

**VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY
EDUCATIONAL COMPACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, April 1, 2015
9705 E. Hibiscus Street
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157**

In Attendance: Council Liaison – Mayor Eugene Flinn; Committee Members: Chairperson Leanne Tellam, Dr. Sue L. Buslinger-Clifford, Ms. Pam Tabor, Ms. Diane Quick and Mr. Orestes Mayo.

1. Call to order by Chairperson Tellam at 6:38 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes moved to the end of the agenda
3. Principals' and Region's Comments moved ahead on the agenda
 - a. Ms. Christina Guerra, Coral Reef Elementary
 - i. Testing taking place for 3rd and 4th grades
 - ii. Robotics team won first place in Lego League at the Dade County Youth Fair. Will be presented to the School Board as a result of this accomplishment
 - b. Ms. Magda Pereira, Southwood Middle School
 - i. Magnet application deadline is April 4th
 - ii. Drama show will take place April 8th and 9th
 - iii. Followed up on comment made during March 4th Education Committee Meeting about the absence of the Duke TIP (Talent Identification Program) this year. Southwood is back on the Duke TIP list for the 2015-16 school year. Parents may contact Duke directly to enroll for the 2014-15 school year. Chairperson Tellam noted that five local students have signed up for the May Duke TIP test.
 - iv. Take your child to work day is April 10th
 - v. Testing begins April 13th
 - vi. On April 14th, the food and nutrition food truck will visit school for breakfast and lunch. All information will be tweeted.
 - c. Ms. Maileen Ferrer, Dr. Henry E. Perrine Academy of the Arts School
 - i. School is in the middle of testing
 - ii. Thanks the Village of Palmetto Bay for exhibiting art work at Village Hall from their 3rd through 5th grade magnet and non-magnet students. A small sample of work was initially brought but the reception was so positive that more pieces were brought.
 - iii. Magnet show is at the end of the academic year at Christ Fellowship Church, with whom the school has a partnership.
 - iv. Collaborating with The Learning Tree of Arts on a "Youth Arts Day" event at Thalatta Estate. Councilwoman Karyn Cunningham is assisting with sponsorship.
 - v. NEST program was envisioned as a three year program; it has lasted longer but appears to be coming to an end. Seeking alternatives to keep the program

operational. Working with an individual originally involved in the NEST program to propose an alternative program that branches out to other organizations beyond Deering Estate. Ms. Ferrer is getting creative in an effort to keep the program running. She welcomes input and suggestions. Cost is approximately \$9 per child per class for a total cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000 depending on the number of students and classes as well as bus use. Program is popular with parents.

- d. Ms. Deanna Dalby, Howard Drive Elementary School
 - i. Apologized for missing the last Education Advisory Committee Meeting.
 - ii. Notified this week that the school will be a Cambridge School for the 2015-16 school year. Team will attend meetings to determine implementation of the program.
 - iii. Odyssey of the Mind team is headed to state competition in Orlando; school participated in the Lego League Robotics competition at the Dade County Youth Fair.
 - iv. Math Team competed at the District Math Bowl and one student won first place.
 - v. In March, school held a talent show, book fair, spring pictures and spaghetti dinner.
 - vi. Thanks the Village for allowing students to participate in the annual Palmetto Bay picnic. School also participated in Relay for Life and thanks Village for continuing to invite the school to community events.
 - vii. GOB construction project is fully underway but currently on hold due to testing. Over spring break the windows and shutters in the cafeteria were replaced. Anticipate completion before school starts in August 2015. All are invited to stop by and see the bond money going to great use.
- e. Dr. Allison Harley, Palmetto Senior High School
 - i. Thanked Mayor Flinn for attending the last PTA meeting.
 - ii. In the middle of testing season including Florida testing of reading for 9th and 10th grade and 26 Advance Placement (AP) tests being administered between May 4th and May 15th.
 - iii. Next big event on campus is the ribbon cutting and naming ceremony on April 6th for the new testing suite. Money for the suite was donated by alumnus Chris Sanderson. Suite has computers for testing use.
 - iv. Senior season is beginning featuring goodbye events. Senior picnic held at ZooMiami. April 13th is senior week and on April 16th the seniors take over the school and become administrators. Grad Bash is April 17th at Universal Studios Orlando. Prom is on May 2nd and graduation is May 27th at the University of Miami at 7pm.
 - v. Fine arts performance season: the musical “Curtains” is performed in April.

- vi. Referenced news about the teacher who had to resign; a candidate has been identified for the position. The jazz ensemble performed very well at the state competition despite the circumstances.
 - f. Ms. Lucy Iturrey, Region Representative on behalf of Mr. Haj
 - i. Chairperson Tellam raised several issues from last meeting
 - 1. Mr. Haj said he would bring website form back to the Region for distribution to the principals
 - 2. Mayor Flinn mentioned working with Coral Reef Elementary regarding summer camp. Ms. Guerra stated that she spoke with Mr. Haj and is waiting for the necessary forms to sign off on facilities usage. As soon as the signed forms are received, they will be processed.
 - 3. Ms. Iturrey noted that a new person has been appointed in Intergovernmental Affairs to replace Lubby Navarro – Eva Regueira.
4. Committee Member Comments
- a. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford on the Garden Club
 - i. Garden Club called Palmetto High School and left a message offering assistance in tagging plants prior to construction. Dr. Harley asked that the Garden Club email her directly so that this can be delegated appropriately
 - b. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford on Mental Health
 - i. A priority is mental health. Different presentations/programs can be offered at Village schools and to parents on topics including ADHD, collaboration with FIU to consider accommodations appropriate for students and gifted referrals. Latter was offered at Pinecrest schools in the past and can be offered to Palmetto Bay schools. Not directly mental health-related but does involve providing appropriate services to students. The offer is open to schools and PTAs and anyone interested is welcome to email her directly. Ms. Ferrer asked if FIU program is only available starting in 5th grade and Ms. Buslinger-Clifford stated that it is available starting in pre-kindergarten and that the program is popular and fills up. She is working with the second in command at FIU to try to obtain more information for schools.
 - c. Chairperson Tellam on Bond Oversight Committee
 - i. Noted that Dr. Feldman asked her to serve as the alternate to Mayor Cindy Lerner on the Bond Oversight Committee
 - d. Chairperson Tellam on iBus
 - i. Would like to reignite the discussing on linking iBus and Pinecrest transportation. Would like Dr. Harley to discuss coordination between Village of Pinecrest and Palmetto Senior High School. Chairperson Tellam asked about the level of regulation. Dr. Harley noted that there was no special permission requested because the bus doesn't come on campus. The Village set up a route stop close to the school and the bus stops there in the

morning and after school. Mr. Mayo noted that it sounds like a public shuttle stop in front of the school.

- ii. Ms. Ferrer stated that she had issues trying to use the iBus for school events due to particular guidelines. Dr. Harley stated that Palmetto Senior High School does not use the Village of Pinecrest bus for school events because of insurance riders and other issues with the District. She believes that Palmetto Bay students at the high school would like to have the iBus route as an option but notes that there could be issues with competing school bus routes as some students living in Palmetto Bay qualify for bussing. Member of the Public Ann McMaster, Legislative Chair, Palmetto High PTSA, noted that the Village of Pinecrest bus is only for students who do not qualify for the school bus (any student living at least two miles from the school qualifies for school bus service).

5. Mayoral Comments

a. Messages to Principals

- i. Would like to fully involve principals on earth week and welcomed suggestions for next year's earth week.
- ii. Village would like to recognize school organizations beyond the athletics teams, focusing on students with accomplishments that may not have been recognized elsewhere.
- iii. Will be forming a Youth Advisory Committee comprised primarily of high school students but wants to reach to the middle school level as well. Seeks a vibrant, active committee.
- iv. Seeking to create an internship program which is one of the elements of the Education Compact. Many opportunities to utilize interns. Town of Cutler Bay uses interns for Relay for Life and Pinecrest uses their Youth Advisory Committee for the same event; next year, Mayor Flinn would like to use both.
- v. Met with Public Information Officer Bill Kress regarding the placement of school videos on the Village website. All agree that it is mutually beneficial to place videos on WBAY. The goal is to have more original programming and less repetition. Would like to extend programming to include musicals and other performances. Dr. Harley and Committee agree that this is a great idea.
- vi. Seeking ideas for nonathletic uses for Coral Reef Park and the Palmetto Bay library branch. Referenced an event in years past where Southwood students would come to Coral Reef Park for an end of the school year celebration. Would like to find ways to get Palmetto High School students at the park. Seeking ideas for the 2015-16 school year. Dr. Harley asked whether the school can do a team building activity with school staff at the park as she

believes that if the staff sees the value of the park in person, they will be more open to chaperoning and participating in events at the park.

- vii. Principals should let him know 2-3 weeks ahead of time if they have a student they would like recognized at the Village Council meeting.

b. Facilities

- i. Mayor Flinn introduced Ed Silva, Village Building Official and Interim Village Manager. Asked to arrange a meeting and tour of the facilities for the principals led by Fanny Carmona, Director of Department of Parks and Recreation. Would like tour to include the parks, amphitheater and Thalatta. Would like to bring back events like Battle of the Band. Dr. Harley welcomed the opportunity to tour facilities to familiarize herself with what is available in the Village.
- ii. Schools questioned the cost associated with utilizing these facilities. Chairperson Tellam stated that the PTSA at Palmetto High School has had discussions with the Village about bringing a 5K walk to a Village park and the challenges are obtaining permission and the associated fees. Asked whether fees can be reduced or waived. Flinn stated that it is a win-win situation to hold an event like this. Fees were waived for the 5K event with Palmetto High School at Village Hall and area park. Mr. Silva stated that the event will have food trucks and music.
- iii. Principals gave positive responses to suggestions for facilities. Dr. Harley noted that most students at Palmetto High School live in Palmetto Bay but often the connection to the Village is forgotten. Ms. Pereira noted that most Southwood students end up at Coral Reef Park at the end of the year; therefore, an end of the year event would be welcomed.
- iv. Chairperson Tellam asked how a school or PTA/PTSA should proceed to ask about use of Village facilities. Mr. Silva stated that they should contact Ms. Carmona to set up a meeting.

6. Public Comments

- a. Councilwoman Karyn Cunningham
 - i. Received great feedback from Palmetto High School PTSA President regarding Mayor Flinn's attendance at their meeting.
 - ii. Appreciative of all that principals do for its students and for attending Committee meetings.
 - iii. Appreciates having students fill the Village parks and thinks an end of the year event could be a good idea as it is wonderful to have students attend Village events

- iv. Melissa Institute will host their annual conference on May 1st; topic is human trafficking. Open to all and welcomes school mental health professionals to contact the Melissa Institute to attend.
 - v. Chamber South will host their principal's networking event on May 8th featuring a speaker on social networking for schools and creating business partnerships. Information will be sent via the Region Office and the event will be held at Nova Southeastern University's Kendall Campus.
- b. Councilman Tim Schaffer
- i. Noted he is a product of Miami-Dade Public Schools and stated his preference for public schools. Has concerns regarding tensions between Village and Coral Reef Elementary regarding use of facilities for summer camp. Discussion between Councilman Schaffer, Mr. Silva and Ms. Guerra regarding issues. Chairperson Tellam noted that the issue is being resolved. Also noted that Councilman Schaffer helped initiate the discussion regarding improvements to the roads around Coral Reef Elementary which were addressed in earlier Committee meetings. Stated that the current facilities issue needs to be addressed in a different forum. Mayor Flinn noted that this is a good example of the benefit of having Village employees present at meetings.
- c. Ann McMaster, Legislative Chair, Palmetto High PTSA
- i. Village has great things to offer and wonderful ideas are being suggested. Palmetto High School PTSA is excited about the possibilities. Chairperson Tellam stated that the PTSA has been sharing the Committee's work with its members.
- d. Nancy Lawther, Alumni Liaison, Palmetto High PTSA and Legislative Chair, Miami Dade PTSA
- i. Asked to provide summary and thoughts in preparation for the next legislative session which, as Councilwoman Cunningham noted, will begin in January, with committee work beginning in September. Committee will want to start earlier on legislative matters during the 2016 legislative session.
 - ii. Testing bill continues to be discussed, with the House and Senate remaining far apart on this and other issues including the reduction of the percentage of teacher evaluation tied to testing results and whether to discount this year's results for evaluation by essentially using it as a base but to hold teachers, students and administrators harmless. If House and Senate do not come to an agreement, status quo remains.
 - iii. Next steps are to exert pressure on local House members and governor to be open to change. The Dade County PTA has been sending out emails to subscribers of its email list; states that those interested in joining mailing list may do so. Mr. Mayo states that teachers tell their students to pass on the information to their parents.
 - iv. Finances remain an issue as well, with the House and Senate far apart on budget. Special session in May is likely.

- v. Final issue is whether a portion of property taxes will be diverted to charter schools. There is not much time to raise the call to action for those who oppose this. Ms. Lawther has a letter in draft that she will forward to Ms. McMaster for distribution to the Palmetto High School PTSA and Ms. Lawther recommends having a letter prepared and ready to be sent when the timing is right. Chairperson Tellam notes that the Committee cannot act on these issues as a group; however, members may act individually.
- e. Erica Watts Sosa, Coral Reef Elementary PTSA President
 - i. Can coordinate outreach to Coral Reef Elementary parents on legislative issues

7. New Business (stemming from public comments)

- a. Role of Village Council and Education Advisory Committee on legislative issues
 - i. Councilwoman Cunningham asked what the Committee's role is with regard to legislation.
 - ii. Discussion between Committee members and members of the Village Council present regarding role of the Council with regard to legislation. Dr. Buslinger-Clifford and Mr. Mayo both stated that Village needs to be supportive of the District because the Village needs its public schools to remain strong. Councilman Schaffer notes that the Council faces challenges as a small municipality facing Tallahassee. Ms. Watts Sosa notes that if the Village's hands are tied, parents should educate themselves and take action. Mayor Flinn suggested holding a forum in December or early January for parents to educate them on what is going on and how they can get involved. The meeting can include prepared letters and forms for parents to send out.
 - iii. Chairperson Tellam noted that the concern about becoming a reduced capacity school district due the growth of charter schools and resulting loss of students and, in turn, leverage, is something that should be considered by the Committee in its long term strategic planning.
 - iv. Councilwoman Cunningham noted that she and Mayor Flinn had positive experiences in Tallahassee with regard to municipal issues in Palmetto Bay. Suggested that the Committee think about coordinating a Palmetto Bay PTA day in Tallahassee featuring members of local PTAs. Ms. Quick noted that PTA collaboration, whether via a PTA day or a forum with PTA members to discuss legislation, is falls under the following portions of the Education Compact: Communication (#3 on page 6) and therefore is an endeavor the Committee should commit to accomplishing.

8. Old Business

- a. Agenda items 7a (website update/PDF proposal), 7b (transportation/iBus), 7c (community outreach – Village picnic, PTSA meetings, Alumni Groups), 7d (mental health issues/programs) and 7e (Palmetto Senior High School construction) have been discussed.

9. New Business

- a. Joint Committee/Council/District Meeting May 13th

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- i. Chairperson Tellam would like an agenda set to ensure that the individuals in attendance from the District Facilities office may speak about the construction at Palmetto. Mayor Flinn states it will be presentation of the facilities but also will focus on relationship building.
- ii. Chairperson Tellam led discussion on location in anticipation of a larger audience. Councilwoman Cunningham suggested a presentation and reception, in some order and committee unanimously agreed. Mayor Flinn will communicate with the Village with regard to a reception. Chairperson Tellam suggested a reception from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Chairperson Tellam will contact Mr. James Haj to determine how long the District presentation will be and whether they will accept questions.
- iii. Ms. Quick asked how this meeting will be advertised to reach a vast audience. Ms. Lawther stated she will advertise the information to the Palmetto High School Alumni Association. Ms. Watts Sosa will advertise it to the Coral Reef Parent Teacher Association. Chairperson Tellam will share it with the Southwood Parent Teacher Association and will ask Mr. Haj to notify the principals who in turn can notify their PTAs.

10. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 14, 2015 minutes will be obtained in Microsoft Word format from Meighan Alexander, Village Clerk, for amending during next meeting. Approval tabled until next meeting.
- b. January 28, 2015 minutes amended. Motion to approve by Mr. Mayo, Ms. Clifford second. January 28, 2015 minutes approved as amended.
- c. March 4, 2015 minutes amended. Motion to approve by Mr. Mayo, Ms. Clifford second. March 4, 2015 minutes approved as amended.

11. Future Meeting Dates

- a. Proposed meeting dates: June 3rd and July 1st. At July meeting Committee will discuss date of August meeting.

12. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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