



# TOWN OF DAVIE

Davie Town Hall: 6591 Orange Drive, Davie, Florida 33314 Phone: (954) 797-1000

## YOUTH, EDUCATION, SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018 - 5:30 P.M.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tim Curtin, Chair	P
Marcy Fallahzadeh, Vice Chair	A
Dr. Arlene Amarant	P
Dr. Robin Behrman	P
Melody Chaykin	P
Heidi Davis	A
Nan Gault	P
Lisa Luciena	A
Traci Schweitzer (arr. 5:54)	P

### ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Judy Paul  
 Richard J. Lemack, Town Administrator  
 Evelyn Roig, Town Clerk  
 Gillian Esquenazi, Deputy Town Clerk  
 Keith Dunn, Police Chief

### GUESTS

Laurie Rich Levinson, Broward County  
 School Board Member District 6  
 Lian Chan, Prototype, Inc.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL

Chair Curtin called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

- 3.1 Mrs. Laurie Rich Levinson, Broward County School Board Member District 6

Tabled to 6:00 p.m.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 January 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Behrman noted two corrections to her title as Doctor. Ms. Ms. Chaykin wondered if her absence in January could be excused; Ms. Roig said she would look into it.

**Motion** made by Ms. Chaykin, seconded by Ms. Gault, to approve the January 22, 2018, minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**5. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS**

**5.1 Water Poster Contest Ranking and Selection**

Tabled to end of meeting

**5.2 FY 2018 Account Balance**

Chair Curtin noted the account balance was \$1,958.02. Mrs. Roig suggested to consider the water poster contest entries displayed for their judging. The previous year there were more entries than this year's entries. The entries were all from the kindergarten grade. Mrs. Roig asked the committee proceed with judging the posters and asked the Chair awarding gift cards. The committee decided to award gift card from Barnes & Nobles.

**6. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**7. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

**8.1 Opioid Epidemic Action and Social Security Workshop**

Chair Curtin brought material on the opioid crises which the City of Hollywood in conjunction with United Way have coordinated to educate the public. Chair Curtin stated the Town could go look into working with the United Way to help fund posters and resource guides. The Chair also mentioned the availability of the 211 First Call for Help hotline for social services.

Mrs. Roig discussed social security expressing interest in educating high school students on fiscal responsibility and retirement planning.

Ms. Chaykin asked if some funds would be received from the clothing collection bins. Mrs. Roig stated that it was a source of income not relied upon because it varied every year.

**9. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

**2018 YESAC Meetings**

Monday, July 23, 2018

Monday, November 26, 2018

**5. 5.1 Water Poster Contest Ranking and Selection**

Ms. Roig distributed scoring sheets for the poster contest, giving four minutes to review and score. There was a tie between three posters for Second Place. [Ms. Schweitzer arrived 5:54 and was given a scoring sheet to act as a tie breaker.] After some discussion, the results were:

- First Place: #5 Silver Ridge Kindergarten
- Second Place: #3
- Third Place: #4

**Motion** made by Dr. Amarant, seconded by Ms. Schweitzer, for the top three poster artists to receive \$50 gift cards to Barnes and Noble. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

[Recess at 6:01 to await Laurie Levinson for presentation. Resumed at 6:08.]

### **3. 3.1 Mrs. Laurie Rich Levinson, Broward County School Board Member District 6**

Chair Curtin introduced Ms. Laurie Rich Levinson, noting that school safety and mental health was on everyone's mind in light of the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas, as well as mental health resources.

Ms. Levinson gave an overview of highlights for the schools in the Town of Davie. Highlights were:

- Graduation rate at the high schools is 96%, was the same as 2017, with overall improvements in all of the subject indicators.
- The district was the sixth largest in the United States with 270,000 children in Broward County public schools.
- One of most diverse districts with 181 different languages spoken. The district was working on opening an international welcome center for immigrants in Pembroke Pines.
- After the hurricane, Puerto Rican immigrants settled into some of the Davie schools, as well as Weston and other areas.
- Academic achievement: Ms. Levinson was involved with applied learning, encouraging students to take knowledge and apply it in a hands-on way.
- Largest debate program in the United States with 12,000 students, promoted as a life skill for different career was followed, and available to all socio-economic backgrounds. Debate starts as early as the elementary schools (Fox Trail and NOVA).
- National Debate Championship will be held in Broward County in June.
- Computer Science: one of the first districts to partner with CODE.org, with computer sciences taught in every school. Over a thousand students have passed the AP computer science test.
- STEM program at Western High School includes biomedical engineering, and is going to the National Championships in rocketry and robotics. Solar car will also be taken to compete over the summer.
- Motorola grant was working with Indian Ridge Middle School and Flamingo Elementary to start robotics at the lower grade levels to prepare for high school.
- Advance Placement (AP) pass rate is the highest it has been in more than 10 years; African American students have increased over 6% in AP exams.

- Returning to the debate team, the district collects career clothing. Individuals and businesses have given career clothing to over 300 students the past two years so they can compete in debates. Hold a luncheon every year to raise money for free and reduced lunch kits, competition fees, and travel.
  - Collection is at Casey Wright Building, Broward Education Foundation on the first floor, or call and a way will be found to collect the clothing.
- Gifted education: excited to announce opening of a Gift High School next year at Plantation High School, a school within a school, starting with 9<sup>th</sup> grade. City program has been at Parkway Middle School for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and now there was a school for them to matriculate. Starting out with 120 seats for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, expanding each year until at 480 seats covering all four grades. It will be a separate building on the campus, with access to all electives.
- Universal screening at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of all students will be tweaked to pick up more diverse students.
- School Bond: \$961 million plus in projects in progress or completed.
  - 1,438 school facilities projects are in progress.
  - 171 school choice enhancement projects, where each school was given \$100,000 to use at their discretion as decided by the school advisory committees (SAC) based on parental input by voting. Some of this will now be used for school safety programs.
  - Can go on website to pull up any school and see progress being made, which of the six different phases they are in. Fully detailed tracking.
  - Reserves have been built up, looking to do more, as costs of construction has gone up since the bond, must make sure there is enough to fulfill the bond goals throughout the District.
  - Goal is to complete within seven years, currently in year four and year five projects.
- **SCHOOL SAFETY BILL:**
  - Bill passed by the legislature has each district doing a security risk assessment of all their facilities. In the process of hiring a company to go about this assessment, bringing back to the Broward County School Board the recommendations to submit to State to get one of the grants. There is \$98 million in school-hardening dollars, but these are handled through grants. No district is guaranteed anything, grants will be awarded based on risk assessments and district needs.
  - \$97.5 million for SROs was allocated to school systems, not municipalities. There was a shared formula for Broward County SROs. Ms. Levinson stated that she had spoken with Mayor Paul about concerns in the Town and other cities over having one SRO in each school. She had also contacted Department of Education about the methodology for arriving at that number, but there was no methodology. She stated that there may be another partially unfunded mandate for school systems to fund.
  - \$67 million in the bill was allotted for mental health, which would be completed through plans submitted to the State. Ms. Levinson stated that the public did not realize that these assessments were done and submitted by the end of August and the districts would not be notified until December 31<sup>st</sup>, which meant it would be halfway into 2019 before the money for school-hardening is even awarded. There would be some immediate things that could be done in the interim, but the bulk of

it which required funds would not be until next year. Some individual schools have reached out to their PTAs to put things together for some possibilities for their schools.

The committee thanked Ms. Levinson and proceeded with questions regarding how the SROs are calculated and the formula for how the school district allocated funds for SROs. Ms. Levinson, reminded the committee that the legislation did not include funding municipalities. An open discussion followed between the committees and elected officials present on various ways to raise additional funding, including referendums for the upcoming budgets.

Ms. Levinson stated that there were 93 charter schools in Broward County, and it was a concern that required a methodology for SRO funding. She further stated that PTAs were able to provide an interim solutions such as buzzer systems on front doors and other items that are not cost-prohibitive.

Dr. Behrman asked if the district had looked into the police force model of Miami-Dade County. Ms. Levinson said the district was not interested in creating a police department since it would be costly. Dr. Behrman also inquired if the district had considered bringing vocational education down to the lower grade level. Ms. Levinson stated that technical schools were filled to capacity and she understood there was a need for more. She further stated that there were discussions on how to get more electives into the middle schools. Mrs. Levinson responded by stating that the district was focused on looking into reimagining middle schools the current school year; as last year's focus was early literacy. Ms. Levinson said that she hoped that through debate and other electives such as English, Language Arts could be enhanced and that vocational education should also be a part of it.

Dr. Amarant asked what the committee can do to assist the school board. Ms. Levinson noted the "Innovative Teacher Grants" was the best way that education advisory committees could get involved. Chair Curtin stated this was an initiative that the committee did every year, and that grants had been given to school for gardens, tests initiatives, school safety, and other projects alike. Ms. Levinson stated that the district's goal was to make every child succeed.

## **10. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

Mr. Richard J. Lemack, Town Administrator, spoke about the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. He stated that a letter was sent to the Broward County School Board stating that the Town wanted to fulfill the remainder of the SROs and that the Town had 12 schools. Prior to Marjory Stoneman Douglas, there were two SROs in the elementary that were shared amongst the schools which was something that needed to be addressed. Mr. Lemack explained that immediately following the Council's first meeting in March, a budget transfer for \$760,000 was approved for the remaining five months of the fiscal year to increase the SRO program. Mr. Lemack explained that the challenge that the Town was facing was to continue this initiative and it would require an additional \$2.7 million to do so. The goal was to find long-term solutions rather than one-time funding revenue sources such as grants. He further stated that the only way to address the current need for funds was through a millage rate or a fire assessment increase. Mr. Lemack stated that he understood that the Broward County School Board wanted to

expedite the process but there were processes that prevented from accomplishing by October 1 in time for the FY 2018-2019 budget. Mr. Lemack stated that the Town Council and community were supportive and the Town would continue to figure out the best methodology to address the concerns in an equitable manner across the community.

In closing, Mr. Lemack mentioned which schools were included in the SRO program. It was also noted that the Nova schools were also included as part of the equitable solution. Furthermore, charter schools were not currently included in the formula and this would change once the methodology was determined. He further stated that the Town Council was open to creative ideas. Ms. Levinson added that the district was looking at different options including utilizing retired police officers. Chair Curtin suggested perhaps veterans who were fit and returning from service would be a resource.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** made by Ms. Gault, seconded by Ms. Chaykin, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Committee Member