

**DAVIE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**JULY 16, 2001**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33p.m. Board members present were Patricia Cardella, Jill Cohen, Cynthia Elliott, Alice Harrington, Debbie Meyers, John Pickett and Kimberly Sereda. Also present were Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen (arrived 5:45 p.m. and departed 6:06 p.m.), and Board Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting. Grettel Guerra and Wendy Weiner were absent.

**2. SELECTION OF CHAIR**

Ms. Grant nominated Mr. Pickett, seconded by Ms. Cardella. As there were no other nominations, nominations were closed. In a voice vote, with Ms. Guerra and Dr. Weiner being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

**3. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Ms. Harrington nominated Ms. Grant, seconded by Ms. Cohen. As there were no other nominations, nominations were closed. In a voice vote, with Ms. Guerra and Dr. Weiner being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

4.1 Update on Broward County School Board Meeting of June 26, 2001

Vice-Chair Grant advised that the Broward County School Board had discussed redistricting, but held off on making any decisions. She stated that the School Board would be posting maps on their Web site showing the proposed redistricting. Vice-Chair Grant believed that the Town would be affected and was concerned about Imagination Farms. She indicated that she had not been present when the future Davie middle school was discussed; however, she had been told by Chair Paul Eichner that he had recommended the middle school be moved up on the timeline so that it was within the next five years. Chair Eichner also indicated to her that School Board members Stephanie Kraft and Donna Carter agreed that the timeline should be moved up. Vice-Chair Grant stated that the final vote had not been taken, but the issue had not been lost.

Chair Pickett asked why people were having problems with the redistricting, whether it was the size or some other consideration. Vice-Chair Grant explained that the numbers had to be a certain percentage and since Weston and Pembroke Pines had grown out of proportion, the districts needed to be reorganized to stay within State law guidelines. She added that the redistricting would allow School Board members to represent districts closer to where they lived.

The Board moved forward to item 4.2 with plans to revisit item 4.1 later in the meeting.

4.2 Report on the Town's Ability to Support Web Site, *Davie Update* Notice, Newspaper Publications, Telephone

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Chair Pickett indicated that the Board's intention was to have the meetings publicized so that the community could be involved and anyone interested could attend and voice their opinions.

Mr. Cohen advised that there was no money budgeted above that which was done for other boards. He explained about the monthly publication of all Town meetings in the *Sun-Sentinel* and *Davie Update*. Mr. Cohen suggested that if the Board wanted to put a publication in the *Davie Update*, it should be drafted and presented to the Town Council in advance so their input could be offered before publication. He said that publicizing would be available on the Web site and that e-mail addresses could be utilized for Board members. Mr. Cohen expressed that unless the Board was involved with some "big issue," the general public would probably not attend meetings. He indicated that he would make sure that the e-mail issue would be taken care of if that was what the Board wanted, but above that, nothing special was planned.

Later in the meeting, the Board discussed what might be put into a questionnaire. The Board decided that the questionnaire should contain the questions, "What would be the top three issues concerning education of your children in your community schools?" and "Do you have any suggestions for addressing these questions or concerns?"

4.1 Vice-Chair Grant said that there was some question of accelerating the HHH timeline, but further discussion had revealed that it would proceed as planned. She reported on other developments and explained why Plantation schools not being allowed to refuse to make changes would be beneficial. Also discussed was the purpose of the five-year capital plan which was for the School Board to identify where the budgeted monies would be spent; however, it was noted that boundaries were changed each year.

Ms. Sereda asked for clarification of what action the School Board was taking on rezoning the boundaries and when those rezoning recommendations would be made public. Vice-Chair Grant responded that she was not sure when the School Board staff would make their recommendations known to the public; however, the vote on boundaries would take place in February or March as it had last year.

4.3 Means to Communicate with Davie Residents

Chair Pickett asked if the Board wanted to discuss e-mail addresses any further. Vice-Chair Grant volunteered to utilize her personal mailbox, but expressed concern about distributing communication to other Board members because of the Sunshine Law. She suggested that she could respond to inquiries with, "I'll bring this up at the next Board meeting." It was agreed that this would work until something more permanent could be set up.

4.4 Needs Assessment Analysis

Vice-Chair Grant said that each school had a needs assessment conducted yearly. She said that Vice-Mayor Paul had discussed this issue with her and had advised that Ms. Klauber from the School Board would be happy to come speak to the Board regarding needs assessments.

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There was a discussion regarding the next meeting. Chair Pickett advised that the Board needed to be on the Council agenda for its next meeting in order to report what had been accomplished and to get approval for the proposed questionnaire. The Board decided to meet August 13, 2001, in order to finalize the questionnaire and formulate its report to Council.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Charter School Feasibility**

Chair Pickett asked what the main needs would be in looking at proposing a Charter School. Vice-Chair Grant advised of several of the issues involved. Chair Pickett stated that the project would be “monstrous” and believed that that was why this Board had been created. He noted that Charter Schools were popular projects, even for construction companies, and that they were a great way to relieve overcrowding.

Vice-Chair Grant indicated that the Board should be given the best information possible so that they could make an educated recommendation. She recalled that some Councilmembers were opposed to the idea of Charter Schools. Vice-Chair Grant reminded the Board that only a percentage of seats would be dedicated to Davie students, then it would be opened up to the entire County.

Ms. Cohen recommended that the Board ask Council what they specifically wished to know about Charter Schools. Chair Pickett recommended that the Board look at safety, visual appeal, computers in classrooms, and classroom size in the current Davie schools. He said that this Board should put together information to show the School Board that the Town was serious about getting started on the process to have a Charter School. Ms. Elliott asked what the percentage of overcrowded schools were in the Town. Ms. Cohen advised that the School Board considered overcrowding to be over what the school was built to hold. She provided the formula that was used to make the determination and recalled her experience at Silver Trail Middle School where she had no fewer than 34 to 35 students in a classroom.

Vice-Chair Grant offered to contact a Charter School representative to possibly speak at a future meeting and give the Board more information on how they could proceed.

**5.2 Corporate Involvement**

Vice-Chair Grant stated that this issue was difficult because traditionally, corporate partners have not gotten overly involved in the schools.

Chair Pickett indicated that some ideas were out in the community and he had been approached by an insurance company that might be a small beginning for involvement with the company. He stated that the Board should think about how they wanted to approach businesses to get them involved.

**5.3 Boundaries – Getting Students Back from South Plantation High School**

The Board was reminded that they should keep abreast of what was going on in this arena, but that HHH and Plantation high schools were not items which the Board could act on.

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Chair Pickett indicated that he would prepare the subjects for discussion in order for the Board to review those items on August 13th for the August 15th Council meeting.

**6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

The Board discussed and decided on the items to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chair Pickett advised that the School Board had scheduled a meeting for August 7th regarding redistricting. Vice-Chair Grant indicated that if she was in town, she would attend the meeting; however, there was a possibility that she may be out of town. Chair Pickett asked that other Board members consider attending the School Board meeting in order to report any developments from that meeting and in case Vice-Chair Grant would be out of town.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair/Board Member