



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

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

**Date: August 30, 2021  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting No. 2021-0830**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hurley at 6:09 p.m.

**2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL**

Robert Hurley, Chair  
Brian Kenney, Vice Chair  
Jeff Realejo  
Susan Sargis  
Louise Ball, Alternate

Also present: Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes, Public Works Assistant Director Alex Tergis, Commissioner Sandra Welch, Broward County School Board Member Debra Hixon, and State Representative Christine Hunschofsky.

**ABSENT:**

Jack Vesey

Chair Hurley noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present, and explained that, in light of the pandemic, accommodations were made to allow the public to provide advanced comments without the need to attend the meeting. Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Broward County School Board Member Debra Hixon introduced herself.

State Representative Christine Hunschofsky introduced herself and shared her education-related committee assignments.

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

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING(S). (2021-0517)

**MOTION:** Kenney/Sargis – To approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021, meeting as presented.

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

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5. DISCUSSION – STUDENT AWARDS RECAP**

Ms. Hughes explained the modifications the Board had made to the student awards for 2020-2021 and led a discussion regarding what had gone well and what had not.

Ms. Sargis suggested having the details nailed down in April as to who the students are that will be recognized and how the awards will be given.

Ms. Ball shared her positive experience at Tradewinds Elementary School with Commissioner Sandra Welch in a student award ceremony, which was broadcast over Microsoft Teams.

Ms. Hughes stated she had attended an in-person ceremony at Coconut Creek High School and a virtual ceremony at Monarch High School with some of the members of the Board and the experience went well. She confirmed the Board was comfortable with the portfolios as recognition gifts.

### **6. PRESENTATION – EARLY LEARNING COALITION**

Renee Jaffe, CEO, Early Learning Coalition, shared a *PowerPoint* presentation regarding the importance of high-quality early learning experiences and the offerings of Early Learning Coalition of Broward County. In response to questions, she explained the best way for parents to get information on the program was to visit the website. She discussed the wait list briefly.

### **7. PRESENTATION – MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES**

Kayla Ahlness, Community Outreach and Mentor Coordinator, Take Stock in Children, shared a presentation regarding the program. She thanked Commissioner Welch for participating as a mentor, and stated she was looking to establish mentors to engage Coconut Creek students more widely in the program. She noted a number of students were wait listed or denied due to lack of mentors available and asked if the Board could assist in recruiting mentors and businesses to partner with.

Laura Glorioso, Coordinator with Transition into Employment Advisory Council at Atlantic Technical College, presented on opportunities to work with the students enrolled in the program.

Discussion ensued, and the Board agreed to discuss the item at the September meeting. Mr. Realejo agreed to follow up with Ms. Ahlness prior to the September meeting, and Mr. Hurley agreed to connect with Ms. Glorioso.

### **8. DISCUSSION – RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS**

Ms. Hughes explained interest had been expressed at a previous Education Advisory Board meeting regarding learning about recycling in Coconut Creek Schools and what the schools were doing to educate on recycling. She stated Public Works Assistant

## Education Advisory Board Minutes

August 30, 2021

Page 3

Director Alex Tergis was present to share what the City was doing with recycling, but the Broward County School Board had been unable to send a speaker to address the school aspect.

Mr. Tergis provided an overview of recycling in Coconut Creek, issues surrounding recycling in the current economy, and objectives for the future. He discussed the costs of recycling and energy credits, and reviewed efforts to educate residents on how to sort recycling so that they are prepared when markets for recycling return.

Mr. Tergis pointed out members of the Public Works Department in the audience and discussed the planned addition of a second recycling drop-off site in Coconut Creek.

Ms. Hughes reiterated that the Board had asked previously if there was any role for them in the recycling efforts of schools. She added that Broward County had put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for someone to do recycling outreach in schools.

Mr. Tergis explained the Recycling Coordinator would also be taking over education duties for the City. He answered questions from the Board.

Irene Espinosa, Environmental Advisory Board Chair, stated each City has different recycling programs and needs and asked that be taken into consideration when creating an education program at the School District level.

Mr. Tergis added that once the Solid Waste Working Group completes its work, there should be more of a uniform approach in Broward County. He discussed the landfill and associated solid waste issues briefly.

Board members asked questions regarding donating of materials for classroom use, glass and paper recycling, and volunteer jobs to get students involved.

Ms. Ball stated she would be willing to coordinate communication regarding collection of materials for reuse in classrooms.

**MOTION:** Sargis/Ball – To assist Public Works in developing a reuse program and identifying materials for the program.

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

### 9. DISCUSSION – SEMINOLE COCONUT CREEK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Hughes stated the Seminole Coconut Creek Education Foundation would be presenting at the September 9 City Commission meeting. She invited Board members to attend to learn more.

### 10. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Chair Hurley shared his report on Winston Park Elementary School. He stated the School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was scheduled for September 1 at 6:30 p.m. He stated Coconut Creek High School would have a SAC meeting on September 15, and Winston Park would have a second SAC meeting on September 14 to address issues with the school.

**Education Advisory Board Minutes**

**August 30, 2021**

**Page 4**

Mr. Kenney stated Coconut Creek Elementary School had its first SAC meeting scheduled for September 14 at 2:45 p.m.

Ms. Sargis reported that Monarch High School had its first SAC meeting the previous week. She stated administrators were putting together COVID-19 protocols that included contact tracing, and a vote on using SAC funds for SAT preparation was planned for the next meeting.

Mr. Realejo stated he would be reconnecting with Atlantic Technical College.

Commissioner Welch thanked the Board for listening to the mentoring opportunities presented earlier in the meeting. She noted she has a personal passion for both organizations and shared how easy it is to mentor and change a child's life.

**11. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Hughes suggested a meeting to further discuss the mentoring opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding dates, and the meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, September 15 at 6 p.m.

Ms. Hughes shared details of the next Lunch Bunch meeting on September 27. She noted the results of a survey and stated as a result there would be more updates from the City and less from individual schools. She stated the meeting was scheduled for the Community Center, but she would let the Board know if circumstances changed.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Bernadette Hughes,  
Assistant to the City Manager

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Date