



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

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

**Date: May 17, 2021
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2021-0517**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Brian Kenney at 7:02 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL

Brian Kenney, Vice Chair
Jeff Realejo
Susan Sargis (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)
Jack Vesey
Louise Ball, Alternate

Also present: Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes

ABSENT:

Robert Hurley, Chair

Vice 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 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.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER AND OATH OF OFFICE

Vice Chair Kenney noted for the record that Board Alternate Louise Ball had previously taken the oath of office. The Board members introduced themselves in turn.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING(S). (2021-0510)

MOTION: Vesey/Realejo – To approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021, meeting as presented.

Education Advisory Board Minutes

May 17, 2021

Page 2

Upon roll call, the Motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Board Member Sargis not present at the time of the vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

6. UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Ms. Hughes explained the City of Coconut Creek's Unity in Our Community initiative. She reviewed the subjects included in the July 2020 listening session and the implementation of the efforts to ensure equity and social justice in the community. She shared the second quarter report and noted it was in the Board packets for further review.

Mr. Vesey stated there had been a wonderful presentation in the Citizens Academy related to the issues addressed in Unity in Our Community, and the speaker hit the nail on the head in a supportive and poignant way.

Ms. Hughes noted that the Education Advisory Board had received a Unity in Our Community presentation during the past year from staff, and at a previous meeting had also had a Broward County School District representative speak to discuss what the school district was doing surrounding the issue. She stated if there were any future requests for a speaker to let her know so that she could coordinate. Discussion ensued regarding opportunities for speakers.

7. SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Kenney explained the assignments, noting that there were eight schools and six Board members to divide them amongst.

Ms. Hughes reviewed a list of schools, and assignments were made as follows:

- Coconut Creek Elementary School – Vice Chair Kenney
- Tradewinds Elementary School – Ms. Ball
- Winston Park Elementary School – Chair Hurley
- Lyons Creek Middle School – Mr. Vesey
- Margate Middle School – Mr. Vesey
- Atlantic Technical High School – Mr. Realejo
- Coconut Creek High School – Chair Hurley
- Dave Thomas Center – Vice Chair Kenney
- Monarch High School – Ms. Sargis

Discussion ensued regarding whether to add Margate Middle School and Liberty Elementary School to the list. Mr. Vesey volunteered to reach out to Margate Middle School, and Ms. Hughes stated she would investigate Liberty Elementary prior to the next meeting.

Item 10 was heard before Item 8.

8. 2021 STUDENT AWARDS

Education Advisory Board Minutes

May 17, 2021

Page 3

Ms. Hughes provided a brief background on the annual City of Coconut Creek Student Awards, the nomination process, and recognition. She explained plans for a modified awards process in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic and asked for the Board's assistance coordinating with each school to recognize their students.

Vicky LaPorte, Atlantic Technical High School, stated the high schools were having award ceremonies. She noted her school's program was a live, in-person event with students only and a link to a recording would be sent to parents afterward. Ms. Hughes asked if Commissioners would be allowed to attend to present their award. Ms. LaPorte responded that she would investigate and report back. She stated she thought it should be fine, as long as protocols were followed.

Discussion ensued regarding award ceremony plans at the various schools and Board member involvement. Mr. Vesey agreed to sit in for Ms. Sargis at the Monarch High School award program.

9. BOARD AND STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Ms. Hughes explained that each school is invited to send students to participate on the Advisory Board and noted she would send out a prepared letter to each high school principal in August.

Mr. Vesey outlined the efforts of the Environmental Advisory Board, which he previously served on, to encourage recycling efforts in the schools. He shared a document he had prepared to discuss ideas on how the Education Advisory Board could get involved in engaging the students in community recycling.

Ms. Hughes noted that she also had a meeting set up to discuss the issue with the City's Public Works Department and to invite them to the July Board meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding community recycling and student involvement.

Vice Chair Kenney shared regarding a Peace Pole project at Coconut Creek Elementary School in commemoration of the third anniversary of the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. He noted the photos were on the school's Twitter profile.

Ms. Hughes recognized Atlantic Technical High School for being named by U.S. News and World Report in the top five (5) percent of U.S. high schools.

10. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ms. Hughes discussed the frequency of Advisory Board meetings and stated the next meeting was tentatively set for Monday, July 19 at 6 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Bernadette Hughes,
Assistant to the City Manager

Date