



**CITY OF COCONUT CREEK
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Government Center
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063**

**Date: January 12, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2021-0112**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Kenney at 6:02 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL

Brian Kenney, Chair
Robert Hurley, Vice Chair
Madeline Gordian-Diaz
Colleen LaPlant
Patricia Trick
Susan Sargis, Alternate

Student Participants: Chloe Field, North Broward Preparatory School; Savanna Kennedy, North Broward Preparatory School; Radiah Patwary, Broward College; Fred Lourenso, Deerfield Beach Middle School

Also present: Commissioner Sandra Welch and Bernadette Hughes, Assistant to the City Manager.

Chair Kenney explained that Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 20-52, as continuously extended, and Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorized all local governments to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by both state and local law as necessary to allow local governments to continue to perform public work and take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. He noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present. Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hughes stated that no advanced public comments were received for the meeting.

Commissioner Sandra Welch thanked the Education Advisory Board for their support in getting the Safe Gun Demonstration Pilot Program passed by the School Board. She thanked Vice Chair Robert Hurley for making the trip to the Broward County Public School Board meeting and for his eloquent words of support to his colleagues. She added that she was thrilled there were students present for the Advisory Board meeting, and she was glad she came to witness it.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Education Advisory Board Minutes

January 12, 2021

Page 2

A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING(S). (2020-1110)

MOTION: Trick/Gordian-Diaz – To approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting.

Upon roll call, the Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

5. PRESENTATION – MENTORING IN BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. Hughes explained Item 5 would be postponed due to unavailability of the presenter. She asked for and received a consensus to add the item to the next meeting agenda.

6. PRESENTATION – EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF BROWARD COUNTY

Pablo Calvo, Director of Community Engagement with Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, presented a brief *PowerPoint* update on his program's efforts regarding COVID-19 and recovery for the children, families, and businesses that help them to provide early childhood education. He provided an overview on the Early Learning Coalition, noting they were the new Family Central. He stated they administer the School Readiness program to about 12,000 Broward County children and voluntary pre-kindergarten, which is not income based, to about 17,000 children.

Mr. Calvo outlined the immediate impacts of COVID-19, including 70 percent of childcare programs shutting down and two-thirds of childcare staff laid off or furloughed. He shared charts of center closings and attendance throughout 2020. He addressed childcare for first responders and the rapid expansion in response, noting Broward County was first in the state in ability to enroll those children.

In closing, Mr. Calvo discussed impacts on an already fragile system and the social and emotional status of children and families, along with the need to overcome the deficit created by those impacts.

Ms. Hughes thanked Mr. Calvo for this report and invited him back to give future updates.

7. DISCUSSION – EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Hughes provided an update on the Education Foundation, which met on December 8 and noted they would meet again on January 25. She noted the group was still in the startup phase and focused on administrative items, and provided a brief summary of past and current activities. Ms. Hughes explained the Education Foundation receives a calendar year budget of approximately \$265,000 from the Seminole Tribe and sets a \$200,000 budget for programming needs, including scholarships to students, grants to schools, and additional projects. There was a discussion about the Education Foundation's budget and goals, and Ms. Hughes stated she would provide additional updates at the next meeting.

8. DISCUSSION – SCHOOL BOND PROGRAM

Ms. Hughes provided a brief history on the need of the City to understand how the School Bond funds were being spent at each school, and to identify successes and opportunities for improvement. She stated the goal was for the Education Advisory Board to create a report, by school, to give to the City Commission, which they could use to advocate for the City with the Broward County School Board.

Ms. Hughes proposed an extra meeting be held in February, as new Board appointments in April mean the last meeting of this group would be in March. She noted the Board application period would open shortly and encouraged the current Board members to apply. She explained that if there was consensus, the next meeting dates would be set for February 16 and March 23, with the Board utilizing the February meeting as a working meeting and completing its School Bond report at the March meeting.

Ms. Hughes asked for and received consensus to move forward with the meeting dates as proposed.

9. BOARD MEMBER AND STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

The Board members provided updates on SMART Bond projects as follows:

- Ms. LaPlant stated she had concerns regarding Atlantic Tech High School (ATC), noting ATC was one of the first schools approved under the referendum and six (6) years later they had not pulled the permit. She explained she would be reaching out to the School Board as an Education Advisory Board member and a resident regarding this issue because the schools were in dire need. She shared that the School Board had fired the contractor in charge of the project in September 2020, and ATC's principal had not had much communication since that time with the new contractor. She encouraged the Board to get involved more as advocates. Ms. Hughes shared ideas for communication outlets. Vicki LaPorte, Assistant Director, spoke briefly about the School Bond program.
- Ms. Trick provided an update regarding Lyons Creek Middle School. She stated most of the school's funding under the SMART Bond was in music, art, and renovation, with some in technology. She shared what she had learned through her research regarding completed and pending projects. She outlined questions she would be researching. Discussion ensued regarding a pedestrian bridge discussed in the bond documents.
- Vice Chair Hurley shared information regarding the SMART Bond program at Coconut High School, including the historical background on the school. He stated the enhancements, including projectors and a sound system, were completed. He explained primary renovations were in the third phase of a six-phase program.
- Chair Kenney provided an update on Coconut Creek Elementary School, noting the school's bond projects were complete. He explained building improvements, new fire alarms, new fire sprinklers, media center facelift, and replacement of unit ventilators were complete, and it was disappointing to hear that other schools in Coconut Creek were so far behind. Ms. Hughes noted it was important to share successes, as well.
- Ms. Gordian-Diaz updated regarding Winston Park Elementary School, explaining they are in phase four and recently hired a contractor. She stated that the

Education Advisory Board Minutes

January 12, 2021

Page 4

administrators were satisfied with communication but would like to see the process move faster.

- Ms. Sargis shared regarding Monarch High School, explaining she met with the Principal Neer, and he was content with how things were running regarding the SMART Bond projects. She noted Mr. Neer was excited about the Seminole Coconut Creek Education Foundation and was looking forward to working with them regarding SAT tutoring.

Ms. Hughes asked the Board for feedback on what they needed in order to make February a working meeting to get the report completed. She noted Ms. LaPlant had started an outline and asked if it would be helpful to pull that together and send it out in advance of the next meeting. The Board agreed that it would be useful, as long as information was updated.

Chair Kenney introduced the student participants and invited them to share updates.

Fred Lourenso, Deerfield Beach Middle School, commented regarding a diabetic high school teacher he knows who was forced to choose between returning to school and protecting his health during COVID-19, and gave feedback on his school's camera policy, stating it was difficult to enforce and hindering students' ability to learn. He commented on students lagging because of remote learning and outdated textbooks.

Radiah Patwary, College Academy at Broward College, spoke to the Board regarding Honorlock, a proctoring application used to take online exams. She stated she was supportive of non-cheating, but the application had a one-star rating, and her peers feel it is an invasion of privacy. She noted students are expected to show a 360-degree view of their rooms and could get flagged for sounds like a dog barking. She stated she did not know if the Board could do anything about it but asked their opinion. Discussion ensued.

Board members provided additional updates as follows:

- Ms. Trick commented regarding transition to teaching 100 percent virtually or face-to-face, rather than a combination. She asserted the idea of trying to meet the educational needs of 37 third graders was difficult and encouraged people to support their teachers and schools through a rough year.
- Ms. Gordian-Diaz stated she knew schools were trying to make sure virtual learning was as engaging as possible, and she wanted to recognize Winston Park Elementary School for events like "spirit week" and "anti-bullying" week. She noted participation in the Broward County Upcycling Trash to Treasure awards, stating three of the seven first-place winners were from Winston Park Elementary. Ms. Gordian-Diaz stated the school would have approximately 50 percent enrollment in person starting with the new semester.
- Ms. Sargis explained Monarch High School was moving from 200 students on campus in person to approximately 650 with the start of the semester. She stated that the State had mandated that students not meeting adequate academic progress must return to school, and this made up about 20 percent of enrollment.
- Vice Chair Hurley stated the Guidance Department at Coconut Creek High School was preparing for multiple testing and makeup opportunities for the month of January, including exams as well as the SAT, PSAT, and others. He commented on a recent review of the school safety program and a program reaching out to at risk students.

Education Advisory Board Minutes

January 12, 2021

Page 5

Ms. Hughes reminded the Board that Board appointments were upcoming and encouraged members to reapply when applications opened. She noted the “Do the Right Thing” program was starting up again and encouraged Board members to work with their schools to encourage student nominations. She reminded the Board of their interest in assisting with the City’s Student Awards Program, and commented that, due to COVID, the program was being redesigned to provide for participation from the Education Advisory Board this year. She said she would bring information on the program to the next meeting.

10. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting dates were set for February 16, 2021 and March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Hughes shared details of the Lunch Bunch on February 22.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Transcribed by: C. Parkinson, Prototype

Leslie Wallace May, MMC, City Clerk

Date