



To: Members, Board of Directors
From: EW Eric Williams, Ed.D., CEO & President
Date: 2/4/26
Subject: Confidential Board Update

Notes

1. We need your assistance in inviting or bringing prospective volunteers to our Volunteer Recruitment Social on February 18 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Champions For Learning. We have dozens of additional volunteers to recruit by early March! Contact Anne Stavelly for more information at astavelly@championsforlearning.org.
2. Earlier this year, I met with several Executive Committee members and former Board member Bruce Mousa to develop a proposed *President and CEO Evaluation Process*, which was subsequently adopted by the Executive Committee. The attached evaluation process is designed to promote continuous improvement and accountability. The process includes defined performance domains with specific performance indicators for each domain; structured reflection and dialogue between the Executive Committee and me; and input from the full Board through an end-of year questionnaire. The performance domains include mission, vision, and strategy; program impact; community engagement; fundraising and resource development; organizational leadership and management; board relations and governance; and fiscal management. The *President and CEO Evaluation Process* is also posted on the board portal under Documents, Board Member Responsibilities and Agreements.

The Executive Committee and I recently met for my mid-year evaluation process. Across these domains, we discussed accomplishments including progress on expanding student programs and college-and-career access; strengthening educator recognition and grantmaking; stabilizing the organization during leadership transitions; and advancing a clearer strategic direction through the Strategic Roadmap. I also identified opportunities (focus areas) for my work for the remainder of this fiscal year, such as launching the schoolwide innovations grant program; implementing new processes for donor qualification, stewardship, and solicitation; developing the FY27 budget; and working with the Board to build a shared vision of the process we will use to develop a multi-year strategic plan.

3. Examples of individuals and groups with whom I've met or attended events with since late December include the following: Alumni Council Social; Chuck Carlsen; Board Development Committee; Leslie Ricciardelli and other senior CCPS leaders; Cedar Hammock Golf & Country Club Charity Luncheon (guest speaker); Coffee & Conversation with TSIC Mentors; Greater Naples Leadership Education Day (guest speaker); Friends of Autism Reception; NCF (formerly NCEF) Meet the Kids event; and NCF Wine Festival tent set-up (ten CFL staff members volunteered).

Emails and Other Documents

1. *President and CEO Evaluation Process*, Approved by the Executive Committee November 11, 2025; pps. 3-7
2. *Community Engagement & Volunteer Board Update*; email from Anne Stavelly; February 2, 2026; p. 8
3. *Board Update - Development with letter to current and previous donors who live in Grey Oaks*; email from Nancy Mireles; January 15, 2026; pps. 9-14
4. *Finance and Administration Update*; email from Ann Kohler; February 3, 2026; p. 15
5. *Student Programs*; email from Kristin Carolan; January 30, 2026; p.16
6. *News & Notes*; newsletter from Collier County Public Schools; pps. 17-20

Communication

1. *Naples Daily News Ad –Mentoring* [Half Page], January 16, 2026, Image Attached; p.21
2. *Naples Daily News Ad –Night For Champions* [Half Page], January 23, 2026, Image Attached; p.22

Key Dates

1. Volunteer Recruitment Social – February 18, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Champions For Learning (please bring a prospective volunteer or volunteers)
2. Night for Champions Gala – February 21, 2026, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; The Ritz-Carlton, Naples
3. Principals Breakfast – March 31, 2026, 8 a.m. check-in with breakfast and program from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; Vineyards Country Club
4. Take Stock in Children Induction Ceremony – April 11, 2026; the Bower Chapel in Moorings Park
5. Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers – April 17, 2026; the Hyatt Regency, Coconut Point

President & CEO Evaluation Process

Approved by the Executive Committee 11/11/2025

I. Purpose

The evaluation of the President & CEO is a key governance responsibility. The process promotes accountability for results, fosters continuous improvement, and ensures alignment between the organization's mission, strategic priorities, and leadership performance. The process emphasizes collaboration, evidence-based reflection, and alignment with strategic goals rather than isolated events or subjective impressions.

II. Structure

The Executive Committee conducts the formal evaluation of the President & CEO on behalf of the full Board and completes individual ratings of the CEO across the established performance domains. Ratings are based on both quantitative and qualitative evidence gathered throughout the year, including the CEO's self-evaluation, organizational reports, outcomes data, and community feedback.

The average of the remaining individual ratings determines the composite score for each domain. An overall rating is awarded based on the average of the domain ratings. The results of the evaluation will inform performance-based increases awarded to the President & CEO, as well as continuous improvement of the President & CEO.

III. Domains and Performance Indicators

Performance is assessed using the domains and indicators below. Evaluators consider these indicators when determining the rating for each domain.

If a score of 1 (Unsatisfactory) or 2 (Acceptable) is assigned, the evaluator must provide a rationale referencing one or more performance indicators and include a recommendation for improvement.

Comments, including commendations, may be entered for any score level. All comments will appear in a Notes section at the end of each domain.

1. Mission, Vision, and Strategy

1.a Facilitates collaborative, responsive strategic planning that engages board, staff, and community stakeholders, including the school district

1.b Advances the mission in alignment with strategic priorities and community/district needs

1.c Provides clear vision and leadership for organizational direction

1.d Effectively communicates mission and vision to staff, board, donors, and community partners

1.e Implements and refines strategies aligned with mission and goals set forth in strategic planning

2. Program Impact

2.a Aligns programs with strategic planning goals for students and educators

2.b Promotes consistent delivery of high-quality, impactful programs by effectively coordinating people and resources

2.c Assesses program outcomes through practical measures (including qualitative feedback and available data), applies lessons learned to strengthen impact, and shares insights to deepen donor and community engagement

2.d Encourages thoughtful innovation and continuous improvement in program design while maintaining mission focus and strategic priorities

3. Community Engagement

3.a Builds strong, collaborative relationships with community, business, and education partners

3.b Engages donors and volunteers as partners, aligning their passions and interests with the organization's mission

3.c Promotes authentic storytelling and volunteer, donor, and partner recognition that celebrates contributions and deepens commitment

3.d Serves as a visible, respected ambassador for the organization

4. Fundraising and Resource Development

4.a Cultivates and stewards donors through authentic, donor-centered relationships that emphasize meaningful recognition and celebration of impact

4.b Builds a balanced donor pipeline across entry-level, mid-level, major, and planned giving, with strategies for qualification, cultivation, and retention

4.c Implements and sustains a consistent, systematic fundraising approach that provides structure for donor qualification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship

4.d Generates sustainable revenue, aligning donor partnerships with organizational priorities

5. Organizational Leadership and Management

5.a Recruits, develops, and retains high-quality staff

5.b Aligns staff roles, processes, and priorities to promote team efficiency and effectiveness

5.c Fosters a positive, mission-driven culture of collaboration, engagement, and philanthropy in which staff and the board value donors and volunteers as partners in student and educator success

5.d Supports staff with tools, learning opportunities, and accountability systems that enable continuous improvement and success

5.e Maintains organizational operations through appropriate staffing, outsourcing, and structures that support efficiency, compliance, and mission effectiveness

6. Board Relations and Governance

6.a Works in partnership with the Board, respecting governance/management boundaries

6.b Engages the Board in strategic planning and their governance role in resource development (e.g., advocacy, opening doors, stewarding donors)

6.c Provides the Board with timely, accurate, and strategic information to support effective governance

6.d Promotes board development and succession planning to strengthen long-term governance capacity

6.e Supports board focus on strategic priorities and governance functions, avoiding operational detail

7. Fiscal Management

7.a Collaborates with the Board and staff to set budget priorities in alignment with organizational goals

7.b Provides accurate, transparent, and timely financial reporting to support decision-making

7.c Implements effective internal controls and complies with legal, audit, and regulatory requirements

7.d Aligns financial planning, decisions, and investments with strategic priorities

7.e Maintains adequate reserves and safeguards to support long-term organizational health

IV. Rating Scale

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Description</u>
Highly Effective	4	Consistently exceeds performance expectations
Effective	3	Performs duties effectively
Acceptable	2	Demonstrates an acceptable level of performance
Unsatisfactory	1	Does not meet performance expectations

V. Timeline

Mid-Year Conference (January):

The CEO provides brief self-reflections for each domain in advance of the mid-year conference. During the conference, each Executive Committee member provides a tentative verbal rating for each domain and offers concise verbal feedback. The CEO has the opportunity to share reflections regarding the feedback from each Executive Committee member at the conclusion of that member's comments.

CEO Self-Evaluation (Due May 15):

The CEO submits a written self-evaluation summarizing progress in each domain and providing evidence of outcomes, alignment with strategic priorities, and reflections on challenges and next steps.

Executive Committee Review:

Each member reviews the self-evaluation and relevant organizational data, then independently completes the evaluation form with domain ratings and comments and submits the completed form to the Board Chair in accordance with the timeline articulated by the Chair.

Synthesis:

The Board Chair or Governance Committee Chair compiles and averages the domain ratings

and prepares a summary of findings and comments. The Board Chair creates a draft evaluation form reflecting ratings.

Evaluation Conference with CEO:

The Executive Committee and CEO meet to discuss the draft evaluation document. The CEO has the opportunity to provide reflections relating to the draft document during the conference before the Executive Committee finalizes it and provides the finalized evaluation to the CEO by the end of June.

VI. Performance Evidence

Evaluation evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- The CEO's annual self-evaluation narrative and supporting documentation
- Strategic plan progress reports and key performance metrics
- Development, program, and financial reports
- Stakeholder feedback (staff surveys, donor or partner input)
- Examples of community engagement and advocacy
- Board committee reports or meeting minutes reflecting leadership and outcomes

As part of gathering performance evidence, members of multiple stakeholder groups will be invited to provide brief, structured feedback on the CEO's leadership and the organization's effectiveness. Surveys may include three to seven questions and are intended to inform, not determine, Executive Committee ratings. All non-Executive Committee board members will be surveyed. Other respondents may include staff members of Champions For Learning, CCPS staff, and nonprofit partners that collaborate with Champions For Learning. When available, data from surveys with volunteers and donors regarding their experience with the organization will also be considered. All feedback will be summarized by group to preserve confidentiality.

Executive Committee members will consider this evidence in rating each domain.



Community Engagement & Volunteer Board Update

From Anne Stavelly <astavelly@championsforlearning.org>

Date Mon 2/2/2026 10:15 AM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

Student Programs

- Kristin and I attended a virtual, statewide TSIC meeting. Possible changes are coming to the program. A work group will meet in Orlando this spring to determine next steps. We will share additional information as it becomes available.
- We are pleased to see an attendance increase at our monthly TSIC mentor learning sessions.
- We will host an onboarding and training session for new mentors who will be matched this spring. Participants may attend either a virtual or in-person session on March 5.

Entrepreneurship

- Thank you to Chuck Carlsen for connecting us with a new Entrepreneurship program volunteer.
- We are working with CCPS to finalize each school's final pitch dates/times. I will then start soliciting judges.
- I attended my first CCPS Career Academy Advisory Committee meeting at Barron Collier HS.

Educator Programs

- Golden Apple volunteers are actively visiting TOD classrooms and will continue through mid-February.

General Updates

- We hosted a booth at The Dunes community Volunteer Fair January 28. Thank you to Carol Windfelt for the opportunity.
- We are hosting a Volunteer Recruitment Social on February 18 from 4:30 to 6 pm at the CFL office. The focus will be on recruiting more mentors. An invitation was sent January 27 to past and present volunteers (577).
- We are registered to host a booth at Arthrex's Volunteer Showcase April 23. I will be speaking at the March 25 Naples Rotary meeting about CFL and our volunteer opportunities.



Board Update - Development

From Nancy Mireles <nmireles@championsforlearning.org>

Date Tue 2/3/2026 5:50 PM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

 1 attachment (244 KB)

Grey Oaks ltr PDF.pdf;

Chief Development Officer (Nancy Mireles)

On January 28th we hosted a visit from Richard Perry with Giving Pathways. He had a full day, meeting with the Development Committee and Staff, engaging in workshops around our fundraising philosophy, creating a culture of philanthropy, marketing & communications best practices, storytelling, and creating a solid donor pipeline communications calendar. It was a very productive day! We identified some key opportunities to enhance our storytelling to better connect with donors, describing the unmet need.

On January 29th I had the opportunity to visit the Windstar community for their Windstar Gives Back check presentation event. The room was filled with approx. 60 residents of the community. I shared with them the mission of Champions and opportunities for them to get involved. During the presentation we accepted a \$25,000 check that is designated to support curriculum at their local schools - Avalon ES and Shadowlawn ES. This was a great evening for partnership and collaboration and I welcome the chance to visit with your community too.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Night For Champions gala on Feb. 21st. We have an incredible evening planned including a student & mentor speaker, and educator speaker and a good friend & supporter of Champions speaker. To date we have approx. 250 guests confirmed; but it's not too late to add more! If you have a friend or colleague you'd like to invite, please do so - this will be an evening to remember!

As you know, we are working with the Veritus Group to create our personalized approach to connecting with donors. With that, each of you will be receiving (or perhaps already have) a letter in the mail from me. It is the first step in the donor qualification process. Even though you each have developed a relationship with us at Champions, it is my opportunity to share with you the process we will use moving forward cultivating our donors, as well as give me a chance to visit with you to get to

know you further. Please be on the lookout for those letters and feel free to connect with me at any time.

Annual Giving and Grants (Rebekah Telfer)

- Grant Applications and Reports Submitted
 - Consortium of Florida Education Foundations – mid-year report for our Matching Grant award
 - Naples Children Foundation – Q2 report
 - Edward T. Bedford Foundation – requested \$50,000 to support TSIC
 - The Community Foundation (located in Cape Coral) – submitted a nomination request for CFL to receive \$25,000
- Grant Applications and Reports in Process
 - Bank of America – applying for \$20,000 to support TSIC/CCP, deadline is 3/2/26
 - Publix – submitting a donations request for Golden Apple Prize Patrol
 - Moorings Park – I’m keeping an eye on their website to determine when the grant application will open
 - Hobbs Foundation – I’m keeping an eye on their website about their LOI process to see if CFL is a good fit (we have not received a grant from them before but might apply this year)
- Spring Appeal
 - The appeal will be a composite story featuring an 8th grade student who will soon be enrolling in our programs
 - Audiences have been determined and lists will be pulled soon for a late March drop
- General
 - Naples Winter Wine Festival – several CFL staff members volunteered during the festival weekend, which raised over \$30M to support nonprofit organizations in Collier County serving children
 - I’m working with the Development Team on the Night for Champions script
 - I’m putting together a program outline for the new Pathways to Success Program to help guide communications, marketing, and fundraising efforts with help from Eric and Kristin
 - I wrote three variations of a donor impact letter (featuring successes in Student Programs, Educator Programs, and the overall organization) that will be sent to donors six months after their gift
 - I’m exploring potential grant research software and potential national funders to increase our revenue from foundations/grants
 - A CCPS school has been awarded a \$50,000 FPL STEM Classroom Makeover Grant. CFL will serve as Fiduciary Agent for the grant and will receive \$10,000 in administrative support. News of this grant award has not been publicly announced and is strictly confidential until a check presentation event occurs later this month, but we are so excited to partner with CCPS to bring their project to life!

Special Events (Wyatt Blatt)

Night for Champions Gala: February 21, 2026

- We currently have 250 guests confirmed, 10 Patron Tables & 9 sponsors; with room for more! If you know of an individual or company who might like to host a table or sponsor the event, please let us know and we can coordinate an introduction.
- **Board Members**, as you work on your table seating for the gala, please be sure to update Wyatt with your confirmed attendee contact information.

Digital Fundraising & Operations (Sydney Fahrenbruch)

- Our second donor newsletter will be sent this week (2/4/26) featuring student and educator success stories, highlights on key happenings over the last few months, important dates and news.
- Working with Wyatt on Night For Champions tasks – reviewing and finalizing printed program, coordinating speakers, and prepping marketing materials needed for Night For Champions, including print materials, signage, event PowerPoints.
- Setting up GiveSmart software to facilitate payments for Night For Champions Fund-A-Need and live auction, coordinating with team members involved in event check-in and check-out, and coordinating with third-party event staff company (Ace the Event).
- Supporting the team with social media posting to support various priorities – Student Programs, Mentor Recruitment, Night For Champions, etc.
- Golden Apple Prize Patrol / TV Show Planning – Working with Marilyn and the team, coordinating with third-parties (including CCPS Communications, Gulf Coast News and the Naples Studio), to plan coverage of Golden Apple Prize Patrol, and planning for the television broadcast.

Major Gifts (Danielle Viens-Payne)

- Sent letter with personalized handwritten note to 60 donors within Grey Oaks reminding them about Grey Oaks Cares Week and providing student impact stories. (copy attached) We were able to send out this targeted mailing because we do our best to tag each donor with their neighborhood residence. This is one more way we can segment and personalize communication to our donors. If your community hosts a similar activity focused on philanthropy, keep us in mind. We'd love to partner with you to share our message with your neighbors.
- Veritus donor qualification process – Danielle's caseload
 - Sending qualification letters weekly in small groups of 10-20 donors
 - Organized strategically (i.e., giving level, recent gift, recent engagement)

- Follow up process includes phone call, email, survey, and other touchpoints until I hear back from the donor and can move them to the next stage of stewardship.
- Total of 277 donors in my "Major Gifts Pool" who have given \$1,000+
- 40 qualified major donors in my caseload so far
- Creating attendee bios for NFC to prepare for donor cultivation and stewardship at the event
- Donor and prospect meetings
- Drafting 6-month-post-gift impact letters to appropriate donors
- Working with development consultant weekly
- Working with Mary and Nancy on updating the donor walls
 - First focusing on updating the Visionary Trust Wall of \$1M+ lifetime giving
- Exploring potential hosts for 1-2 more parlor meetings in the Spring
- Working with Wyatt, Anne, and key Board members on cultivating and stewarding corporations
- Continuing personalizing major gift stewardship plans for each donor
- Cultivating spring gifts

Nancy Mireles, CNP

Chief Development Officer

3606 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 150 Naples, Florida 34104

Direct: (239) 687-1372

Championsforlearning.org



**CHAMPIONS FOR
LEARNING**



Join Grey Oaks Cares Week and Support Champions For Learning!

January 20, 2026

The Education Foundation of Collier County

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

Martha Rozman Board Chair

Janet Perna Vice Chair

Denise Murphy Secretary

Roger Lipitz Treasurer

William Lutz Immediate Past Chair

Dr. Eric Williams President & CEO

Dr. Kenneth Abrams

Kevin Barry

Jerry Brown

Dr. Della Burt-Bradley

Corky Carlsen

Tim Cawley

Dr. Ann Cohn

Stephanie Lucarelli

Alfonso Mancini

John Neighbours

Gary Personette

Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli

Dear Deb and Jack,

We are thrilled to share exciting news from your community – Grey Oaks Cares Week of Giving returns February 1-6, 2026, and Champions For Learning is honored to be considered once again as a beneficiary of your generosity!

Last year, Grey Oaks members raised an extraordinary \$750,000 for local charities – impact that reached thousands across Naples, including students and educators served by Champions For Learning. Your involvement supported scholarships, mentorship, financial literacy workshops, classroom grants, and the future success of students and teachers who call Collier County home.

This year, Grey Oaks is expanding its impact with a six-day celebration of giving. Members can participate in golf, pickleball, tennis, bocce, cycling, and – new this year – “Mahj-Tails” (Mahjong + Cocktails)! Whether you're joining the fun, cheering on friends, or giving from the heart, every gift ensures students and educators continue to have the tools, support, and guidance needed to thrive.

How to Support Champions For Learning

Grey Oaks Cares makes giving simple:

- Register for any GO Cares event
Make your charitable contribution directly to Champions For Learning
Send or deliver your check to Champions For Learning (or documentation of electronic giving) to Mira Hale Crigler at Grey Oaks

Why Your Participation Matters

Champions For Learning is your local education foundation investing in:

- Students pursuing college and career dreams
Classroom and school-based innovation
Mentorship and real-world learning opportunities
Alumni who now give back to students and their community
Educator recognition opportunities showcasing their incredible impact

The following stories reflect just a few of the many students whose academic confidence, career direction, and life choices have been shaped by the guidance, resources, and support Champions For Learning provides. Read on to see how your generosity fuels student potential today and builds a stronger community for tomorrow.



Real Student Voices: The Impact of Your Support

Here's how Champions For Learning transforms lives:



"With Champions For Learning's guidance, I navigated the application and selection process with confidence, ultimately achieving my academic goals and fulfilling my lifelong dream of enrolling in college."

— *Alaysha Greene, Student Programs Graduate, Teacher of Distinction*



"The most beneficial thing was the access to a mentor and overall assistance on the process of applying to college. It reduced so much stress and made me realize how amazing this organization has been."

— *Jeffrey Gonzalez Tista, Student Programs Graduate*



"Bill believed in me more than I had ever believed in myself... I'm now working with my mentor as his right-hand man and giving back to future students."

— *Tyler Knight, Student Programs Graduate, Co-Chair of Champions For Learning Alumni Council*

Thank you for considering Champions For Learning during Grey Oaks Cares Week and throughout the year. We would be honored to earn your support again in 2026.

With gratitude and excitement,

Danielle Viens-Payne

Director of Development, Major Gifts
Champions For Learning
www.ChampionsForLearning.org



Finance and Administration Update

From Ann Kohler <AKohler@championsforlearning.org>

Date Wed 2/4/2026 7:59 AM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

Finance and Administration

- Meeting with various Directors to become familiar with the programs at CFL.
- Working on acquiring access to the banks, as well as other various logins needed.
- Becoming familiar with Blackbaud (Financial Edge and Raiser's Edge). I have scheduled a meeting with support for a high-level overview.
- Working to understand current established processes in finance and administration.
- In preparation for working on the FY2027 budget, I have started to review the current budget to become familiar with how the budget has been handled previously.

Ann Kohler

Chief Finance & Administration Officer

3606 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 150, Naples, FL 34104

Office: (239)434-3216

akohler@championsforlearning.org

ChampionsForLearning.org



"Celebrating 35 years of supporting Collier County Students and Educators"



Board Update

From Kristin Carolan <KCarolan@championsforlearning.org>

Date Fri 1/30/2026 3:29 PM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

Student Programs:

Our 10th grade College and Career Preparation application is now open. On January 28th, Tracy Jones and I spoke at the high school principal's meeting about coming out to schools to assist students and families with the 10th grade application process and continuing FASFA completion. This week, Tracy also went out to Everglades High School and Lorenzo Walker Technical High School for FASFA completion. Seniors attended a workshop over Zoom on submitting transcripts for scholarship activation and completing their paperwork. Staff also worked with Seniors to help them complete their Collier Community Foundation Scholarship application. I attended a meeting with Florida Prepaid to learn about upcoming changes to student portals. We will be sharing this information with students soon. On the 28th, Anne and I participated in a Take Stock In Children focus group on mentor sessions. Anne will be sharing more in her update. Yuliana has been working hard to get all our Take Stock in Children applicants scheduled for their interviews February 9-12th. She is also working to update the incoming student paperwork. On Feb 3rd and 4th, we will be hosting ACT and SAT prep for our students.

Kristin Carolan

Sr. Director of Student Programs
3606 Enterprise Avenue, #150
Naples, FL 34104

Direct: 239-687-1376

Office: 239-643-4755

kcarolan@ChampionsForLearning.org

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CHAMPIONS FOR
LEARNING

To serve as a catalyst for educational success by investing in Collier's students and educators.

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January 2026



A NOTE FROM

Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli

Superintendent of Schools

We recently had the privilege of shining a spotlight on a few extraordinary individuals who were named our 2025-2026 Employees of the Year! Together, these honorees reflect the heart of CCPS. Their impact is felt in classrooms, hallways, and school communities across Collier County. We are proud to recognize the following CCPS employees:

- **Dyan Konicek (Immokalee Middle)** - CCPS Nominee for Florida Teacher of the Year and Middle School Teacher of the Year
- **Brittany Cross (Lely Elementary)** - Elementary School Teacher of the Year
- **Ashley Dunlap (Gulf Coast High)** - High School Teacher of the Year
- **Amy McMullin (Immokalee Technical College)** - Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year
- **Austin Lara (Manatee Elementary)** - School-Related Employee of the Year

The 2025-2026 STEAM Expo is just a few days away! Join us this Saturday, January 31 at 8:30am for an exciting and interactive morning. Kate the Chemist will be on stage to open our event with an explosive science presentation, followed by hours of hands-on activities in STEAM Village that will spark everyone's curiosity. There is still time to register at www.collierschools.com/STEAMexpo.

This month, the U.S. Department of Education launched the **Presidential 1776 Award**, a nationwide competition designed to recognize and celebrate high school students' exceptional knowledge of American civics. This award program offers

students an opportunity to engage with our nation's history as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's founding. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Presidential 1776 Award.

The 2026-2027 Parental Choice Application Window is currently open and will be available through February 22, 2026. Parental Choice allows parents, under specified conditions, to request another school of enrollment outside of their geographic zones. Approvals are subject to capacity and class-size restrictions. To learn more about Parental Choice, or to complete an application, visit www.collierschools.com/parentalchoice.

Public education is powering Florida's future. Whether you are a parent, staff, or community partner, thank you for choosing CCPS!

~ Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli

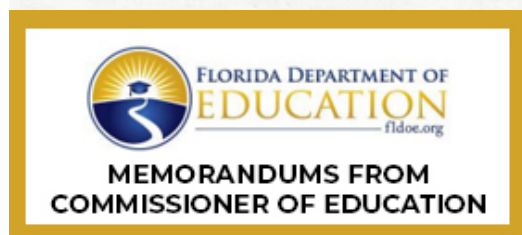
UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

February 4
Regular School Board Meeting at 8:30am

February 11
Early Dismissal Day (Professional Learning for Teachers)

February 16
No School (Presidents' Day)

DISTRICT CALENDAR





A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Stephanie Lucarelli, Board Chair

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the break and has come back reenergized. The School Board kicked off the year with a very successful workshop on the 14th which featured a comprehensive health insurance overview provided by district staff. The agenda included a presentation from the Florida Educator Health Trust, and an in-depth analysis of the recent compensation and classification study conducted by Evergreen Solutions, LLC. This workshop was incredibly informative and will assist the Board in continuing to make the best and most fiscally responsible decisions for our most valuable assets - our staff. On that note, I want to congratulate the entire school district and the students on achieving the highest graduation rate ever in Collier County!

In addition to the budget workshops in March and May, and the policy workshop in April, the Board intends to have information items or workshops featuring a few other topics including technology in the classroom and updates on workforce education and our technical colleges. Also, be on the lookout for a town hall meeting on AI and social media. If there is an informational item you would like the Board to address, please let me know at lucars@collierschools.com.

Let's continue to work together to make 2026 the best year yet for children of Collier County.

Warmest regards,

Stephanie Lucarelli, School Board Chair

Board member notes are submitted directly by a school board member without edits from district staff.



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP

Click here for a high-level overview of some of the important topics from the last Regular School Board Meeting.

CCPS
FAMILY NEWS

CCPS
FAMILY NEWS



Barron Collier High Dedicates Gymnasium

Barron Collier High School proudly honored its very first principal, Mr. Paul "Butch" Manley, by dedicating the school gymnasium in his name. Mr. Manley opened Barron Collier in 1978 and led with integrity, vision, and heart for nearly two decades. Even after retiring in 1997, Mr. Manley remained a dedicated Cougar—supporting booster clubs, alumni efforts, scholarships, and mentoring young educators. His legacy continues to inspire generations of students and staff.

Watch video



2026 pats to PATS Celebration

Seniors from Aubrey Rogers and kindergarten students from Veterans Memorial gathered on the Patriots' football field for a meaningful event that bridges the gap between their shared school community. The ceremony, dubbed "Pats to PATS," represents the transfer of spirit, pride, and connection between the two schools that share not just a road, but a mascot as well.

Watch video

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FEEDBACK WELCOME



Make A Difference Through Mentoring

Change the life of a young person by becoming a Take Stock in Children mentor with Champions For Learning.

Why Become A Mentor?

Take Stock Mentors help students build confidence, establish goals, and improve their academic skills as they work toward high school completion and college enrollment.



How To Get Involved

Contact Volunteer Manager, Nicole Luque to learn more at NLuque@championsforlearning.org or [\(239\) 643.4633](tel:(239)643.4633) or scan the QR code to visit our volunteer website!



Celebrate

EDUCATION IN COLLIER COUNTY



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

6 PM

at THE RITZ-CARLTON, NAPLES

280 Vanderbilt Beach Road | Naples, FL 34108

Entertainment Provided By BLONDE AMBITION BAND

Please join us for our signature fundraising event in support of our mission to serve as a catalyst for educational success by investing in Collier's students and educators. The evening features sunset cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner, live music, and dancing in The Ritz-Carlton, Naples' Vanderbilt Ballroom. Inspirational speakers and a live and fund-a-need auction highlight the community's commitment to investing in students and educators, showcasing the **transformative power of education.**

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GRADUATE SPONSOR



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