



Autism Collier Charter School Governing Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

Meeting: Governing Board Meeting

Date and Time: July 21, 2026, 5:00 PM

Location: Google Meet- Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/oim-vpdq-rjh>

Opening of Meeting

1. Call to Order- Meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Stephanie Nordin, Melissa Centra, Marc Shapiro, Gary Price, Jen Mitchell
 - b. Absent: Pia Myers Wolfe, Denise Murphy
3. Pledge of Allegiance- Conducted
4. Statutory Meeting Requirements Checklist:
 - a. Statement of how and when meeting was posted- on the website one week in advance
 - b. Acknowledgement of Principal or designee physical presence- Present
 - c. Acknowledgement of Parent representative or designee physical presence- Present
5. Changes to agenda- no changes
6. Approval of agenda- Melissa Centra made a motion to approve the agenda; motion was seconded by Marc Shapro; motion carried 5-0

Public Comment- None

Principal's Report

Emily Kafle provided a comprehensive update on the move to the new campus. About 45 staff members are currently involved in the move. The new building allows for clear separation between elementary and secondary students, with dedicated wings, a large cafeteria, two media centers, staff lounges, three sensory rooms, an independent living skills lab, and parent rooms. There are plans for an 'Intro to ACCS' room with a history wall and video, and flexible use of space as the school grows. Four classrooms are currently undesignated, with ideas for staff/parent retreat spaces. The group discussed naming and furnishing these spaces, emphasizing the need for quality donations. The school is seeking gently used or new items for media centers, lounges, and labs, and a wish list will be distributed to the community. Enrollment is at 150 out of 170, with full capacity expected by the school year's start. Staffing is nearly complete, with only an occupational therapist and speech language pathologist positions open. Staff numbers are increasing from 42 to 75. The move is challenging while camp is in session, but the team is focused on minimizing disruption for students.

The board discussed hiring practices, including the hiring of a facility manager who is a family member, with transparency and adherence to policy. The importance of having passionate,



mission-driven staff was
several board members expressing

emphasized, with
pride in the team's

dedication and culture. The board also discussed the need for succession planning to support future growth and expansion.

Informational Items

1. Facility Update- See principal's report

New Business

1. The Togetherness Initiative-
The board discussed opportunities and challenges related to expansion, including a proposal to open a new site in Immokalee as part of the Togetherness initiative. While there is strong demand and available space, concerns were raised about growing too quickly and maintaining the school's unique culture and quality. The board agreed that expansion should be strategic, with a focus on quality over quantity, and that more time is needed to develop leadership and succession plans. The current campus aims to grow to 350 students over four years, with systematic expansion. The board is considering future capital projects, including pursuing a bond for a new campus when the current lease ends in four years. They discussed the need for early planning, potential funding sources, and the importance of maintaining a waitlist and strong demand to support future growth.

Closing

1. Board member comments
Board members expressed gratitude for the progress made, the new campus, and the dedication of staff and community supporters. There was recognition of the school's growth, the realization of its founding vision, and the importance of maintaining a strong, mission-driven culture. The board acknowledged the contributions of volunteers and discussed ongoing projects, such as an Eagle Scout project for a sensory room or playground. The meeting concluded with reminders about the next meeting date and encouragement to continue community engagement and support.
2. Next meeting
 - a. August 4, 2026, at 5:00 PM at Autism Collier Charter School- 3073 Horseshoe Dr. S #101, Naples, FL 34104

Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM