



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

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

**Date: October 5, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2021-1005**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Hurley at 6:01 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL

Robert Hurley, Chair
Jeff Realejo
Susan Sargis
Jack Vesey
Louise Ball, Alternate

Also present: Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes, Environmental Engineering Specialist Ted Risberg, Mayor Becky Tooley, Commissioner Sandra Welch.

ABSENT:

Brian Kenney, Vice Chair

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

Commissioner Sandra Welch stated that Laura Glorioso, Coordinator with the Transition into Employment Advisory Council at Atlantic Technical, was not able to attend, so she was attending in her place. She stated that she had met with the Chief Operating Officer at John Knox Village regarding job opportunities for students. She noted there were over 100 openings.

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). (2021-0830)

MOTION: Vesey/Sargis – To approve the Minutes of the August 30, 2021, Education Advisory Board meeting as presented.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

5. DISCUSSION – MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Chair Hurley reminded the Board that, at the August meeting, there had been presentations from Take Stock in Children Broward and Transition into Employment Advisory Council at Atlantic Technical College regarding mentoring opportunities. He shared what he had learned in following up with Ms. Glorioso at Atlantic Technical, including their mission statement and details of the program.

Ms. Hughes asked what Chair Hurley saw as next steps in the Board working with the program. Chair Hurley stated he thought the Board could get involved in following up with students involved, but he would bring back information at the next meeting.

Ms. Hughes stated that there might be an opportunity with sharing information about the program with the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Welch responded that she loved the idea of the connection and thought it made sense.

Discussion continued regarding the program, job opportunities available to students, and ways in which the Board or City could help.

Mr. Realejo shared what he had learned in following up with the Take Stock in Children Broward program. He stated that he and Kayla Ahlness, Community Outreach and Mentor Coordinator, had several conversations, and explained the program's goals. He noted that of all of the qualified applicants to the program, only 50 percent are able to be matched due to the number of mentors in the program. Mr. Realejo stated that the number one thing the Board could do to support the program was to help increase participation, and discussed other possibilities such as leveraging social media and having an event to match juniors and seniors with volunteering opportunities.

Mr. Vesey asked about background clearance for mentors. Mr. Realejo explained the process for approval and matchmaking.

Discussion ensued regarding the idea of a volunteer fair and qualification of volunteer opportunities, as well as inviting other Advisory Boards to get involved.

Ms. Hughes asked if it would be the desire of the Board to hold a meeting in November to continue working on the issue. Discussion ensued regarding dates and the consensus was to schedule meetings for November 1, December 6, and January 24 to ensure Board availability, with the consensus that one of those meetings may be cancelled as the Board usually only meets every other month.

6. DISCUSSION – RECYCLING

Chair Hurley reminded the Board that, at the August meeting, there had been a presentation from Public Works Assistant Director Alex Tergis, regarding recycling in schools. He noted that Ms. Ball had followed up with Mr. Tergis directly, and asked the Board to discuss if and how the Board could help with the issue.

Education Advisory Board Minutes

October 5, 2021

Page 3

Ms. Ball commented that Mr. Tergis had asked the Board to hold off on getting started with the reuse center project until someone was hired to fill the vacant position. Environmental Engineering Specialist Ted Risberg provided a brief update. He noted the reuse center had been approved as part of the City budget, and stated the position was being advertised. He explained the structure would need to be permitted, which would impact the timeline, and stated they would be relying on the Board to identify the most useful materials to gather.

Ms. Hughes suggested the Board members could each go to their individual schools and ask the principals what materials would be helpful so the Board could put together a list at the next meeting.

Ms. Ball suggested a description of the reuse center would be helpful to have, along with a list of possible reuse items, to provide when discussing the topic with schools. Discussion ensued regarding examples of successful programs and items that could not be stored at the reuse center.

Ms. Hughes asked if there was a role for the Board in educating students on what can be recycled in Coconut Creek. Mr. Risberg responded there was definitely an opportunity. Discussion continued regarding ideas for the concept, as well as metrics for participation at the drop-off recycling center.

Mr. Vesey proposed that he put together and present at the November meeting a five minute *PowerPoint* presentation which the other Board members could share at their individual schools. Mr. Realejo asked if that would be in conflict with the request from Broward School District to wait until their request for proposals (RFP) process was complete, as they expected recycling opportunities to change. Mayor Tooley stated she had spoken to Monarch High School last year, and they have their own program. She noted there are other schools with programs, as well.

Ms. Hughes stated the Board had originally discussed gathering information on what each school was doing, but she was not sure that had taken place yet.

Carmen Rodriguez, kindergarten and first grade teacher at Coconut Creek Elementary School, shared information on the program at her school, and stated the school was looking for clarification on the directives regarding recycling.

Mr. Risberg discussed navigating the efforts of the City, County, and School District in order to determine what to educate on and what programs were being rolled out.

Vickie LaPort, Atlantic Technical College (ATC), shared about ATC's efforts regarding metal recycling.

Chair Hurley asked for a Board member to take the lead on following up with the reuse center. He stated he thought the first steps should be determining what teachers need. Ms. Ball stated she would be happy to do so and would connect with Mr. Risberg, then write an email to send to the principals.

Ms. Hughes asked that Board members also gather information on what their individual schools are already doing. She stated if the information was sent to her, she could funnel it back to the group.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Chair Hurley shared his report on Coconut Creek High School. He discussed active involvement at the school in the Do The Right Thing program, dual enrollment, the Cambridge Program, and after-school offerings. He shared his report on Winston Park Elementary School, noting the activities of the PTA, Title I funds, and reduction in enrollment due to COVID-19 concerns.

Ms. Sargis reported that Monarch High School's School Accountability Committee (SAC) met and discussed the school accreditation review and accountability funds requested for test preparation. She stated she had also attended the North Area Advisory Council meeting the previous week, and most of the discussion there was also surrounding accreditation at the schools. She noted there was also an election for officers and all positions were filled.

Mr. Vesey provided an update on Lyons Creek Middle School. He noted he did not make the first SAC meeting but would be attending the October meeting.

Ms. Ball provided details of the Ask Bria program, which provides free tutoring to all students K-12 in core subjects.

Mr. Realejo provided an update on Atlantic Technical College and stated he would be attending the October SAC meeting.

Ms. Hughes stated she would be sending a formal invitation to the principals to provide nominations for the student members of the Board in the next week.

8. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ms. Hughes stated the next meeting would be held on November 1. She asked the Board members to invite their schools to participate, and reminded them to gather information on recycling programs at individual schools.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Bernadette Hughes,
Assistant to the City Manager

Date