

**VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY**  
**EDUCATIONAL COMPACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2015**  
**9705 E. Hibiscus Street**  
**Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157**

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

1. Call to order by Chairperson Tellam at 6:34 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes moved to April meeting to provide Mr. Mayo adequate time to review minutes. Motion made by Ms. Quick, second by Ms. Tabor, approved.
3. Public Comments
  - a. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Swerdlow, members of Palmetto High PTSA
  - b. Nancy Lawther, Alumni Liaison, Palmetto High PTSA
    - i. Applying for a grant from the Knight Foundation and looking to partner with compact city to increase civic awareness.
    - ii. Erica Watts Sosa, Coral Reef Elementary PTSA President
  - c. Ann McMaster, Legislative Chair, Palmetto High PTSA
    - i. Palmetto High School wants to engage with its two primary municipalities
  - d. Darby Delsalle, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
    - i. Will discuss Art in Public Places during meeting
  - e. Mr. James Haj, Administrative Director, South Region, Miami-Dade Public Schools
    - i. Introduced principals in attendance
4. Principals' Comments
  - a. Ms. Magda Pereira, Southwood Middle School
    - i. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade FSA assessments complete; 8<sup>th</sup> grade begins
    - ii. GOB sign has been erected and technology has been updated.
    - iii. Magnet applications and auditions have been completed; received over 1,000 applications. Acceptance letters to be issued on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
    - iv. Received Magnet School of Distinction Award again this year. This is a national award and provides the school with \$2,500.
  - b. Tierney Hunter (Assistant Principal), Miami Palmetto Senior High School
    - i. Speaking on behalf of Dr. Harley, Principal
    - ii. Science National Honor Society competed at the State Astronaut Challenge; placed first in Technical Exam and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Engineering Challenge. Funds to support entire competition were raised by two Silver Knight nominees

- iii. Interact Service Club raised \$3,100 through their “Panthers Got Talent” Show and donated money to the Big Cat Rescue in Tampa.
  - iv. Spring break excursions include trips to Europe, South America and New York
  - v. Miami Herald ran an online article praising “Planetears” for winning the \$10,000 Lexus Eco Challenge encouraging young people to learn about the environment
  - vi. “Plant the Pride” event scheduled for Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Annual school beautification project.
- c. Ms. Maileen Ferrer, Dr. Henry E. Perrine Academy of the Arts School
- i. Mayor Flinn attended No Place for Hate event with Village staff.
  - ii. School has reached out to Village for assistance with projects.
  - iii. School improvement projects include installing air conditioners, painting school, trimming trees
  - iv. New school app funded by the PTA and free to download. Parents are pleased with the communication via the app and students are able to utilize it in the classroom
  - v. Cleveland Orchestra was a special guest at the school, working with the music students
  - vi. Dance team competed against older students in the Superintendent’s dance showcase.
  - vii. Music students selected for Superintendent’s Orchestra performance at Coral Park High School
  - viii. Art projects by students to be judged and selected for Village’s Art in Public Places event
  - ix. School has been recognized as a Magnet of Excellence. Only two elementary schools in the District received this extremely high honor. This national award will be recognized at the School Board meeting and provides for a \$5,000 cash award.
- d. Ms. Christina Guerra, Coral Reef Elementary
- i. Cheerleaders won and qualified for nationals on April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. Odyssey of the Mind teams: 3 of the 4 teams won and will advance to the state competition in April
  - iii. Science team competed at SECME; won the Brain Bowl, won the top award in environmental science and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the essay contest.
  - iv. Fun Fair is March 14<sup>th</sup>; serves as a community building event as well as PTA fundraiser.
  - v. Completed PSA in writing (except two students)
  - vi. Robotics team will compete at the Dade County Youth Fair and the Science team will compete at the District math competition.
  - vii. Technology is up and running thanks to the District and PTA.
5. Committee Member Comments
- a. Introduction of Orestes Mayo, newest member of Committee. Mr. Mayo is a physics, calculus and computer teacher at Coral Gables Senior High School
  - b. Chairperson Tellam
    - i. Perrine Elementary– possibility of expanding after school activities with Branches, a local nonprofit organization

- ii. Southwood Middle School – parents have asked about bringing back the Duke TIP Program. Principal’s response: will research the matter. The school does participate in a similar program.
- iii. Thanked principals for attending, particularly given that it is testing time.

6. Mayoral Comments

- a. Received requested materials from the School Board and created a project book with the data and notes.
- b. The Committee is charged with satisfying the compact. Intent is to identify projects through which to work through the goals of the compact.
- c. Committee Meeting:
  - i. Purpose of the meeting is to bring together community groups with schools to provide schools with an opportunity to ask for support and to brainstorm fundraising opportunities.
  - ii. When should the meeting be held? Would like principals input. Should the meeting be held a month before the end of the year as a planning session for the upcoming academic year or held at the beginning of the academic year. What would be most effective?
  - iii. Agenda items:
    - 1. Identify fundraising opportunities such as the art show.
    - 2. Internship program and appointment of a Village Youth Advisory Group. Would like principals to suggest members for the group.
    - 3. Would like principals to create an agenda of what they want to ask of the Village and local business groups

7. Old Business

- a. Website Update/PDF Proposal
  - i. Issue falls under the following portions of the Education Compact: Communication (#2 on page 6 and #5 on page 7) and Community Involvement (#8 on page 4)
  - ii. Feeder pattern school video received good reception when presented to the Village Council. Mayor Flinn welcomes additional videos produced by school production classes, including commercials for upcoming events, for airing on Village TV station and linking on Village website. Videos should be available “on demand”.
  - iii. Chairperson Tellam suggested using Eagle/Girl Scouts to create video projects promoting the Village. Mayor Flinn noted that scouts would need to work with schools to produce videos as the Village does not have in house resources.
  - iv. Mr. Haj noted that Palmetto High School has a recruiting video that can be aired. Ms. Watts Sosa noted that Coral Reef Elementary school has a drama club.
  - v. Mayor Flinn asked whether there are videos already produced for sporting events, award ceremonies and other activities that can be used on Village website “video showcase” page with a newly created “school category”. Ms. Quick will inquire with Public Information Officer Bill Kress about the

- possibility of adding such a category that would be linked to the education section of the website.
- vi. Chairperson Tellam asked whether a request for proposals can be put forth to the schools. Mayor Flinn notes that videos produced by the schools would need to be vetted by the Village.
  - vii. Ms. McMaster suggested that this is an excellent idea for the Mayor to discuss at the Palmetto High School PTSA as money has been allocated to improve the school's video production company, resulting in a win-win for the students, school and Village.
  - viii. In an effort to provide Village TV with more programming, Mr. Mayo suggests text informing viewers of upcoming events at schools. Mayor Flinn noted that this could be a monthly update.
  - ix. Regarding the PDF proposal for the website, Mr. Haj will review for approval of distribution to Village principals for completion.
- b. (moved up in the agenda from New Business (a)) – Art in Public Places (AiPP)
- i. Issue falls under the following portions of the Education Compact: Facilities (#5 on page 6) Community Involvement (#13 on page 4)
  - ii. Presented by Darby Delsalle, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
  - iii. Art in Public Places is a public art program at Village Hall featuring pieces shared by artists. Program is expanding to obtain art from local schools to display. Initial project will feature pieces by Perrine Elementary students with an eye on expansion to other schools in the coming years.
  - iv. AiPP committee will view and rank pieces. Those selected will be featured during a 3-4 week display at Village Hall, during which time council members will rank pieces. The program will culminate with a showing at Thalatta for parents and students with a presentation of awards by the Council. Funding will come from AiPP. Intention is to have a rotating art program at Village Hall consisting of local students' pieces
  - v. On a related note regarding facilities, Mayor Flinn raised to Mr. Haj the difficulty in scheduling Committee meetings at the local public schools due to required forms and insurance documents. Mayor Flinn wants to bring Committee meetings to the schools. Plan is to request all dates for PTSA meetings and schedule future Committee meetings in advance to ensure no issue with holding meetings on school properties.
- c. Transportation/iBus
- i. Village will review iBus system in a study spearheaded by Council member Larissa Siegel Lara. Timeframe for study is not yet known.
  - ii. Chairperson Tellam asks that the Committee be informed of the study schedule and/or have the opportunity to invite the individuals involved in the study to a Committee meeting.

- iii. Ms. McMaster noted that Pinecrest busses do stop at Palmetto Middle and Palmetto High schools, and that the busses primarily transport students. Can iBus travel outside of Village to Palmetto High School? Mr. Haj notes that Cutler Bay uses their transportation system to transport students.
  - iv. Chairperson Tellam notes that this issue is connected to agenda item 8(d) under New Business. Recommends tabling iBus issue until further information is available regarding the study.
- d. Community outreach – village picnic, PTSA meetings, alumni groups
- i. Issue falls under the following portion of the Education Compact: Community Involvement (#2 on page 3)
  - ii. Mayor Flinn would like the Committee to have a tent at 2016 Village picnic with materials such as copies of the compact available for distribution. Would like Committee to determine how to best use picnic for its purposes (survey of parents, advertising of Committee meetings).
  - iii. Mayor Flinn asks that the April agenda include thoughts on the picnic and how the Committee can more actively participate and engage attendees.
- e. Palmetto High School construction
- i. Issue falls under the following portions of the Education Compact: Facilities (#1 and #3 on page 5)
  - ii. Chairperson Tellam is coordinating with Palmetto High School alumni group regarding construction and suggests a meeting with the Committee on this topic. As secretary of alumni group, Ms. Lawther welcomes such a meeting.
  - iii. Mr. Haj noted that he can have someone attend the Committee’s April or May meeting to discuss construction. Mayor Flinn suggests a presentation to the entire Village Council, proposing a meeting on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. Chairperson Tellam has been authorized to provide the District via email to Mr. Haj with a request for a joint meeting between the Committee and Village Council on construction for all five Village schools. Chairperson Tellam has been granted authorization because Mayor Flinn states it is beyond the scope of the Village Clerk.
  - v. Chairperson Tellam proposes moving the Committee’s scheduled May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to the May 13<sup>th</sup> joint meeting.
- f. Mental health issues/programs
- i. Chairperson Tellam recommends to table until Dr. Buslinger-Clifford is in attendance as this is a topic she raised in prior meetings
- g. Civic Awareness contest for schools – 2015-16 school year
- i. Chairperson Tellam recommends to table for future discussion to include Knight Foundation grant noted by Ms. Lawther during public comments as well as to include in planning for 2015-16 school year

- h. Participation at Village picnic
  - i. discussed under 7(d)

8. New Business

- a. Review/Discussion of MDCPS documents
  - i. Chairperson Tellam explained that materials provided at the request of Mayor Flinn include a map of where students attending Village schools reside. Chairperson Tellam would like to see demographics for each Village school, looking specifically at how many students at each school reside in the Village. In addition, would like to know data on how many students residing in the Village attend schools outside the Village.
  - ii. Chairperson Tellam asks how Committee will use data. Will Committee activity be data driven or will data be driven by activities? It is likely Committee will
- b. Review/Discussion as to Future Goals/Review of Compact Rubric
  - i. Mayor Flinn would like to focus on Community Involvement #7 (page 4) of the Compact requiring a yearly outreach meeting with community leaders. He would like to schedule this meeting in advance to provide adequate time for preparation. His recommendation is to hold it during a monthly Palmetto Bay Business Association meeting which is held the first Thursday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He recommends the September meeting and will discuss with Association president at their March meeting.
  - ii. Chairperson Tellam notes that the Village should be making a request of the District/Intergovernmental Affairs office to attend this meeting.
- c. Other New Business from Public (added to agenda)
  - i. Ms. Lawther will provide information regarding legislative agenda in the future
  - ii. Ms. Watts Sosa notes that Coral Reef Elementary will assist parents with fundraiser for Autism Awareness Month in April. Suggests that the Committee meet with parents to provide them with an opportunity to be heard in the short term and perhaps a hold a fundraising meeting in the future. Chairperson Tellam proposes to invite parents to the April meeting to discuss during public comments.

9. Future Meeting Dates

- a. April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

10. Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.