

**YOUTH EDUCATION AND SAFETY
ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 16, 2011**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. Board members present were Chair John Pisula, Hal Axler, Tim Curtin, Nan Gault and Barbara Ann Tilley. Also present was Mayor Judy Paul, Vice-Mayor Caryl Hattan, and Board Secretary Jenevia Campbell recording the meeting. Vice-Chair Lorraine Hofheinz, Diana Podel, Stacy Shaffer, Marcy Fallahzadeh and Janet Raether were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 21, 2011

Mr. Axler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to suspend approval of the minutes until the July meeting. Reading of the Treasurer's report was also suspended until the July meeting. In a voice vote, with Vice-Chair Hofheinz, Ms. Podel, Ms. Shaffer, Ms. Fallahzadeh and Ms. Raether being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

Chair Pisula introduced himself and welcomed everyone in attendance. (Attached hereto and made a part hereof is the list of attendees). He explained recent Board activities and projects including the health fair sponsored by Memorial Health Services and the annual Education Excellence and Safety Grant Program that began three years ago. Chair Pisula explained that grant applications were submitted in the fall and grants of \$500 were selected for different grade levels, elementary, middle and high schools and a different teacher was selected for projects in the school. He indicated that the school year was ending and with plans being made for next year, the Board wanted to find a project in which it could become involved. Chair Pisula advised that there was discussion concerning the bullying issue and the Board wanted to find a way to get the parents and businesses more involved in what the schools were doing.

Chair Pisula expressed thanks to Ms. Nan Gault for her efforts in securing the sponsorship of Whole Foods. He also expressed thanks to other Boardmembers for their efforts in bringing about this conference. Chair Pisula recognized Mayor Judy Paul, Vice-Mayor Caryl Hattan and District 6 school board member Laurie Rich Levinson. He added that the Board's goal was to tie-in the Town's elected officials with the County School Board and businesses.

Mayor Paul welcomed everyone and explained that the Town was always happy to assist in bringing educational ideas to the Broward community. She referred to a meeting she had attended with school principals in Davie that was initiated by her and Ms. Levinson. Mayor Paul indicated that a lot of ideas were exchanged and there were plans to bring some of those ideas to the Youth Education and Safety Advisory Board.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 Bullying Conference – Robert Spencer Knotts - Author, Playwright

Chair Pisula's introduction of Mr. Knotts was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by members of the Western SGA Leadership.

Chair Pisula explained that he was informed by a colleague of Mr. Knotts' work through the Humanity Project in Broward County. He indicated that State Farm was involved in funding for the project, and many associates and agents of State Farm wanted to be involved as well. Chair Pisula commented that he had been working with Mr. Knotts on a number of projects for some time. He added that Vice-Mayor Hattan had also worked with Mr. Knotts and this was really a good fit for the Town.

Mr. Knotts expressed his thanks to the audience for attending and hoped that his presentation would provide information that would give a head start towards next year. He also expressed thanks to Vice-Mayor Hattan and highlighted a project which they had worked on that was instrumental in creating a policy that became the template for the State of Florida. He also indicated that Ms. Levinson was a major supporter in the bullying efforts.

**YOUTH EDUCATION AND SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 16, 2011**

In acknowledging State Farm Insurance as a great sponsor as well as the Broward Sheriff's Office as a major community partner, Mr. Knotts explained that through the efforts of these organizations, he was able to present the program in elementary schools at no cost. Mr. Knotts provided information on the Humanity Project explaining briefly that it was not specifically an anti-bullying organization; its emphasis was on innovation, with the focus on cooperation and social connection.

Prior to presenting the first video, Mr. Knotts explained that every element involving the anti-bullying program was all original and created by the Humanity Project. He added that the organization was involved with music, music videos and adult fables and the video should provide a feel for what the Humanity Project did in the schools. Mr. Knotts commented that the Humanity Project's mantra was, "Bullying Hurts Everyone In the School and It Takes Everyone to Stop It."

The second video was based on the Michael Jackson video, Beat It, and was completed by the Humanity Project assisted by the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and shot in high definition. Mr. Knotts explained that there were references to the Beat It video; however, the type of music was different and this was done deliberately. He indicated that when questioned there was always positive feedback from the children. Mr. Knotts indicated that last year the project worked with a number of "at risk" middle school children to encourage them to write stories of what the program was about, and through State Farm's efforts, every teacher was provided with a copy of the brochure as follow-up material.

Following the presentations, Mr. Knotts questioned how the Town of Davie could become more involved with the schools in a better partnership than what presently existed. Mr. Knotts commented that although parents involvement was not new, it should be presented with bullying as a focal point to ensure greater parent involvement both at home and in the schools. He suggested that Davie could start an innovative campaign aimed at parents; and referred to a number of ways that it could be accomplished. Mr. Knotts commented that to make a real difference in the bullying issue, the parents had to get involved. He referred to a hand-out that was prepared for Children Services of Broward, which he would be emailing to members in the audience.

Mr. Knotts suggested some of the ways to resolve the issue if the child was the aggressor, the victim or a bystander. He believed this board was trying to join forces between the school and the Town, and to do this with a focus instead of just asking parents to get more involved with the children or talk to the teacher. Mr. Knotts suggested that parents should be encouraged to ask for any bullying programs like his program that were offered free to the schools. While explaining the scheduling issues, Mr. Knotts suggested a number of ways in which parents could participate in the schools and make sure that their child was part of the solution and not part of the problem. Mr. Knotts questioned what specific steps the Town could use to interest and encourage parents in the schools.

Feedback from the audience included 1) a back to school night; 2) utilizing homeowner's associations by doing door-to-door campaigning with flyers 3) students programs that would involve the parents.

Mr. Knotts commented that the bullying issue was a legitimate issue to involve the Davie Police Department because bullying prevention was crime prevention and this was part of the reason that BSO was a sponsor of the project. He indicated that this would be a proactive use of the police department displaying posters and urging parents to get involved with the schools.

A lengthy discussion ensued with comments regarding situations that appeared to be bullying when they were not and mean comments used in isolated situations being mistaken for bullying. It was felt that education was the key to understanding the bullying issue and being open to the idea that any child could be capable of demonstrating bullying behavior.

Mr. Knotts agreed that often the lines were not clear cut hence the reason it was important for parents to get involved. He added that the goal of his program was always to make bullying socially unacceptable and this required education and parents; and this is where the Town could become more deeply involved and bullying would be seen in the same way as smoking.

**YOUTH EDUCATION AND SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 16, 2011**

Discussion continued with a myriad of ideas being presented and suggestions made as to how to deal with the bullying issue. One of the suggestions was to use parents in establishing some type of positive reward such as a contest. Vice-Mayor Hattan felt that a Parent of the Month would be a good idea, with the school submitting the name of a parent and have that parent and child attend a council meeting and have the parent congratulated at the Council meeting as the parent of the month. Mr. Knotts suggested placing a press release in the Sun-Sentinel and questioned the Mayor Paul's feeling on the idea.

Mayor Paul referred to a recent meeting she attended with all principals from all public schools in Davie, the area superintendents and vendors. There was a lengthy brainstorming session about different ways that the Town and the schools could work together. Mayor Paul indicated that Police Chief Patrick Lynn attended the meeting and is aware of some of the areas of need. She spoke of an idea of the Town allowing employees to visit some of the schools to read and to act as mentors; the Town was also looking into an internship program for older students.

Mayor Paul explained that she planned to bring some of the ideas to this Board for its input. She indicated that there was also the idea to implement a program to approach parents to talk about gangs. The key was to find a venue and a way to present the issues so parents would attend.

Mayor Paul spoke of a number of programs in the Town through the Boys and Girls Clubs, Firewall Ministries and a number of other groups that were working with young people. She added that it was question of whether to have them come to us or if the Town would find a way to go to them.

Mr. Knotts questioned if the Mayor was interested in a focal point of taking the Town's position to the parents that bullying was a major problem and the parents was part of the solution.

Mayor Paul referred to an outreach program that was held recently at a mobile home park that was presented by Teen Challenge.

Mr. Knotts expressed appreciation for how the discussion turned out and indicated that he would be happy to assist if anyone needed help.

Chair Pisula expressed thanks to everyone who came although it was close to the end of the school year, it was crucial to plan ahead. He referred to discussion with a representative from Western High School who had ideas for a project in January and this provided time to make plans.

Ms. Levinson indicated that she had approached Mayor Paul about the Town getting together with the schools and one of her issues was to increase the involvement of cities with the schools. She mentioned that in piggybacking on one of the ideas presented was the creation of a parent and community involvement task force. Over 200 applications were received from interested parents and the first meeting was being held on Wednesday May 18th. Ms. Levinson explained that the task force would be looking at exploring ways to get parents who do not normally attend PTA meetings to attend this meeting. She added that there would be a number of sub-committee that would also deal with interaction with cities. Ms. Levinson indicated she was looking forward to seeing how things would move forward in the district.

The date for the next meeting was briefly discussed with Mayor Paul indicating that she would like to attend that meeting and present some ideas to the Board and have the Board make a recommendation to Council.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

**YOUTH EDUCATION AND SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 16, 2011**

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no agenda items discussed for the July meeting.

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions made.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member