)

9.15 Approval to Renew the Agreement Between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sun Coast, Inc., and the School Board of Manatee County for the 2025-2026 School Year (No Financial Impact)

9.16 Approval of the Bid for Park and Playground Equipment, SDMC No. 26-0041-MR, Estimated in the Amount of \$1,300,000.00 Annually (Multiple Funding Sources)

9.17 Approval to Use the Orange County Public Schools Contract for Temporary Staffing Services #ITB2201024, SDMC No. 26-0016-TG, Estimated in the Amount of \$2,100,000.00 (Multiple Funding Sources)

9.18 Approval of the Bid on Irrigation Well and Pump Installation and Repairs, SDMC No. 26-0037-MR, Estimated in the Amount of \$150,000.00 Annually (Capital Funds)

9.19 Approval of the 2025-2026 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar (No Financial Impact) - updated 7.21.2025

9.20 Approval of the Reclassification of Negotiated Select AFSCME Positions and Job Descriptions (General, Capital, and Federal Funds)

9.21 Approval of Harllee Middle School - Building 4 SOAR in 4 Renovation - Substantial Completion and Certificate of Completion (No Financial Impact)

9.22 Approval of Tara Elementary School - Campus Renovations and Addition - Agreement Between Owner and Creative Contractors, Inc. - Amendment 6 - Guaranteed Maximum Price,

in the Amount of \$146,283.65 for a Total Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$26,809,043.40 (Capital Funds)

9.23 Approval of Manatee Technical College Aviation Classroom - Agreement between Owner and Johnson-Laux Construction, LLC - Amendment 1 - Guaranteed Maximum Price in the Amount of \$ 6,814,524.00 (MTC/PECO Grant Funds)

9.24 Approval of Lake Manatee K-8 Permanent Non-Exclusive Utility Easement (No Financial Impact)

9.25 Approval of Request to Declare Surplus and Donate District Property (Outgoing Donation)

9.26 Approval of Request to Declare Surplus and Dispose of District Tangible Personal Property Greater Than \$5,000.00 (Possible Incoming Funds to General Fund)

9.27 Approval for the Lakewood Ranch High School Boys' Golf Team To Participate in an Out-Of-State Golf Tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona, August 20-24, 2025 (School Internal Accounts)

9.28 Approval for Southeast High School Chorus Students to Attend and Perform at Carnegie Hall in New York, New York on March 5-9, 2026 (Multiple Funding Sources)

9.29 Approval for the Manatee High School Hurricanes Cheer Team to Attend the Out-Of-State Football Game in Valdosta, Georgia, September 5-6, 2025 (School Internal Accounts)

9.30 Approval of the Revised Job Description of Position for Specialist Choice Program (General Fund)

10) PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Choate closed the Regular Meeting and called to order the Public Hearing at 6:50 PM.

10.1 Public Hearing for Consideration to Adopt and Amend School Board Policies

Chair Choate called for open public comment.

Seeing none, closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:50 PM.

11) NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT)

12) NEW BUSINESS (NON-CONSENT ITEMS)

12.1 Motion to Approve to Adopt and Amend School Board Policies

RESULT: Adopted [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Charles Kennedy

SECONDER: Heather Felton

AYES: Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy Richard Tatem

Chair Choate noted the board had discussed and held a workshop regarding the policies. Policies to be updated include the following:

- Bylaw 0131 - Legislative/Policymaking
- Bylaw 0164 - Notice of Regular Meetings

- Bylaw 0165 - School Board Meetings
- Bylaw 0165.2 - Regular Meetings
- Bylaw 0165.3 - Special and Emergency Meetings
- Bylaw 0166 - Exempt Meetings
- Policy 3430.07 - Military Leave
- Policy 4430.07 - Military Leave
- Policy 8305 - Information Security
- Policy 8431 - Preparedness for Toxic Hazard

The purpose of the requested amendments is to update the following School Board policies to conform to current legislation and statutes.

12.2 Approval of the Budget Amendments for May 2025

RESULT:	Adopted [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cindy Spray
SECONDER:	Charles Kennedy
AYES:	Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy, Richard Tatem

Ms. Rachel Sellers, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, provided an overview of the Budget amendments in May 2025.

12.3 Approval of the Parrish Classical Preparatory Academy Application, Sponsored by Charter Schools USA, for the 2027-2028 School Year (No Net Financial Impact)

RESULT:	Adopted [4-1]
MOVER:	Cindy Spray
SECONDER:	Heather Felton
AYES:	Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Richard Tatem
NAY:	Charles Kennedy

Mr. Derek Jensen provided an overview of the application process regarding the Parrish Classical Preparatory Academy application, and noted the recommendation following the application was to approve the application.

12.4 Approval to Publish a Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (General Fund) -updated 7/21/2025

RESULT:	Adopted [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charles Kennedy
SECONDER:	Heather Felton
AYES:	Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy, Richard Tatem

Ms. Rachel Sellers, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, provided information regarding the July 19, 2025 receipt of certified notice of millage rates. The approval of this Board item will allow publication of the tentative millage rates and tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the local newspaper. Ms. Sellers stated that the Board would vote on the tentative millage and tentative budget during the special meeting July 29, 2025.

Board members asked questions and held discussion.

13) NEW BUSINESS (NO SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION)

13.1 Motion to Approve Audit Committee Charter Revision to Change the Number of Members

RESULT:	Adopted [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charles Kennedy
SECONDER:	Heather Felton
AYES:	Chad Choate, Cindy Spray, Heather Felton, Charles Kennedy, Richard Tatem

Board Member Kennedy stated that the approval of this item would only allow the revision to the number of members in the Audit Committee. The Board also held discussion regarding the Revisions to the Charters of the CFOC and Audit Committee and noted the Board would hold a discussion at a later date regarding the additional changes to the Audit Committee that have been mentioned.

13.2 Discussion and Decision Regarding Board and District Travel

Chairman Choate stated the purpose of discussion was regarding the upcoming travel for the Board. Chair Choate noted the current policy was to limit travel to staff unless vital to the role and capacity of job duties. Board Member Felton noted her request for FSBA in policy and governance as the request would be considered necessary for completion of her FSBA training. After discussion, the Board agreed.

Board Member Spray noted that she did not agree with limiting travel as it is the cost of doing business as a School Board. Additional information regarding limitations of the District's travel was provided by Deputy Superintendent Jensen. Board Member Tatem concurred with Vice-Chair Spray and stated the travel that the Board does is in alignment with their job duties and promotion of professional development.

The Board agreed to be judicious regarding the travel that is completed, and hold a discussion if a question came up during the approval of a future travel agenda item.

14. INFORMATION ONLY (No Board Action Required)

14.1. Year-to-Date Financial Statements through May 31, 2025

14.2 Year-to-Date Charter School Financial Statement Summary through May 31, 2025

14.3 Lakewood Ranch Prep Charter Public Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant Project Application Amendment

14.4 Hola! Elementary at MSA Charter Public Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant Project Application Amendment

15) UPDATES

15.1. INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Derek Jensen, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services, updated the board on the following:

- New Educator Orientation / Summer Refresh Conference
- Recent Leadership Conference update
- Soar in 4 Lab will be 'soft-opening' July and August
- New Director of Manatee Technical College began at the District

15.2. OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Joseph Ranaldi, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, updated the board on the following:

- Congratulated HR for completing summer hires, transfers, and resignations
- Noted upcoming job fairs
- Food and Nutrition Services update with Summer Meal program
- Summer transportation and hiring update

- Thanked Board for approving the consent agenda

15.3. LEGAL DEPARTMENT UPDATE

16) SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS - Business Services Update – Moody's District outlook report was upgraded

17) BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Felton

- Thanked young representatives to come in and make public comments
- Requested more communication with parents and students
- Informed Board regarding recent summer program visits

Board Member Kennedy

- Thanked individuals who applied for Superintendent positions
- Invited Board members to attend the next Audit Committee

Board Member Tatem

- Safety tip – swimming and safety
- Thanked all District employees for hard work

Vice-Chair Spray

- Provided update consent agenda District
- GFCSB priorities list
- Noted upcoming District events

Chair Choate

- Noted upcoming Back to School Bash
- Thanked Food Services for their work during the hot summer to feed kids
- Thanked the applicants for the Superintendent Search for the District

18) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Choate adjourned the Meeting at 7:46 PM.

Chad Choate, III
Chairman

NOTICE

Any person who desires to appeal any decision made by the School Board with respect to any matter considered at the above-mentioned meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which an appeal may be based. School Board meetings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids will be provided, upon written request received at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, to participants with disabilities.