

DAVIE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 19, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. Board members present were Vice-Chair Kimberly Sereda, Alex Arreaza, Alice Harrington, John Pisula and Barbara Ann Tilley. Also present were Broward County Schools Liaison Fran Klauber and Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting. Martin Kiar, Debbie Meyers, Barry Mowell and Rebecca Orlando were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 23, 2004

Ms. Harrington made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pisula, to approve the minutes of February 23, 2004. In a voice vote, with Mr. Kiar, Ms. Meyers, Mr. Mowell and Ms. Orlando being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Review Annual Report

As the report mentioned the Children Services Board, Ms. Klauber stated that she intended to invite Staff Director Mike Ellwell to one of the Davie School Advisory Board meetings. She indicated that Mr. Ellwell would inform the Board of the various services that are made available by this organization so that it could be filtered to the children in need of those services.

Ms. Klauber explained that as a public relations spokesperson, she would like to organize a one-day conference in October in which a team of selected personnel from each municipality in Broward County would be invited. She indicated that the purpose for the conference would be to learn about all the different social services programs offered by the Children Services Board and that providers would maintain booths and distribute information.

Ms. Harrington asked if these services were offered through the schools or through municipalities. Ms. Klauber responded that "there was \$15,000,000 worth of services out on the streets with RFP's to providers". She indicated that the Children Services Board did special needs, childcare, homeless and others, and that providers were given grants in order to give direct services to children. Ms. Klauber spoke of a quarterly report which identified "under-utilization" of services, which meant that the allocation of funds was not entirely spent. She believed that people who were involved with the care of children needed to be informed of what services were available in order to make referrals when necessary. Ms. Klauber also advised that if there was a "gap" in services which could be identified, then there would be a possibility of getting grants written for that gap.

Ms. Klauber reiterated that it would be beneficial to have Mr. Ellwell make a presentation in May and that some area principals could be invited as well. Vice-Chair Sereda concurred that there were many people in need of the services, but they did not know how to access the programs. Ms. Klauber explained the difference between the Children Services Council and the Children Services Board.

The Board's annual report also addressed the idea of "Government Day" and Ms. Klauber asked if the Board would like to revitalize this event. A brief discussion ensued and it was mentioned that Councilmembers should decide if this tradition should be pursued. Ms. Klauber indicated that she would help out if the idea was to move forward.

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3.2 Revisit After-Care Program for Middle School Students

Vice-Chair Sereda advised that she had spoken with the principal of Indian Ridge Middle School about an after-care program. She said that although he did not perceive a need for it, many of the parents she had spoken with had expressed that they would like to see their children going into some kind of a "structured program". In the discussion which ensued, it was identified that transportation would be the issue as there were a number of places where the children could go to after school. Vice-Chair Sereda believed that it was a matter of collating the information on where students could go for after-care and that the Town should work in partnership with the schools to transport the children. Ms. Harrington recommended that the Board first identify the middle school population that would be interested in the program and secondly, contact the agencies that offer after care and find out what resources there were for transportation. Ms. Klauber suggested having a meeting with middle school principals, Councilmembers, and the Town's Recreation Director in order to compile all the information regarding the issue; then, the issue could be presented to the Broward County School Board.

The Board decided to have its next regular meeting on May 17th and to cancel the meeting in June. They also decided to invite Mr. Ellwell and the Town's public school principals to the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Broward County School Board Activities

Vice-Chair Sereda reported that although the School Board had decided that the term would start a week earlier for the calendar year 2004-2005, the 2005-2006 calendar had not been determined. She advised that 2004-2005 year would start August 16th.

Vice-Chair Sereda announced when and where boundary hearings were to be held for specific schools. She also advised which of the Town's schools would be receiving modulars and which were receiving portables. Ms. Klauber indicated that if the Board wanted to know more about school construction, she could ask Deputy Superintendent of Facilities Michael Garrison, to make a presentation.

Vice-Chair Sereda advised that Indian Ridge Middle School Assistant Principal Jill Fiorentino would be coordinating a meeting between eighth-grade students and high school students to discuss issues concerning entering high school.

Mr. Pisula reported that Mayor Truex had asked him to start up a mentoring program within the Town and he believed that this would be a project with which this Board could become involved. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding training, recruiting, and identifying which schools were in greatest need of this program. Mr. Pisula indicated that the Board's task would be to establish the network on who would do the training, who would do the screening, how people were assigned to a school, and keeping track of volunteers on a bi-monthly basis. Ms. Klauber commented that this project was "doable".

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There was a brief discussion regarding Broward County's preliminary statistics from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and what the purpose may have been for releasing the information. Mr. Pisula believed that it would be beneficial to have those grades in order to focus on the schools in need. Ms. Klauber reiterated that Mr. Ellwell would explain what programs were available for different needs and that the principals could state what their "gaps" in services were. She felt that if there was a meeting among these parties before October, it could be determined whether something could be done by the Board or if there was an organization established that already dealt with the issue. Mr. Pisula offered to prepare a report on the Town's schools to be taken from the FCAT scores to bring with him for the meeting. He believed it was a lot easier to get people to volunteer if they knew what the real need was.

Various marketing techniques were discussed regarding the mentoring program and getting volunteers. Ms. Klauber suggested that mentoring may be a possibility during after-care. Vice-Chair Sereda agreed that this was something to explore.

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions made.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member