

**YOUTH EDUCATION AND SAFETY  
ADVISORY BOARD  
JANUARY 28, 2013**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. Board members present were Vice-Chair Lorraine Hofheinz, Tim Curtin, Marcy Fallahzadeh, Nan Gault, Barbara Ann Tilley, and Rae White. Also present were Councilmember Caryl Hattan (arrived 6:20 p.m.), Coordinator, Public Relations & Governmental Affairs for Broward County Public Schools Fran Klauber (arrived at 6:45 p.m. and departed at 7:06 p.m.), Andy Fernandez for Firewall Center, and Janet Gale recording the meeting. Chair John Pisula, Hal Axler, and Stacy Shaffer were absent.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 19, 2012**

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2012, meeting. In a voice vote, with Chair Pisula, Mr. Axler and Ms. Shaffer being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 6-0)**

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**3.1 Grant Revenue Report from Broward Education Foundation**

Vice-Chair Hofheinz directed the Board's attention to the distributed Grant Revenue report from the Broward Education Foundation. She questioned the following entries for James Ciotkosz: Mr. Ciotkosz (teacher) was awarded \$500 for his grant project on February 17, 2012 (debit); and then on the same day, there is a credit entry for \$500 from him. After discussion, it was thought that he may have returned or declined the money.

Secondly, Vice-Chair Hofheinz believed the balance was \$155.57. She explained how she arrived at that figure.

Mr. Curtin stated that he gives a \$250 check every year, and that was not seen on the report. If the amount was not found, Mr. Curtin would cancel the check and issue another one. He wondered if they could not use the Town of Davie as a pass-through instead, but it was pointed out that the donations have to go through a nonprofit.

Vice-Chair Hofheinz said they only earned a small amount from interest and she said she did not think she would be able to get the \$1,000 donation this year, which would leave the grant situation in dire straits.

Judging from the paperwork, Vice-Chair Hofheinz remarked they will probably need to do some fundraising. She also mentioned they have to pay \$80 for the rubber stamp and pay for the banner replacement.

**3.2 Town Council Meeting - December 5<sup>th</sup> Presentation**

Vice-Chair Hofheinz reported the Board received "great publicity" and good pictures in the *Davie Town Times* for cyber safety and the Science Guys award.

**3.3 Graduation Rates - Andy Fernandez, Firewall Center**

Mr. Curtin introduced Mr. Fernandez and the after-school program in West Davie. Councilmember Hattan advised that the Town Council donated to the program through an endowment each year.

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Mr. Fernandez provided the history of the Firewall Center, beginning in 2009 in Palma Nova. The program was started specifically for middle school students, and now continues through high school. Mr. Fernandez said the Town had a piece of property near Orange Park on which they placed a 3500 square-foot modular building. The Orange Park Center had about 15 middle school students from Indian Ridge Middle School. There was another center on Seventh Place, which accommodated 40 high school students from Western High School.

He explained that most of the enrollees are children who participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch program. He referred to a brochure on the program, noting they also have a program in Pompano.

Mr. Fernandez stated that the majority of students score low on the FCAT, and about 14% are E.S.E. students.

Mr. Fernandez provided the following information about his program:

- 10:1 student/staff ratio
- Mostly a mentoring and tutoring program
- Every student has an individual success plan
- Attend Monday through Thursday and every day after school
- Online access through Pinnacle for homework, etc.
- Close, positive relationship with parents
- Leadership curriculum
- Most funding is private (churches, individuals, corporations)
- Long-term program
- 82% attendance
- 86% of students improve their GPA
- 30 high school students performed 1917 community service hours
- 150 students enrolled (100 of those from Davie)

Mr. Fernandez remarked that graduation rates in Broward County were 71%, and the Firewall Center results were 100%. If children did not attend, they were dropped from the program. In the next year, they plan to open four more centers: Indian Ridge Middle School, Bair Middle School, Plantation Middle School, and Crystal Lake in Pompano.

Ms. White asked Councilmember Hattan if Davie would continue funding the program, and she replied that they would if the money was available. She mentioned that they had to make 50% cuts for many programs last year.

Ms. White asked how they assess the students. Mr. Fernandez replied they do not assess the FCAT score per se, but they focus on GPA and Attendance, Behavior and Course Performance (ABC). He added that they had a workshop for some students who did not pass the end-of-year exams.

There was a short discussion on Common Core and its effects on students.

Ms. White mentioned that many of the tests were now done online and wondered how that impacted the students. Mr. Fernandez stated that they have computers, free internet and printing. The ratio of laptops to students was about four- to- one. He said that it was now mandatory that every student take a virtual course. After school, one room was designated as a “virtual school room” with one laptop per student. There they could take the virtual courses. Mr. Fernandez also mentioned that Firewall staff help students apply for the Bright Futures” college scholarship and financial aid.

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Mr. Fernandez said they were putting together a yearbook to keep all the centers connected. They also connect through the internet, so the children feel they are part of a bigger organization.

As far as needs, Mr. Fernandez said they have applied for the Children Services Council leveraged grant. They also need new laptops for Indian Ridge, video games for a reward system (children get points every day if they complete their homework), \$5 and \$10 gift cards, school supplies and a white board easel.

Mr. Curtin mentioned there was great need in east Davie in the Police Athletic League.

Vice-Chair Hofheinz informed Mr. Fernandez about the cyber safety program they had done, and offered to help in that vein.

Harvest Drive and USDA snacks were mentioned as a resource for low-income kids.

### 3.4 Orange Blossom Festival and Parade February 23 and 24, 2013

Vice-Chair Hofheinz reported she had not yet submitted an application, as she was waiting to bring it up at the meeting.

Councilmember Hattan mentioned an individual who had a fire engine that might be available for free to use as a parade float. Mr. Curtin offered to contact that person. Discussion then ensued about what to do in the parade. The Board decided to wear their green hats and white shirts, and bring beads (mardi-gras type) and candy.

Vice-Chair Hofheinz reminded the Board that in previous years, the Board had shared a table at the Festival with C.E.R.T., and she had lots of brochures that could be handed out. She said that the brochures would be stamped on the back with the website address.

### 3.5 Guy Harvey Items - Raffle Update

Vice-Chair Hofheinz mentioned that Chair Pisula was going to get the posters autographed, but she did not know if that had happened. She said she could bring an easel, put the posters up by the Strawberry Festival and conduct a raffle. Details would be ironed out via email.

Mr. Curtin offered to donate the candy, and Vice-Chair Hofheinz reminded him to track it as an in-kind donation. Ms. Klauber was invited to participate with the group in the parade.

### 3.6 Annual Report to the Town Administrator

Chair Pisula would be asked to email the report to the Board members for perusal.

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

### 4.1 Banner Replacement

Vice-Chair Hofheinz reported that approximately \$100 had been approved for the banner, and Chair Pisula was handling the matter. Discussion ensued about the status of the replacement.

### 4.2 Parent Evaluation from Cyber Safety Night

Vice-Chair Hofheinz stated that evaluation forms were received, but since Chair Pisula had the forms, the Board would address the matter at the next meeting (March 18).

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4.3 Restate YESAB Mission

Vice-Chair Hofheinz related that she saw the YESAB mission on the Town of Davie website that said, "To create a Child Safety Day for the Town of Davie." Vice-Chair Hofheinz said she had never heard of that before, and was informed that this Board merged with the Safety Board, and that was probably how it happened. She asked members to bring ideas to the next meeting so that they could have a clear mission statement, particularly if they were doing fundraising.

Follow-up to donations (thank you letters) need to be done.

**5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

Mr. Curtin expressed appreciation for the program at the Firewall Centers.

Ms. White wanted to discuss school safety at the next meeting. She suggested having someone from the Broward County Schools share the new guidelines. It was noted that locking the classroom doors was the best preventive measure. Ms. White also suggested having education about texting and driving at some point. In addition, she wanted to have a meeting with School Board members. A "Meet and Greet" event was suggested.

Vice-Chair Hofheinz reported that she presented information about YESAB to the Soroptimist Club, who were very welcoming and may produce a donation. She has also been contacted by West Broward Women's Club to present to them about the Board. Vice-Chair Hofheinz said that she and Chair Pisula attended a Town of Davie Chamber of Commerce meeting and had three minutes to tell about the Board and its programs. She wanted to have a flyer or brochure about the Board, and would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Gault mentioned that she visited Fox Trail Elementary and was impressed with the fact that they had a single-entry campus.

It was suggested that teachers who march in the parade should carry a sign that said: "Winner - YESAB Grant."

Ms. Fallahzadeh arranged for a teacher at Flamingo to be contacted about the parade.

Councilmember Hattan announced that she was re-elected and would serve another three years. She mentioned she would donate to YESAB through the Broward Education Foundation.

Mr. Fernandez expressed appreciation for being allowed to speak at the meeting and offered tours for the Board members. He and his students were invited to ride or walk in the parade.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Vice-Chair Hofheinz adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member