

DAVIE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:35p.m. Board members present were Chair John Pickett, Vice-Chair Pj Grant, Jill Cohen, Alice Harrington, Kimberly Sereda and Wendy Weiner. Also present was Board Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting. Patricia Cardella, Cynthia Elliott, Grettel Guerra and Debbie Meyers were absent.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 Review and Finalize Questionnaire for *Davie Update*

Chair Pickett asked if anyone had additional suggestions for the questionnaire. Vice-Chair Grant felt it would be best to first speak with Town Councilmembers regarding their vision for this project. Chair Pickett suggested that this could be addressed at the September 19th Council meeting. He stated that this item would be deferred until Council gave more direction.

2.2 Discuss Activity Report for Town Council Meeting

Chair Pickett asked if there was additional information besides the gathering of information from the Broward County School Board and their meetings that should be reported to Council. There was concern that this Board had no direction from Council.

Ms. Cohen brought up Council's consideration of sunseting Boards. She explained that Council wanted reports from Boards rather than "only minutes." Ms. Cohen felt that it was important for boards to have goals to accomplish.

Chair Pickett felt that it was important that a liaison attend these meetings so that communication regarding the Council's mission could be shared and this Board could have more direction. Ms. Cohen wanted to know what Council's priorities were regarding education and felt that Council should set goals for this Board.

Chair Pickett stated that Council had been discussing Charter Schools and this might be an issue this Board could address. Dr. Weiner advised that she had been a member of a committee several years ago which was involved with Charter Schools and she briefly explained how it progressed.

Vice-Chair Grant indicated that she had spoken with Betsy Donate and tentatively scheduled an overview presentation for the October meeting, if the Board so desired. It was recommended that invitations be extended to Council for this presentation. Vice-Chair Grant explained Ms. Donate's position with the School Board which was appreciated since she would not be representing any private companies. After some discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Donate would be scheduled to make the presentation on October 15, 2001.

There was further discussion regarding the need for a staff liaison for this Board. It was mentioned that Council was concerned with budget issues and a liaison would have to be paid for his/her time. Chair Pickett felt that it was essential in order for this Board to make appropriate recommendations as an advisory board.

Chair Pickett questioned who received the minutes besides the Board members. Ms. Gale explained the process and distribution of transcribed minutes and advised why they were not up to date. It was recommended that each Board member contact their Councilmember and ask how they would like this Board to communicate with them.

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2.3 Report on Broward County School Board Meetings

Vice-Chair Grant reported that she had attended the August 8, 2001, School Board workshop meeting. She explained that they discussed the boundaries process and it had been decided that no school would be allowed to refuse to have its boundaries changed. Vice-Chair Grant indicated that this affected Indian Ridge Middle School because many of the students transitioned to South Plantation High School and they wanted to go to Western High School in Davie. She stated that School Board staff was preparing boundary suggestions which would affect many schools, especially South Plantation High School and Plantation High School.

Vice-Chair Grant felt that this Board was created because of the Hawkes Bluff and Indian Ridge students who were not being adequately represented at School Board boundary meetings. She also stated that the reliever school for Indian Ridge Middle School was accelerated to be completed by the 2004-2005 school year. Vice-Chair Grant stated that there were three proposed district boundary maps on the School Board's website and feedback was being solicited from all stakeholders. She indicated that this would be a good place to express opinions. Vice-Chair Grant stated that, by law, the new districts had to be finalized by the end of 2001.

Ms. Sereda stated that the purpose of the redistricting was to align the feeder patterns. Vice-Chair Grant explained that it was because of the population figures. Chair Pickett indicated that it was important that this Board address the concerns of the Town as far as boundaries were concerned. He felt that this Board could not bring their position to the School Board; however, they could share their concerns with Council.

Ms. Harrington indicated that a major concern with the boundary issue was that many parents had to send their children to schools in districts where they could not vote for School Board members, so they had no representation.

There was further discussion regarding the many variables considered with redistricting, including the politics. Chair Pickett stated that he would attend the proposal meeting, but asked how this information could be communicated to Davie residents. Ms. Sereda recommended communicating through the Innovation Zones.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Grant reported that she was appointed to the School Board Traffic Committee and offered to bring concerns to this Board regarding issues in the Town. She stated that Vice-Mayor Paul had recommended to her that Fran Klauber meet with this Board as Ms. Klauber was a good resource for setting up boards. Vice-Chair Grant indicated that she would pursue this and invite Ms. Klauber to a meeting.

Vice-Chair Grant referred to a letter from Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Till, regarding the use of cell phones in active school zones. Dr. Till stated in the letter that it was not under the School Board's jurisdiction to ban cell phones and Vice-Chair Grant asked if this was an issue that this Board wanted to address with Council. Dr. Weiner recommended that this issue be addressed in the questionnaire.

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4. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Members of the Board wanted to establish a regular location for meetings rather than being moved every month. Since the majority preferred the Police Department, Ms. Gale stated that she would try to schedule meetings at that location.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member