

DAVIE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 17, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. Board members present were Vice-Chair Kimberly Sereda, Marcy Fallahzadeh (departed at 7:50 p.m.), Alice Harrington, Martin Kiar, Barry Mowell, Rebecca Orlando, John Pisula and Barbara Ann Tilley. Also present were Broward County Schools Liaison Fran Klauber, Vice-Mayor Judy Paul, Councilmember Susan Starkey, Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky and Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting. Alex Arreaza was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 19, 2004

Later in the meeting, Chair Harrington realized that this item had been skipped and she intended to review it after item seven; however, it was inadvertently forgotten.

3. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Earlier in the meeting, invited guests introduced themselves. They were: Charinus Johnson, YMCA; Kathy Morris, Flamingo Elementary; Frank Zagari, Indian Ridge Middle School; Marion Gundling, Silver Ridge Elementary; Wendy Chapman, Silver Ridge Elementary; and Linda Chuckman, Fox Trail Elementary.

4. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Ms. Harrington nominated Mr. Pisula who declined.

Mr. Pisula nominated Ms. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Mowell. There were no other nominations. In a voice vote, with Mr. Arreaza being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

5. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Chair Harrington passed the gavel and nominated Mr. Pisula, seconded by Mr. Kiar. As there were no other nominations, nominations were closed. In a voice vote, with Mr. Arreaza being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

6. PRESENTATION

6.1 Mike Ellwell – Children Services Board

In Mr. Ellwell's absence, Ms. Klauber provided a capsulated version of the history, structure and functions of Children Services Board (CSB). She explained the differences and similarities between the CSB and the Children Services Council (CSC). Ms. Klauber provided literature advising of all the services which had been funded by the CSB this past year. She spoke of an objective which was to inform the public about the CSB and secondly, to find out if the services provided were adequate and utilized. Ms. Klauber spoke about having a conference in October for the benefit of all the municipalities and the schools in Broward County to meet with the providers involved in programs offered by the CSB and the CSC.

After an informative discussion, Mr. Pisula asked Ms. Klauber how she saw the Davie School Advisory Board being involved with the CSB. Ms. Klauber responded that this Board was the perfect vehicle for finding out what the needs assessment was for all the children in the Town. Councilmember Starkey added that through the United Way, an analysis had been completed for the south area and she offered to share the information.

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Ms. Klauber professed that the Town had to let the providers know what was needed since it was the providers who decided through grants where they wanted to serve the population. Councilmember Starkey spoke about the earned income tax credit program that had been implemented thanks to the study that showed there was a need within certain zip codes in the Town. She mentioned that by identifying those areas, they were able to identify several other needs such as health issues and literacy issues. Chair Harrington asked how to find out which programs were offered in the Town. Ms. Klauber responded that she would find out where the Town's clients were coming from. Ms. Sereda commented that she was aware that the Family Central mental health program was being utilized by some of the Davie schools. Vice-Mayor Paul interjected that the Henderson Mental Health Center had been utilized by the Child Safety Board for some seminars.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 School Principals on After Care and Mentoring

Mr. Andresky spoke about which of the Town's facilities were available and which were being utilized. Ms. Sereda spoke of an informal survey she had recently taken of sixth-graders' parents. By a show-of-hands, approximately one third of the parents had indicated that they were interested in some kind of supervised after school program. She reiterated that the purpose of this meeting was to exchange information to see what resources were available from the schools and from the Town for after-care in order to resolve this problem.

Ms. Johnson spoke of the hand-tailored after-care programs offered by the YMCA in the guise of "clubs". She indicated their success was due to the diversity of the clubs that have been created. Ms. Johnson advised that there were before-school programs as well as "Y-chance" (a last chance) program offered through the YMCA.

Discussions ensued regarding transportation to the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Rexmere and Paradise Village. Mr. Zagari pointed out that there was a need for before-school programs and that it would be beneficial to have transportation provided from several venues to their respective schools in the morning. Councilmember Starkey spoke of a successful before-care program at Silver Ridge which involved dropping students off at the school early. Ms. Klauber suggested conducting a survey asking about those interested in morning programs verses afternoon programs. Councilmember Starkey suggested that if the literacy component could be included in the programs, then she could "roll it in through the United Way" as there had been five target areas identified as needing this service.

Ms. Chapman encouraged any program that addressed the "bullying" problem, especially for sixth graders. Vice-Mayor Paul recalled having students waiting for an hour for the doors to open at school. Ms. Sereda shared her knowledge of the benefits of the before-school programs at middle schools.

Mr. Zagari shared his insights and experience with after-care programs at middle schools. He stated his reasons for preferring the before-school programs which could be held at the schools and that the after-school programs and "clubs" could be held at other venues.

In the discussions which followed, it was decided that sixth-graders would be the candidates for the before-school program and that it should be available approximately an hour before school started each day.

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In discussing a survey, Mr. Zagari recommended that the fifth-grade parents be surveyed to see if a program were offered at the middle schools for sixth-graders in the morning only, would parents be interested in sending their children.

Ms. Sereda made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kiar, for the Town to conduct an informal survey of the fifth-grade classes at the elementary schools in Davie in order to find out what the need was for parents for supervision of sixth-graders in the mornings before school started. In a voice vote, with Mr. Arreaza being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

Ms. Sereda offered to compose the survey in conjunction with input from Mr. Zagari. It was decided that she would e-mail the survey to Ms. Gale who in turn would e-mail the draft form to Board members for their information. However, as time was of concern, Mr. Zagari suggested that the survey simply ask - "If a morning program was available for your child that would guarantee your child safe passage to the middle school, would you be interested."

Ms. Klauber advised that if the survey were Town initiated, then it would have to go through the school district screening committee; therefore, it was decided that the survey would come out of Indian Ridge Middle School.

Vice-Chair Pisula spoke of the Governor's Mentoring Initiative and emphasized his belief that having municipal employees involved, especially those in uniform, had an enormously positive impact on the students. Ms. Klauber also spoke of the benefits of the program. Mr. Mowell mentioned that several civic groups expressed interest in mentoring but were reluctant to go through the arduous nature of processing. Ms. Klauber stated that as long as a teacher was in the room, they could come in as volunteers.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sereda asked if the Board wanted to discuss revitalizing "government day". Vice-Mayor Paul spoke of her efforts to encourage participation in this event which culminated with a mock Council meeting. Councilmember Starkey and Ms. Klauber recalled humorous incidences resulting from previous government day events.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Broward County School Board Activities

Councilmember Starkey reported that Indian Ridge Middle School remained overcrowded. She mentioned the proposed "NN" middle school and Ms. Klauber stated that two sites were again being considered for this school; one in Plantation and one in Davie near I-75. Ms. Klauber added that although the location had not been decided, the project design had been funded and put into the budget this last fiscal year. She indicated that it would be a full size middle school and on July 1st, the money would be allocated for construction.

Ms. Klauber spoke of a policy she would like to have initiated whereby the school project managers would serve as liaisons in the municipalities where the school was being built. She

indicated that a major complaint from the municipalities was that they did not receive communications from the School Board early enough to be able to contribute their input.

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Councilmember Starkey commented that if updates could be provided by the School Board's end, it would be much better than trying to chase it.

Regarding the location for the "NN" school site, Ms. Orlando advised that homeowners' associations in the City of Plantation were opposed to the Flamingo Road/Sunrise Boulevard location and it would be a good time to promote the Davie site.

10. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Board members discussed their next meeting and decided that August 23rd was better than August 16th since the latter was the first day back to school.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member