

**YOUTH EDUCATION AND SAFETY
ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 21, 2012**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Chair John Pisula, Vice-Chair Lorraine Hofheinz, Hal Axler, Tim Curtin (arrived at 6:20), Marcy Fallahzadeh, Nan Gault (left at 7:55), Stacey Shaffer (left at 7:30), Barbara Ann Tilley, and Rae White. Also present were Council members Caryl Hattan and Susan Starkey (arrived at 6:17), and Board Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting. Diana Podel was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 19, 2012

Mr. Axler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tilley, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012. In a voice vote, with Tim Curtin and Diana Podel being absent, the motion passed unanimously. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

3. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Ms. Tilley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fallahzadeh, to appoint John Pisula as Chair. Mr. Pisula accepted the nomination. Hearing no additional nominations, Mr. Pisula was reappointed Chair. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

4. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Ms. Tilley made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to nominate Ms. Hofheinz as Vice-Chair. Ms. Hofheinz accepted the nomination. Hearing no additional nominations, Ms. Hofheinz was reappointed as Vice-Chair. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Educational Prep Program at Eastside Community Center - Daisy Fussell

Ms. Fussell introduced herself, noting that she was a new resident of Davie living on the East side, and was an educator working on her Ph.D. She commented that there were many people who could not read in that area. She also remarked that some of them were bitter because they did not have the skills to do "anything else," and she believed people need to learn new ideas in order to overcome that bitterness.

Ms. Fussell continued that she wished to implement a program, called "Village," that prepared the residents to take the GSE examination to get into McFatter and other institutions of learning. Her underlying concept was to interrupt a vicious cycle of psychological/mental contamination of the children by their elders, by starting with residents over the age of 16.

Ms. Fussell said she had been in touch with many institutions of higher learning as well as technical institutions in the area to discover ways to get them involved. She surveyed residents and found that cosmetology was a popular choice for desired careers, as well as a CDL license and graphic design. Ms. Fussell also approached businesses to offer opportunities for the residents.

Ms. Fussell remarked that she has spoken with the Mayor and the Town Administrator, who referred her to this Board to help get the project going.

Chair Pisula suggested the Board could get involved by helping to publicize the technical institutions and other schools among the high school students.

Ms. White wondered how Ms. Fussell envisioned attracting students to her program. Ms. Fussell replied that she approached them by talking to them individually and getting to know their aspirations.

Councilmember Starkey mentioned that there were existing literacy programs for youth, and there may be a potential for mentoring programs for other age groups. She said she would look into such programs, as she did not want to dismiss the older population.

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Discussion ensued about various literacy programs, such as the Broward County literacy program held in conjunction with the public library. Other programs mentioned were programs for Hispanics and other minorities. Councilmember Starkey brought up the possibility of doing a community survey funded by Community Development Block Grant or a similar entity. Ms. Fussell commented she had done a lot of surveying. Hope Outreach, NOVA, and the Alex Sherman Library were also suggested as potential participants in a project.

Councilmember Hattan stated that the objectives should be to teach people to read, and help them get their G.E.D. Several methods of teaching children to read were discussed such as computer games. Ms. Fussell emphasized that she wanted to keep this local so as to avoid excuses from students for not making it to class. In response to a question by Vice-Chair Hofheinz, Ms. Fussell said she was a certified teacher and a reading specialist who volunteered at an elementary school.

There was discussion about what the Board could do to participate in this effort. It was pointed out that a written survey would not be fruitful because the intended recipients could not read it. Ms. White pointed out that many of the children were probably involved with Social Services and that may be a way to reach them. Vice-Chair Hofheinz suggested word-of-mouth advertising.

Ms. Fussell emphasized that not everyone in the area experienced the problems they were talking about. Chair Pisula suggested that someone from the Board be selected as a liaison to Ms. Fussell and do some fact-finding. Ms. Gault volunteered.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Broward County School Board Member Katherine Leach

There was a brief discussion about which School Board members represented which districts.

Ms. Leach reported that the County would be redistricting, as they normally did following a census. Meetings were being held in each member's district, and they just met in Fort Lauderdale. She said information, including maps of proposed districts, were on the web at BrowardSchools.com/redistricting. Ms. Leach continued that there would be two appointees to every district asking people in the communities to submit maps.

Ms. Leach opined that high-stakes standardized testing was a bad idea, and teachers should not be teaching to the test. She said the Board was considering making a resolution against the emphasis placed on such testing. She noted how it was detrimental to the child's mental and emotional state. The School Board was also looking into other indicators as to whether a school was successful and growing. She deplored the amount of pressure being put onto schools and students.

Ms. Leach commented that teachers were, by contract, required to have 300 minutes (five hours) of contact per day with students. While elementary and middle school teachers were already doing that, the high school teachers were just catching up.

There was a discussion about the details of attending virtual school.

6.2 Graduation Rates

Ms. Leach reported that the graduation rates were higher than the state average. She said they were taking applications for a Military Academy in Hollywood Hills. Transportation would be provided or offered.

Ms. Leach continued that certain students who were educated in a single-gender classroom tended to have better outcomes. For example, boys do better in English and the social sciences, while girls perform better in math and science than they do in mixed-gender classes. The School Board was considering some single-gender programs for the future.

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Ms. Leach also announced that the School Board was looking at having some K-8 schools instead of middle schools. In the case of excelling students, they were considering having some schools 6-12. She continued that they were looking at creating their own charter schools, with the idea of doing innovative programs. They would anticipate the charter schools to be a good return on their investment, and some of the services would be more affordable. Ms. Leach said there were 76 charter schools now and they foresaw 103 in the fall; about 40,000 students were in the charter schools.

It was noted that charter schools provide alternatives for students. Some were good and some were opportunistic. Ms. Leach commented that if students graduate in the International Baccalaureate Program, they do not receive a Florida high school diploma, but an international diploma.

There was a lengthy discussion about the origins of both public and charter schools in the area. Councilmember Starkey believed that the timing may be right to bring the focus back on neighborhood schools and suggested that School Board members consider it. The discussion turned to Nova schools in Davie and Ms. Leach indicated that she appreciated the Board's comments and viewpoints.

6.3 Cyber Security

Ms. White asked about the latest School Board programs on cyber-bullying. She understood Amy Wood had a good program, but her school had to cut back on the curriculum. Every school had a prevention coordinator who should be able to access the curriculum. Ms. White recalled that at the last meeting, the Board was charged with putting together an anti-cyber-bullying program. She said if there was an existing curriculum, they should capitalize on it.

It was noted that Frank Zagari and the PTA President at Indian Ridge School have been contacted, and were very excited about the Board coming in and presenting a program on Cyber Security at the beginning of the school year. Since the school was interested in hosting such a program, the Board needed to find a speaker and organize refreshments. The presentation would be offered to Indian Ridge parents and broadcasted to attract other interested people. Councilmember Hattan mentioned Kidsafefoundation.org, which gave presentations. The "Weight of Words" (NOVA High School Drama Department) performance was also brought up as an excellent presentation on cyber-bullying, as was a program by the Broward County Sheriff's Office. The FBI was also suggested.

Mr. Curtin said Memorial would sponsor light refreshments for the event.

Discussion ensued about the exact topic they wanted to address at the September meeting, cyber-bullying or cyber security.

By consensus, the Board agreed that the parents need to be included in the program. Pine Ridge Cinema was suggested as a potential venue if they have a movie.

It was noted that the program could not be too long, as parents could not stay late on a school night.

Chair Pisula asked the members working on the project to send updates to Ms. Gale via email.

Chair Pisula also thought Open House would be a good opportunity to have a table with information on other projects, as well as passing out applications for the Fifth Annual Grant kick-off.

6.4 Town Council Meeting Updates

The next meeting would be June 6, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair Hofheinz announced that there was a check for \$1,000 from her company. There would be a presentation at the Town Council meeting. The agenda for that meeting was to be long; however, there was to be an open public hearing the first half-hour. Vice-Chair Hofheinz reminded the Board that sponsors were to get recognition on the web page, and thank you letters were to be sent.

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When Chair Pisula and Mr. Curtin expressed that the kick-off promotion for the Award in Educational Excellence should be done at the August Council meeting, Councilmember Hattan suggested promoting it at all Council meetings. She offered to advertise events on the "CAM" if she was provided the information and she would see that the right schools receive that information.

Regarding the thank-you letters, Councilmember Hattan suggested that a list of donors be provided and she would have staff send out the thank-you letters. She also suggested that when a display board was made to kick off the grant awards, the sponsors should be listed on it for recognition and appreciation.

Councilmember Starkey noted that all things Board related should go through Ms. Gale.

6.5 Fifth Annual Grant Award in Educational Excellence

Vice Chair Hofheinz mentioned that she and Ms. White went to the Town of Davie Chamber of Commerce. They realized it was a good place to distribute information. She gave a form to the Presidents of both the West Broward Women's Club and the Davie Soroptimist Club, who were very interested in giving a donation. Ms. White provided a display board which Interim Parks and Recreation Matt Mlodzinski had helped to create.

Vice-Chair Hofheinz invited members to join her and Ms. White as sub-committee fact finders for breakfast at Denny's to discuss the cyber bullying event. Ms. White indicated that she would inform Ms. Gale when the sub-committee would be meeting.

Mr. Axler wondered if grants could be awarded to non-traditional schools. It was noted that the grants had to go to Davie public schools where the majority of the students lived in the Town. Councilmember Starkey reiterated that Council had discussed the issue and also wanted to limit the grants to Davie schools.

Documents were distributed regarding sponsorships - these were to be added to the website. It was noted that personal donations were also encouraged. Chair Pisula indicated that logos should be sent to Ms. Gale.

Board members commented on various photographs which were placed on the display board.

6.6 Guy Harvey Items

It was noted there was one signed poster and two unsigned posters. Ruffling was discussed as a fundraising option, with the proceeds to go towards the grant award money. They would check with the Police Department and have a table outside.

There was a brief discussion about trying to get Mr. Harvey to sign all of the items.

It was mentioned that the banner was missing. One banner saying, "Child Safety Grant," had been found, but it did not say the "Town of Davie." A new banner would cost \$180. Councilmember Starkey suggested that Chair Pisula send her an email about the banner and she would ask the Police Chief about it since it was last known to be in storage at the Police Department.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. White brought up the Consortium of Education Advisory Boards meeting May 31 at 5:30 p.m. It would be at BECON, beginning with a tour and a meeting following at 6:15 p.m. If two or more voting members of the City Commission or Advisory Board wish to attend, the City Attorney's office should be contacted in advance (regarding Sunshine). Discussion ensued about who would attend.

Donation checks would be presented at the Town Council meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

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Council Member Starkey announced that within 30 days, the County Commission would pass Ethics Ordinances which would apply to Town employees. In 120 days, the ordinances would apply to Advisory Boards. There was to be training requirements that had to be met, and the Broward County Commission had additional information on the subject (Chapter 19) on their website. Councilmember Starkey explained that the City of Wilton Manors passed a charter amendment that they did not want the County ordinance affecting their city. A County ordinance trumped a City ordinance, but a City charter would trump the County ordinance. Council Member Starkey continued members could get the protection of a “Safe Harbor” opinion if they ask for it individually. She elaborated that members are safe as far as the ordinance itself goes (if they have the Safe Harbor), but if the Inspector General for the County finds probable cause to go forward with an investigation, a person’s reputation and name were at stake.

Ms. White brought up the Candidate debate idea that was discussed at the last meeting. Chair Pisula commented that it would not be discussed at this time.

8. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions made.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member