

**EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 20, 2019**

Present	Absent
Mitchell Anton	Donna Greene
Dan Derrico	
Carol Fischer	
Jacqueline Grant	
Mari Khoury	
Matthew Laskowski*	
Joel Levine	
Allan Libero	
Cheree Liebowitz	
Grahm Rubin*	
Ellen Suppa	
Kathy Thomas	

*Arrived after meeting began.

Staff

Clay Milan – Staff Liaison

Peggy Eads – Administrative Assistant 1, Community Development Division

Non-Members

Angel Gomez, Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Broward County School Board

Dr. Shernette Grant, Director, Innovative Programs Design/Support Department,
Broward County Public Schools

Call to Order/Roll Call

The presence of a quorum was noted and Dr. Derrico called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 April 15, 2019 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Anton **Motioned** to approve the minutes, Mr. Libero seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by voice **vote**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BCPS PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Derrico asked for any visitors to introduce themselves, and Angel Gomez, Coordinator, Governmental Affairs for Broward County School Board did so. He explained that he is taking the place of Charles Webster, who recently retired. He told the members that he is the current Principal at Piper High School in Sunrise. He went on to say that he hopes to work together with the Committee to meet the needs that the community has regarding education. He also said that he would be accessible to the Committee by email or phone, and would be attending most meetings. Mr. Anton asked Mr. Gomez about the biggest problem he encountered as a principal. He answered that countering the poor perception of the schools within the community was his biggest challenge. Mr. Anton asked what Mr. Gomez had heard about Hollywood schools. Mr. Gomez answered that he had heard great things but he knows there are challenges also. He said that the perception of schools is creating a deficit of students. He said that he hopes to work with the Committee to make a dent in those negative perceptions. Ms. Grant asked about reassigning a student to a different school. Mr. Gomez said that only schools that are below 105% capacity would be offered for reassignment. Dr. Derrico asked about the main issues with schools regarding state and federal support. Mr. Gomez said that less funding is coming from the state, so the county and city has to try to make up for that loss, to keep up the level of service. He said that principals are being asked to do more with less. Dr. Derrico thanked Mr. Gomez.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Educational Opportunities Through Magnet and Innovative Programs with Dr. Shernette Grant, Director, Innovative Programs Design/Support for Broward County Public Schools.

Dr. Grant started by saying that she started her career as science teacher and magnet coordinator at Blanche Ely High School. She went on to serve as Assistant Principal at Northeast and Coral Glades High Schools and more recently, she was principal at William Daniel Middle School in Ft. Lauderdale.

She continued by saying that she agrees with Mr. Gomez on the issues that schools struggle with today, and she added that a big issue is working with communities to get them to participate more in education. In the seven years she was at William Daniel Middle School, she built relationships with churches and park organizations to get their help in dealing with student issues. She added that a "village" mentality is needed instead of an "us against them" mentality. She feels that parents should instill in kids a reverence for education in the same way they have a reverence for church. Education is an equalizer, and the mindset of the community is important.

Mr. Anton relayed that the Committee is concerned about Hollywood Hills High School. A large section of the community send their children to religious or private schools. Therefore, the school is under-enrolled. Dr. Grant answered that there is a misconception that private schools are better than public schools. Private schools get state funding; however, they are subject to fewer regulations than public schools.

Because of this, some private schools do the bare minimum, and many are not run by educators. Changing perception takes a lot of ground work and begins from the inside.

Mr. Anton asked about magnet programs. Dr. Grant explained that the District has stopped funding magnet programs because there is no funding for them. As a result, innovative programs were born. Any school can apply for an innovative program through Dr. Grant's department. Unfortunately, there is very little funding for the programs, so the school budget has to support them. In Dr. Grant's department, there is a set allocation to fund these programs, which hasn't increased in years.

Mr. Anton asked for an example of an innovative program. Ms. Liebowitz said the Gifted Program is one example. Dr. Grant said there are seventy plus innovative programs in Broward, including STEM and Cambridge. Her department recently received a grant through the Magnet School Assistance Program for six schools. Through that grant, a magnet program is being added to Olsen Middle School, a feeder for South Broward High School. Each of the schools will receive grant monies each year, depending on their need.

Ms. Liebowitz asked about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program for Hollywood Hills. Dr. Grant wanted to know why the IB Program was being considered and Ms. Liebowitz answered that is it reputable and more rigorous than the Cambridge Program. Dr. Grant answered the Cambridge Program offers more courses and more flexibility. Dr. Grant went on to say that the IB, Cambridge and CTACE programs are all revenue generating programs. In 2-3 years, the school can fund the program itself. Dr. Grant said that a program won't necessarily turn a school around, but a whole school transformation, including rebranding, involved teachers and parents, and marketing, will.

Dr. Grant asked what programs are in the school now. She said that a few of the current courses might have to be dropped to be able to afford a rebranding. New programs should have different entry and exit points, based on the student's needs.

Dr. Grant recommended that the Committee talk to the principal at Hollywood Hills High School to find out what her school needs. And ideally, they should get the leadership team together and find out what their thoughts are.

Ms. Khoury asked Ms. Grant if she has seen a program that could be used as a road map for other schools. Dr. Grant answered that the road map would be to identify desired programs for the school. She went on to say that her department would be happy to help, but the Committee members would need to pave the way.

Dr. Levine asked if the members need to work with teacher and parents as well as the principal. Dr. Grant answered that their next step should be to meet with the principal. She added that the window for intent to apply is close. She also asked the members to table everything until after the school board meeting in June.

Dr. Grant recommended that the members do a root cause analysis of the school's issues and challenged the members to expand the conversation to all the relevant individuals. She promised the Committee that she would go to Hollywood Hills to see if there's anything her department can assist with.

Dr. Derrico thanked Dr. Grant for attending the meeting.

Mr. Anton made a **Motion** to form a subcommittee to meet with the principal of Hollywood Hills High School. Ms. Liebowitz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**.

Mr. Milan said he would reach out to the principal about meeting with the Sub-Committee.

Old Business

Discussion and Consideration of Major Event Idea for 2019 as Proposed by Dr. Dan Derrico.

Dr. Derrico asked if the Committee could work in conjunction with the City Commission to help schools succeed. His idea is to have a meeting with the City Commission, to include Broward County School Board member Ann Murray, for the purpose of conveying issues regarding Hollywood schools. Mr. Libero recommended inviting Mr. Gomez also. Ms. Liebowitz said she feels the Committee needs to make recommendations to the Commissioners regarding the issues.

Mr. Libero asked the members about sending out a survey to the community regarding issues in the schools. Ms. Liebowitz suggested having the Commissioners assist in sending out the survey. Mr. Rubin suggested asking school principals to send the survey home with the students to give to their parents.

Mr. Anton stated that the members shouldn't be too generic regarding information and recommendations to the Commissioners.

Dr. Derrico asked how the members should finalize questions for the survey. Ms. Grant suggested asking questions that will start a dialogue.

A general discussion ensued on questions for the survey.

Dr. Derrico suggested that Ms. Khoury create a draft survey and send it to Mr. Milan. Mr. Libero made a **Motion** to appoint a Subcommittee to review the draft survey and finalize questions for the survey. Ms. Grant seconded the **motion** and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**.

Member Comments

Dr. Levine asked the Committee's approval to tailor the City's website event submission form in order to make it more applicable to schools. He passed out a draft of the proposed

form. The consensus of the Committee was to allow Dr. Levine to work with Ms. Hussey in the CMED department to revise and finalize the submission form.


Staff Report

Mr. Milan said that Hollywood award-winning students, teachers and administrators were recognized at a recent City Commission meeting. He went on to say that the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce had also recognized teachers from public and private schools at a recent event which was attended by the Mayor, several Commissioners and corporate sponsors.


Mr. Milan then reminded the members that a workshop to appoint Committee and Board appointments would be held the following day at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Libero made a **Motion** to adjourn. Mr. Anton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Signed



Date