

**EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 18, 2019**

Present	Absent
Mitch Anton	Emily Kriger
Dr. Daniel Derrico	Mari Khoury
Carol Fischer	Matthew Laskowski
Jacqueline Grant*	Cheree Liebowitz
Donna Greene	
Dr. Joel Levine	
Allan Libero	
Grahm Rubin	
Ellen Suppa	
Dr. Kathy Thomas	

*Arrived after meeting began.

Staff

Clay Milan – Staff Liaison

Peggy Eads – Administrative Assistant 1, Community Development Division

Non-Members

Coco Burns, Program Coordinator, Broward Education Foundation

Idelma Quintana, Chief of Staff to Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr

Beam Furr, Broward County Commissioner

Pablo Calvo, Director of Community Engagement for the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Broward County

Call to Order/Roll Call

The presence of a quorum was noted and Dr. Derrico called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was taken and it is noted above.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Derrico asked if there were any comments or changes to the February 11, 2019 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Anton **Motioned** to approve the minutes, Ms. Suppa seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by voice **vote**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BCPS PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Derrico asked the non-members to introduce themselves and they did so.

NEW BUSINESS

Update from Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr on Early Childcare Accreditation Initiative

Commissioner Furr began by giving the members an update on what's been happening at the county level. He went on to say that for the last couple of years the county has been focusing on the quality of childcare. He noted the handout listing all the childcare centers in Hollywood. A few of the centers have gold seal accreditation, meaning the teachers have attended professional development classes, the ratio of teachers to students is at an optimum level, and certain other things. Over 60% of childcare employees have had no professional development. Four years ago, only 47% of children were at grade level by the third grade, and 76% of those children who were not at grade level will not graduate. Those numbers have gone up by 13% in the last four years, because of the resources that have gone into the initiative. Currently 40% of children are not at grade level by third grade. Under House Bill 1091, the state has set a deadline of July 1, 2019, for all childcare centers to be reviewed, assessed and given a numerical score between 1 and 5. Those centers that have a score less than 2.51 will lose subsidies for low income students beginning in 2020. The centers that rate higher will receive more money. He reminded the committee that the county now has a professional development center at the Gulfstream Center in Hallandale. The Children's Services Council (CSC) has set aside over half a million dollars for scholarships. And the county has money set aside for substitute teachers to fill in for the ones that are attending development classes. Commissioner Furr asked the Committee to recommend to the City Commission that they earmark Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for certain Hollywood childcare centers to help them improve their scores. There is a possibility that if a number of centers can't attain the requisite improvements, this will create childcare deserts in the city.

Dr. Thomas asked how employees can be encouraged to go to professional development classes. Commissioner Furr answered that the tiered assessments and reimbursements should encourage them to develop by rewarding quality childcare. Mr. Libero asked what criteria will be used in assessing the centers. Commissioner Furr called on Mr. Calvo to answer. Mr. Calvo said the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) is working to provide support to small "Mom and Pop" centers, but since they are state funded, there are certain types of support they are not allowed to perform, such as transportation to classes, refreshments and substitute teachers to fill in for those teachers who are attending classes. He went on to say there will be a 2 year grace period for the assessment, so that schools that don't attain the required score will be put on a performance improvement plan for two years, and will be required to improve their score between the first and second testing. Every school that does not meet the requirement will get one on one assistance to help them improve. The test is called the Classroom Assessment, and will specifically measure teacher-student interaction. He also mentioned that a third party evaluator would be conducting the test.

Dr. Levine asked where centers would get other resources that would be needed. Commissioner Furr said there are several avenues for that funding, including the Children's Services Council (CSC). Ms. Fischer asked how the CDBG monies would be allocated to the centers. Commissioner Furr said that has yet to be determined. Mr. Anton asked how the monies would be directed to Hollywood schools specifically, and Commissioner Furr answered that the money could be earmarked for that purpose.

Mr. Milan said that the cycle to apply for funds had passed for the current year. Commissioner Furr said that the request for CDBG funds might have to be shelved until the following year. He went on to say that his hope would be that the City would appoint a liaison to help underscoring centers to improve.

Ms. Green asked if House Bill 1091 provided funding to help childcare centers get ready for the testing. Mr. Calvo replied that it is provided to the ELC for certain purposes, such as online training and providing coaches. Mr. Milan asked if the CSC would match municipal funding and Commissioner Furr said that's a good possibility.

Dr. Derrico asked Commissioner Furr to clarify his recommendation to the Committee. Commissioner Furr answered that he hoped the Committee would recommend to the City Commission that a staff person be appointed to act as a liaison to the childcare centers in the city.

Ms. Greene noted that Oakridge Elementary had added 2-3 Pre-K classes. Commissioner Furr suggested that the under enrolled schools in Hollywood would benefit by adding Pre-K classes in empty classrooms.

Dr. Derrico thanked Commissioner Furr for his presentation. He then suggested that the Committee could recommend to the City Commission that someone on the city staff be assigned to liaison with childcare centers to assess their needs and possibly provide funding from appropriate sources. He then suggested recommending to the school board that under-enrolled schools use 1-2 classrooms for Pre-K classes. Ms. Greene suggested adding that this effort is the result of House Bill 1091 being enacted. Mr. Anton suggested having Commissioner Furr or Mr. Calvo speak before the City Commission to answer questions the commissioners might have.

Ms. Greene suggested having a Subcommittee meet to draft a statement regarding their recommendation to the City Commission. Mr. Rubin asked what the requirements are for teaching in childcare centers. A general discussion ensued on different types of childcare centers and what they offer.

Discussion and Action on Additional Teacher Grant Proposals Presented by Coco Burns, Program Coordinator, Broward Education Foundation

Ms. Burns started by talking about the Expo that had been held where approximately 400 teachers were in attendance, and was a huge success. She mentioned that one Hollywood Innovative Teacher Grant submission had been overlooked. This grant had scored a 34 out of a possible 35 points. She brought the submission to the committee to be considered for funding with the monies left over from the earlier grant proposals

(\$3195.30). She also brought a list of adaptor grant proposals for the committee's consideration. Mr. Anton made a **Motion** to fund the overlooked grant for \$1,176.00, Mr. Libero seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**. After discussion on the adaptor grant proposals, the committee agreed to fund proposals from Hollywood Central, Hollywood Hills High, Sheridan Hills Elementary, and two proposals from Orange Brook Elementary. Mr. Anton made a **Motion** to fund the five agreed upon adaptor grants. Ms. Suppa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**.

Ms. Burns thanked the committee members for their consideration.

Old Business

Ms. Greene said that she is still collecting books from Beachside Elementary. She gave 100 books to Oakridge Elementary, and she received a tour of their classrooms, which were amazing. She spoke about the Pre-K classrooms that had been added.

Dr. Derrico brought up the School Board Candidate Forum held in 2018. He mentioned that he had recently met with Commissioner Blattner regarding the poor perception of Hollywood schools, under-enrollment in the schools, the lack of gifted programs, the need for a magnet program at Hollywood Hills High School, and improving the appearance of Attucks Middle School. He suggested meeting with the City Commission, possibly in the form of a workshop. Ms. Fischer suggested that the committee come up with some possible solutions to those issues before meeting with the City Commission.

The committee then entered into a general discussion on free VPK and Head Start.

Dr. Levine suggested inviting the Director of the Broward County Schools Innovative Programs Department to discuss available programs for schools. The members agreed that it would be a good idea.

Ms. Fischer said that regarding a program for Hollywood Hills High School, the parents should have input on what that program should be.

Member Comments

Dr. Levine suggested putting the grant funding information on the city's website. He also suggested having schools put information on happenings at their school on the website. Mr. Libero said he had forwarded the CMED form to the schools so they could submit information about their school to the city.


Ms. Fischer mentioned that the State Legislature is meeting and making funding decisions, taking money away from public schools and giving it to charter schools. She feels it is important to have your friends and community contacts make phone calls in support of public schools.


Staff Report

Mr. Milan told the members that Hollywood schools, school administrators, employees, and students would be recognized for various awards they had received at the City Commission meeting on April 17, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. He went on to say the Committee would be reviewing applications for the Youth Ambassador Program, probably at the April regular meeting on April 15, 2019. He also said that he would be following up on the Education Forum proposed by Ann Murray and would inform the committee members about the status of the program. He also reminded the members that if their term was expiring in June, they would need to submit an application to the City Clerk's office to re-apply. He also reminded the committee of the Volunteer Reception on April 10, 2019.

Adjournment

Mr. Anton made a **Motion** to adjourn. Mr. Libero seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Signed _____


Date _____

