



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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

**Date: November 1, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2021-1101**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Hurley at 6:02 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, and Commissioner Jackie Railey.

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 Welch shared regarding a community garden project discussed at the last Dave Thomas Education Center School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting.

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). (2021-1005)

MOTION: Vesey/Ball – To approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2021, meeting as presented.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

5. DISCUSSION – MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Realejo provided a brief update on ongoing discussions regarding mentoring and his communication with the Take Stock in Children Broward program. He shared regarding a partnership that Take Stock in Children and other mentoring programs have with the City of Fort Lauderdale and a potential promotional campaign to grow the pool of mentors.

Mr. Realejo asked the procedure to move forward regarding promoting mentors. Ms. Hughes discussed the potential, and limitations, of utilizing social media postings to let the public know the Education Advisory Board was seeking mentors for Coconut Creek area schools. Discussion ensued about groups, organizations, and individuals to reach out to regarding potential mentors.

Discussion ensued regarding next steps, organizations to involve, the age groups impacted by the mentoring programs, and criteria to volunteer. Commissioner Railey spoke as President of the Wynmoor Community Council and stated there were a number of seniors who would be interested in mentoring. Mr. Vesey suggested putting the opportunity out to the City's other advisory boards and the Women's Club in Coconut Creek. Ms. Hughes suggested hosting a table at the Butterfly Festival Business Expo.

Mr. Realejo discussed next steps and stated he would report back at the next meeting.

Chair Hurley shared an update from the Transition into Employment Advisory Council at Atlantic Technical College and provided materials to the Board members. He discussed a mock interview event he had attended.

Ms. Hughes stated Laura Glorioso, Coordinator with Transition into Employment Advisory Council, had requested to speak at the next Education Advisory Board meeting.

6. DISCUSSION – RECYCLING

Chair Hurley reminded the Board of the ongoing discussion regarding the City's Reuse Center and sharing recycling information with Coconut Creek schools and students.

Ms. Ball stated she had been in contact with Environmental Engineering Specialist Ted Risberg regarding the reuse center, and his department was putting together ideas, including developing a flyer and survey for the schools. She noted the Board's role would be to help promote those items to gather feedback.

Mr. Risberg shared regarding the reuse centers in Palm Beach County and other Florida locations, and what is accepted at those centers. Discussion ensued regarding the content of the survey regarding materials to be gathered and who would have access to the reuse center.

Ms. Ball stated she would send Ms. Hughes the electronic draft of the survey to share with the Board for review prior to the next meeting. Discussion continued regarding the project evolving over time based on use.

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Mr. Vesey commented on ways to call attention to the information on the reuse center so teachers and administrators would not miss it. He suggested contacting principals.

Tanya Mayes, Lyons Creek Middle School, stated the teachers have wish lists and it would be easy to obtain those lists. She agreed that making contact through department heads was a positive step.

Ms. Sargis recommended the service be initially limited to teachers who service Coconut Creek schools. She suggested Board members compile a list of the appropriate department heads at their assigned schools to speed up contact once the survey was complete.

Mr. Vesey shared a *PowerPoint* presentation regarding expanding recycling through schools and family connections. He discussed lessons regarding contamination and the materials accepted, as well as ways to get students involved. He asked direction of the Board and stated, if there was interest, he would develop a timeline for the project.

In response to a question from Chair Hurley, Mr. Vesey explained they were looking at educating students to develop recycling at home, rather than creating a program to collect items at the school. Ms. Hughes added that she had spoken with Broward County Schools, and the Education Advisory Board does not have the authority to change collection programs at the individual school level. She reiterated that the Board should only be disseminating information regarding the City's recycling program.

Mr. Vesey expanded on the subject by discussing what he had done to encourage his grandson to recycle. He stated he believed it was important for the initiative to go before the City Commission and that rewards be integrated. Discussion ensued regarding recognition criteria and promotion ideas.

Mr. Vesey stated he would develop contest criteria and send it to Ms. Hughes for dissemination to the Board, then the next steps would be to present the idea to the Environmental Advisory Board and then the City Commission.

Ms. Hughes agreed to work with the Environmental Advisory Board liaison regarding getting Mr. Vesey on their November 16 agenda.

Commissioner Railey stated she thought the idea could be expanded beyond schools to friends and neighbors sharing regarding recycling.

Mr. Risberg stated City staff was in the process of creating a leaderboard on a quarterly basis and could look at the feasibility of integrating this with education program. He asked Board members to reach out with any way he could be of assistance.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Ms. Hughes stated she had reached out to the schools regarding participation on the Board and Atlantic Technical College had nominated student Toni Maxwell.

Chair Hurley added that he has two (2) students from Coconut Creek High School interested in participation, but they were unable to attend this meeting.

Toni Maxwell shared that Atlantic Technical College was hosting an environmental

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debate later in the week about single use plastics and the importance of recycling. She asserted the conversation should be student-led and added that the student government association would be a great resource to utilize in developing the project.

Mr. Vesey stated he would connect with Ms. Maxwell via email about presenting to the groups she had highlighted.

Ms. Ball shared an update from Tradewinds Elementary School. She discussed recent activities at the school and upcoming events.

Ms. Sargis reported Monarch High School's School Accountability Committee (SAC) had lost its liaison and discussed funding for test preparation, which the group had approved. She further discussed the recent North Area Advisory Council meeting, including updates to the District homework policy, technology access, and graduation requirements.

Chair Hurley shared his report on Winston Park Elementary School, including a recent SAC meeting focused on information for Title I parents and families and the School Improvement Plan. He noted the parent and family engagement calendar could be found online. Continuing, Chair Hurley stated Winston Park Elementary was partnering with Coconut Creek High School on the Harvest Festival. He shared updates from the school's SAC meeting, noting positive improvement on attendance and tardiness.

Mr. Vesey provided an update on the Lyons Creek Middle School SAC meeting. He discussed efforts to control misinformation on social media and cultural focus. He noted the school was still seeking a parent to chair their parent organization.

Ms. Hughes stated there were still no Coconut Creek High School students involved in the City's Teen Political Forum, and asked Chair Hurley to connect offline regarding recruitment.

8. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ms. Hughes stated the next meeting would be held on December 6. She stated the Interim Superintendent of Schools was expected to attend and encouraged Board members to invite teachers and administrators from the schools they represent.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Bernadette Hughes
Assistant to the City Manager

Date