

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION BOARD
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH, DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

R E G U L A R M E E T I N G

MEETING DATE: May 3, 2021
TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting - Teams
TIME: 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Penny Butler-Schillinger, Kae Jonsons, Ross O'Connor, Caryn Siperstein-Klein, Cathy Reynolds, Barbara Stark, Donna Van Horn, Angel Nevin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Purdo, Debbie Tanner, Kristen Cairns

GUEST: Nadia Stewart, James Gavrilos, Irene Wernick

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2021 were before the Board for consideration. Mrs. Siperstein-Klein made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting and the motion was seconded by Jonsons. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATION:

A. Education Foundation of Palm Beach County: Mr. James Gavrilos introduced himself as the President and CEO of the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County. He provided the following information about the Foundation:

- Go Teach Grants: awarded 73 for a total of \$93,000
- Supports robotics at Pahokee High school for 50 kids
- Kids who do not read on grade level are 4x more likely to drop out of school, 6x more likely to live in poverty, and less career ready
- They support AVID programs
- Red Apple Supply provides approximately \$500 school supplies to teachers serving 63 schools. Teachers can shop for what they need twice a year.
- They just received a box truck to deliver supplies and accept larger donations
- They just received 20 pallets of hand sanitizer that were distributed to the schools

Mr. Gavrilos ended his presentation with a story about a student that benefited by one of the grants they awarded which helped them to learn how to play a Ukulele.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Attendance:** Mrs. Meeks stated that she is working with the Public Information Officer for attendance content that will be placed on Facebook. The Board discussed who would be the audience. Ms. Reynolds noted the attendance audience at the elementary level is the parents whereas middle and high school are more in control of their attendance. After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Board that we focus our energy on the elementary school level students. It was noted that no messages should be sent out talking about “sickness” due to Covid as it might send a mixed message.

Several comments were made in the chat box such as the middle and high school uses Instagram messaging, and there should be different messages as many families had children at all three school levels.

****Ms. Warren indicated comments should be made verbally and not placed in the chat box so that they would become part of the record.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 Learning Loss Action Steps:

Ms. Meeks presented to the Board the Covid-19 Learning Loss Recovery Action Step Chart and explained the chart had been presented to the City Commission. She noted that some of the items were in progress and asked Board members if any of them would be interested in taking the lead on an action item. Mr. O’Connor agreed to take the lead on the “Listening Tour”, and Ms. Van Horn agreed to work on Kindergarten Readiness. Ms. Reynolds said she could provide the kindergarten packet that she uses to send out to her parents. The Board may wish to consider an awareness campaign.

B. June Education Board Meeting Format:

Ms. Meeks stated that the Board meeting in June will be held in person at City Hall in the First Floor Conference Room and hoped that everyone would feel comfortable to meet in person. The meeting will include a short orientation given the number of new board members and then discuss priorities for the upcoming school year.

VII. COMMENTS BY STAFF: NONE

VIII. COMMENTS BY BOARD:

- Mr. O’Connor noted that the Board focuses mostly on elementary age groups. He would like to help get a representative to talk about the new legislation that is being considered about Bright Future Scholarships that affects the older age group.
- Ms. Van Horn suggested that we take a tour of the schools.
- Ms. Jonsons noted that the library will be doing outreach and they have a lot of books this year.

IX. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC:

- Nadia Stewart from Carver Middle School stated that Carver will have summer school for the lower-level readers. She would also like to have books for her students. Ms. Meeks said she would deliver the *Free Rein Truth or Mare* books to her. Ms. Jonsons told her to call the library and they have extra books for the students.
- Irene Wernick introduced herself as a retired teacher from Orange County. She like the idea of teaching attendance to parents and felt that the PTA could reach out to the families to help spread the word.

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.