

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**August 27, 2019
Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.**

MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 3:53 p.m. in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: School Board Members Heather Brinkworth, Chair; Donna P. Korn, Vice Chair; Lori Alhadeff; Robin Bartleman; Patricia Good; Laurie Rich Levinson; Ann Murray; Nora Rupert (via teleconference); Dr. Rosalind Osgood; Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools; and Barbara J. Myrick, Esq. (absent)

(Marylin Batista, Deputy General Counsel, assumed the seat of the General Counsel on the dais for this meeting.)

Call to Order The Call to Order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Added/Changed Items

• Immediate Termination of Charter School Renewal Agreement with The National Ben Gamla Charter School Foundation, Inc.

Close Agenda Upon motion by Mrs. Good, seconded by Ms. Korn and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed. Mrs. Rupert was absent for the vote. (8-0 vote)

Purpose of Meeting Immediate Termination of Charter School Renewal Agreement with The National Ben Gamla Charter School Foundation, Inc., and any other items the Board deemed necessary.

Superintendent's Recommendation

- 1. Immediate Termination of Charter School Renewal Agreement with The National Ben Gamla Charter School Foundation, Inc. (Not Approved)**

Motion was made by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Good, to determine that an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety or welfare exists regarding the health, safety or welfare of the students of The National Ben Gamla Charter School Foundation, Inc., (Ben Gamla Charter School South Broward – 5392) due to a violation of Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes; to immediately terminate that school's Charter School Renewal Agreement pursuant to Section 1002.33(8)(c), Florida Statutes; and to determine that the Sponsor will continue to operate the Charter school subsequent to the termination pending an appeal by the Charter school; and the School Board is also requested to approve the statement of reason for the Emergency Hearing of August 27, 2019. (0-9 vote)

The Superintendent provided opening remarks pertaining to Florida Statute and the reasons for the immediate termination of Ben Gama Charter School.

The Chair received audience input on this item.

The Superintendent reiterated the recommended action for the Board to take on this item and stated the intent was not to close the Charter school, but rather terminate the renewal agreement. He then asked staff to provide a brief statement.

Brian Katz, Chief Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness Officer, provided the following overview: The contract with Plantation Police Department was complete within the tool with a comment that the Charter school was to update the District prior to a change of not having full-time law enforcement coverage as contracted; the school was told the contract expired at the end of this week and if they currently had coverage; he was told they would not have coverage Monday through Wednesday, at which point he advised the school it was out of compliance and explained the concerns regarding the detailed officer agreement; an email from the Plantation Police Department stated the off-duty details were voluntary and there was no guarantee that officers would sign up for the detail; on August 30th the school indicated they were in communication with a protective services company to add a trained guard to the campus and would update the benchmark once the agreement was finalized, which did not occur; all updates were received last evening; and, that he understood the guardian being put in place was new and had not yet completed the training from the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) but would be certified as long as the person came to the next academy to complete the training.

The Board had an in-depth discussion on this item that included, but was not limited to, how the Board had to uphold and abide by the law; families were not at fault; this item was not the same as the termination from last week; other options included a 90-day termination or voting down the item with direction to the Superintendent to have a review; there was not an immediate or serious danger to the health and safety of students; the governing board and management company took immediate action once they were aware of the situation; the need for assurance from the governing Board and management company that there would be daily coverage for the entire day; a backup plan was needed; an armed security officer was on campus because the Charter school was co-mingled with a Jewish Community Center (JCC); every JCC/temple in the U.S. had an armed security officer due to violence that occurs against Jewish people; this school provided an executed contract for a guardian through June 2020; security has been on the JCC campus since 1999 and, although the security guard on the JCC campus did not meet the statute requirements for the Charter school, it had been guarding the campus on which the Charter school was located; review circumstances in totality; a security guard had to have the guardian training to be compliant with the law; requested the management company to ensure all of its Charter schools were in compliance; a 90-day provision would allow the school to take care of any issues and, if not resolved, then it could be terminated; hold Charter schools accountable on a daily basis; requested the management company to set up a monitoring plan to monitor its Charter schools; strongly suggested all Charter schools provide a long-term plan to the District and for parents to look to their governing boards for that plan; requested that the Superintendent re-send information to all Charter schools, governing boards, and management companies to ensure they were in full compliance.

A vote was taken on this item.

This meeting was video-recorded by Broward Educational Communications Network (BECON) and a certified court reporter was also present.

Adjournment This meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

/dvn