

VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY
EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA
Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 6:30 pm
9705 E. Hibiscus Street
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Public Comments
 - a. Ellen J. Book, MDC Librarian
 - b. Million Orchid Project: announcing VPB partnership with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens (FTBG) and BioTech High School
4. Pending Items/Updates
 - a. Continue to work with District on the Matrix
5. New Business
 - a. Discuss Dade Partners with BioTech
 - b. Appoint individual school liaison positions amongst the Committee members
 - c. Review school information form
 - i. Viability of items in the form
 - ii. Protocol for contacting schools before and after Committee meetings
 - d. Discussion/suggestions re: encouraging schools to use Park's facilities (i.e., drama at the library, dance/hop at Thalatta or Coral Reef)
 - e. Class size amendment – Palmetto Bay's position and influence
 - f. Possible Veteran's monument and input from Committee
 - g. Upcoming Village events and Committee involvement:
 - i. State of the Village (10/14/15)
 - ii. Bike By the Bay (10/17/15)
 - iii. Halloween Movie Night (10/30/15)
6. Future Meeting Date
7. Adjourn

**VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY
EDUCATIONAL COMPACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, September 2, 2015
9705 E. Hibiscus Street
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157**

In Attendance: Council Liaison – Mayor Eugene Flinn; Committee Members: Pam Tabor, Sue Buslinger-Clifford, Orestes Mayo, Diane Quick, Erica Watts Sosa; Councilmembers: Ms. Karyn Cunningham; Village Personnel: Mr. Ed Silva - Village Manager, Ms. Fanny Carmona - Parks Director; Miami-Dade County Public Schools Personnel: Barbara Mendizabal - Region Superintendent, South Region Office, Eva Regueira - Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement; Members of the Public: Nancy Lawther - 1st Vice President of Advocacy and Legislation, Miami-Dade County Council for PTA and PTSA; Anne McMaster, Palmetto High School PTSA; Beverley McGhee - Superintendent, Alexander Montessori School

1. Call to Order/Introductions

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m.
- b. Introduction of Committee Liaison, committee members, members of the Miami-Dade Public Schools and members of the public
- c. Discussion of Upcoming Village Events
 - i. Fanny Carmona, Parks Director
 1. Village Parks Department is proposing an after school program to supplement current offerings at local schools. Proposed activities are education and sports related. Two sessions running for one hour each (2:30 p.m. for preK and 1st and 3:30 p.m. for 2nd through 5th). Three, 9-week seasons: fall, winter and spring. Cost is activity-dependent. Will take place at Coral Reef Park and is open to all children including those not taking part in current school aftercare programs. Offerings will be available for different grade levels. Will meet with Principal Christina Guerra of Coral Reef Elementary (CRE) to discuss transferring students to and from CRE aftercare program. Program also will offer 1-day teacher work day camps.
 - a. Mayor Flinn asked Mr. Silva whether iBus can be used to provide transportation for participating children. Mr. Silva says that the iBus must have a fixed route and one can be established for this purpose.
 - b. Ms. Sosa says this program will allow students to take part in activities earlier in the day rather than later in the evening.
 - c. Ms. Mendizabal explained that schools have different dismissal times which will have to be taken into account when planning bus routes.

- d. Mr. Mayo asked whether any progress has been made to get iBus to travel to Palmetto High School. Mr. Silva says a proposal is coming soon.
 - ii. Ed Silva, Village Manager
 1. Mr. Silva says the Village has increased the number of Village events. States that there will be 3 events per month for Village residents.
 2. Mystery theater event at Thalatta sold 105 tickets. Would like to partner with Palmetto High School for future mystery theater events.
 3. Village will host a "School's In Session" carnival on Wednesday, September 9th from 2-5pm.
 4. Several upcoming events held by Village; information has been distributed to all schools. Events include color run/fundraiser for Palmetto High School and event with Jill Ellis, Coach of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team.
 - iii. Parks Department will discuss distribution of information with Village schools; distribution of information falls under the following portion of Education Compact: Communications (#1 on page 6).
 - a. The creation of these programs falls under the following portion of the Education Compact: Community Involvement (#2 and #7 on pages 3 and 4).
2. (Combined with agenda item #3) Selection of Chairperson and Secretary
 - a. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford moves to name Mr. Mayo as chairperson and Ms. Quick as secretary. Ms. Watts seconds the motion. Motion passes.
3. Combined with agenda item #2
4. Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2015
 - a. Ms. Watts motions to approve minutes from July 1, 2015 meeting. Ms. Tabor seconds the motion. Minutes are approved.
5. Public Comments
 - a. Ms. Eva Regueira discussed three current legislative matters: (1) tax roll appeals, (2) SRAF standard applied to public schools; would like to have the Florida Building Code applied to temporary structures to reduce construction costs; and (3) Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) test results ruled valid; Superintendent does not agree. In addition, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is always aiming to obtain highest per student funding amount as possible. Current per student funding is approximately \$7,000. National average is \$12,000. Legislative agenda is item E202 at the next School Board meeting

- i. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford noted that the Village Council did not support any of the legislative items. Recommends that Ms. Regueira provide more information to ensure Village Council is fully informed.
 - ii. Ms. Watts asked whether any legislative forums have been held at local schools.
 - b. Ms. Lawther adds that Miami-Dade County Council PTA is concerned with a number of legislative issues affecting education policy and children's well-being.
 - i. Ms. Lawther noted that several national legislative proposals may reduce federal involvement in Florida schools and increase state involvement. In addition, dueling bills related to Title I in Congress and two bills in Congress related to student data and privacy. At state level, keeping an eye on class size mandate, testing situation. Ms. Lawther states that a legislative forum was scheduled for September 29th at the School Board building but high school open house was scheduled for the same date. Meeting will be rescheduled. Given the number of seats available in the 2016 election, local meeting may be held in the Village. Ms. Lawther says she is available to speak to any individual PTAs or all PTAs in the feeder pattern at a group meeting.
 - ii. Mr. Mayo asked what role the PTSA can play with elections; Ms. Lawther responded that they cannot endorse or decline to endorse candidates but can take strong positions on issues.
 - iii. Ms. Lawther stated that Palmetto High School PTSA is applying for national award. Community will be surveyed at beginning and end of school year regarding improvements.
 - iv. Ms. Lawther will provide comments for Civic Engagement contest at the appropriate time in agenda.
 - v. Ms. Lawther will provide written comments to Mayor and Village Clerk regarding legislative matters to append to minutes.
 - c. Ms. Mendizabal noted that the school year opened smoothly. Changes within administration at several feeder schools. Palmetto High School has a new principal, Ms. Victoria Dobbs. PHS also has a new forensic investigative academy which is part of the Capstone Program. Perrine Elementary has a new principal, Ms. Carla Rivas (former Assistant Principal at Leewood K-8). Southwood Middle has a new principal, Mr. Raul Garcia (former Principal and Assistant Principal at Goulds Elementary). She noted that there are 112 schools in South Region. Changes in the Region include a new Line Director, Ms. Ana Rodriguez who will represent the Region at meetings on behalf of Ms. Mendizabal. Ms. Mendizabal encourages the Village to invite schools to take part in local events with an emphasis on student showcases. She reports increased enrollment at all Village schools this academic year.
 - i. Mayor Flinn and Councilmember Karyn Cunningham have been visiting Village schools.
 - d. Ms. McMaster thanks Village for its participation in the color run on November 7th, 4:30 p.m. On September 11th at 11:30 a.m., Palmetto High School will host author Julie Lythcott-Haimson for a presentation on helicopter parenting. Information was sent to

Village Manager and Information Officer for distribution to ensure that the event is well attended by local residents.

6. Discussion of Current Status of Compact Items

- a. Ms. Regueira distributed updated Education Compact Matrix.
- b. Ms. Regueira offered to provide a speaker to discuss the progress of GOBs including improvements already completed at Howard Drive Elementary and Palmetto High School's new building.
 - i. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford asks that item added to October agenda to account for District speaker on GOBs.
- c. Mr. Mayo displayed Committee's version of the matrix. Purpose is to ensure Committee moves forward in accomplishing goals of compact. Welcomes any information from District and Region that can be applied to the matrix. Asks how information can be delivered from the District/Region to Committee. Mayor Flinn will have an email address created specifically for Committee-related communication.
- d. Ms. Watts asked whether a town hall meeting will be held. Councilmember Cunningham states that Dr. Feldman will host a budget presentation from 6-8pm on Wednesday, September 16th.
- e. Mr. Mayo suggests that discussion of compact items be tabled until next month when matrix has been updated.

7. Establishment of Next Phase

- a. Mayor Flinn invites the Committee to lead a discussion on what members would like to see in the next phase. Does the Committee want to continue checking off items on the matrix or expand.
 - i. Mayor's contribution: would like to have at least one Committee meeting per year at the Palmetto Bay library branch to connect the work of the Committee to the library.
- b. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford asks the Mayor to speak on the subject of the proposed Youth Advisory Committee. Mayor Flinn explained that this committee would provide ideas on how to engage Village youth through events and programming. Committee will have 11 members appointed by Village Council. Appointees can be from middle school age to age 21. Councilmember Cunningham suggests that one member of the Youth Advisory Committee attend the Education Advisory Committee meeting as a non-voting member.
- c. Mayor Flinn would like to start an internship program; Cutler Bay has a successful program.
- d. Ms. Lawther discussed information related to the proposed Civic Involvement contest. Student Representative to Miami-Dade PTSA provided a proposal for a civic involvement contest that would be Village-centered, meaning open to Village residents, even those who do not attend Village schools. Contest would culminate in a social event which would foster a sense of community for local students. Student Representative suggested a dance. One contest proposal is a video contest, with entries graded by

students and prize would be monetary or equipment donation to winners' school video production department.

- i. Mr. Mayo suggests brainstorming ideas to provide students with an ability to socialize in the Village. Suggestion: cleanup of nature preserve and then a social event at Thalatta. Councilwoman Cunningham suggests inviting students to attend the State of the Village.
 - ii. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford recommends setting parameters for contest now to ensure that it happens during the 2015-16 academic year. Councilwoman Cunningham suggests working on the contest with the Youth Advisory Council. Mayor Flinn also asks that both committees should meet at least once or twice per academic year. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford suggests making this contest a kickoff project for the Youth Council. Mr. Mayo will add an agenda item to October 7th meeting regarding Youth Advisory Council and contest planning.
- e. Ms. McMaster spoke of the activities of the Pinecrest Education Advisory Council. Focus on retaining local students in local schools. Village wants to market traditional public schools. A lot of interest from residents, realtors, etc. Goal is to show that local schools are not the less desired option. Ms. Mendizabal suggests holding an expo for local schools to promote them. Ms. Watts suggests that the Committee help push for a local expo.
- i. Councilmember Cunningham agrees that the Committee can also help with marketing through its website proposals. Mayor Flinn also is discussing bringing video programming from local schools on WBAY. There are many venues through which marketing of schools can occur. A community calendar is necessary as well.
- f. Ms. Mendizabal states that acknowledging Village teachers is critical. Suggestions include honoring local Teachers of the Year or holding an event for teachers at a local park.
- g. Ms. Watts noted that the Coral Reef PTA is planning events in conjunction with Village happenings; there is a concerted effort to be cognizant of what is going on in the Village.
- h. Ms. Mendizabal explained to the Committee that principals are available upon request. Mr. Mayo will contact Ms. Regueira to request principals.

8. Future Meeting Date

- a. October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd

9. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Approved: _____

Date: _____