

**MINUTES
OF THE
CITY OF HOLLYWOOD
EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Mitchell Anton
Audrey Dallaire
Dan Derrico, Ed. D.
Carol Fischer
Jacqueline Grant
Donna Greene
Matthew Laskowski

Joel Levine, Ed. D.
Allan Libero
Cheree Liebowitz
Ellen Suppa
Kathy Thomas, Ed. D.
Timi Adelakun
Grahm Rubin

Also Present:

Lorie Mertens-Black, Chief Civic Affairs Officer
Commissioner Blattner
Commissioner Sherwood
Angel Gomez, BCPS
Shea Ariago, Broward Education Foundation

Guests:

Ann Murray, School Board Member
Robert Runcie, Superintendent
Dave Norman, Jr., BCPS
Leslie Brown, Chief Portfolio Services Officer
Jill Young, Director, Demographics & Enrollment Planning
Joseph Beck, Demographer Specialist

School Representatives Attending:

William Ryser, McNicol Middle
Jacqui Arnaez, Stirling Elementary
Renee Grutman, Apollo/McArthur
Shawn Aycock, Apollo Middle
Vered Roberts, Beachside Montessori
Eduardo U.Aguilar, Oakridge Elementary
Alfred L. Broomfield II, McArthur High

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LIAISON.

Lorie Mertens-Black provided a brief introduction and asked each member to introduce themselves. She advised that Mari Khoury had resigned from the committee.

PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE

Superintendent Runcie provided an overview of District activities including:

- \$100M has been invested in safety and security measures with \$36M for single point entry requirements (perimeter fencing, video surveillance, doors, locks).
- Safe School Officers. Broward requires applicants to have prior law enforcement or military experience. Personnel includes armed guardians and campus monitors. 521 to be hired. Department of Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness was created to oversee the program. 13,000 security cameras have been installed and are able to be accessed in real time by local police departments. They also upgraded intercom systems and internal radio system. They've upgraded protocols and training and implemented mental health and wellness initiatives (social workers, family counselors, and psychiatrists). Mr. Runcie indicated that there are 201 School Resource Officers and 45 armed guardians (a goal of 100).
- Academics. Mr. Runcie reports that Broward has no "F" schools and the district was only one point away from being rated an "A" school district. They are experiencing the highest graduation rates. Early literacy programs have helped schools improve and are in 70 schools.

After the presentation, committee members had several questions for the Superintendent.

Donna Greene asked if funding for academics had been redirected toward security enhancements. Mr. Runcie indicated that the state did not add to education funding and instead redirected existing dollars toward security.

Joel Levine asked if there was funding to maintain technology. Mr. Runcie indicated that funding was allocated toward annual maintenance and replacement.

Cheree Liebowitz asked about speech and debate programs. Mr. Runcie explained that there were 17,000 participating students in middle and high schools as well as about half the elementary schools.

Dan Derrico asked about the impact of charter schools. Mr. Runcie suggested focusing on the similarity of the mission (teaching children) rather than differences.

Mitch Anton asked about the involvement of local law enforcement. Mr. Runcie spoke about threat assessment and law enforcement. He indicated that the number of threat assessments has increased significantly from 300 to 1200 to an anticipated 2,000 conducted.

Donna Greene asked about the impact of teacher shortages. Mr. Runcie indicated that the number of teacher vacancies is down. Staff focuses on retention to reduce the need for recruitment.

PRESENTATION BY LESLIE BROWN, JILL YOUNG AND JOE BECK ON BOUNDARY PROPOSALS. SEE ATTACHED PRESENTATION.

Ms. Brown introduced the boundary process.

Ms. Young provided an in depth explanation of how proposals are handled. The School Board will review proposals on October 8 to determine which will move forward in the process.

Mr. Beck explained each of the proposals.

BCPS Staff Proposals. There are three staff proposals moving forward. Two are in Hollywood and are Bethune/Attucks – Pre-K to 8, Driftwood Elementary and Middle – Pre-K to 8. A third staff proposal involves schools in Lauderhill.

City Proposals. City proposals include 3 options for Hollywood Hills High and 1 for Hollywood Central.

- Creation of a K – 8 School at Hollywood Central Elementary. This proposal allows for 300 seats for 6 – 8 grade at Hollywood Central. This proposal would allow all students historically assigned to Olsen Middle to stay at Hollywood Central.
- Creation of a 6 – 12 school at Hollywood Hills High School. Approximately 300 seats are available as a result of the school being under enrolled. The success of one of these proposals would require the relocation of the Military Magnet program and the restriction on number of reassignments. All options include the consideration of adding a high rigor academic program. The three options include
 - Assigned Boundary Area, students within the boundary can attend 6 – 12 grade at Hollywood Hills High.
 - Priority Choice Area, reserves 600 seats for 6 – 8 grade students within the area to attend middle school at Hollywood Hills High. Students not in the Hollywood Hills High (HHH) School boundary will not be automatically enrolled for 9th grade at HHH. They are able to go to their assigned high school or seek reassignment to another high school with availability.
 - Boundary Choice Area, students in the area have the option of attending HHH or their assigned middle school. Students not in the Boundary for Hollywood Hills High School will go to their assigned High School or seek reassignment to another high school with availability.
- Creation of a Gifted Academy – community proposal by Cheree Liebowitz. This proposal will also limit number of students seeking reassignment and will require the relocation of the military magnet. It would have eligibility requirements for gifted students. This program could be 6 – 12 grades or 9 – 12 grades.

Committee member discussion and comment included:

Cheree commented that the proposals should deliver more than just a 6 – 8 option at Hollywood Hills High. It needs to have programming that will attract Hollywood parents back to HHH. The principal from Stirling Elementary commented parents don't feel that Attucks is in their neighborhood. Audrey expressed concern that this proposal would harm the program at Attucks and stop the improvement in diversity of students. Allan commented that the proposal would devastate Olsen. Mr. Beck indicated that this could lead to a repurposing of Olsen to address other District and community needs. Mitch suggested that without a program to attract students, the proposals won't be successful.

After the presentation, Committee members discussed the proposals and the process. The City Commission has a workshop scheduled for Weds, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. – noon to hear the proposals and reach consensus on what they support moving forward. Lorie encouraged

Committee members to reach out directly to City Commissioners with any concerns or suggestions as public comment is not taken at City workshops. BCPS staff reminded the group that this is only the beginning of the process, other opportunities for public comment exist. The City Commission does not approve a proposal, they merely endorse.

Dan made a motion to express concerns to the City Commission for proposals that would negatively impact enrollment at any of the other Hollywood Schools. Mitch seconded. Discussion ensued and resulted in Dan withdrawing his motion.

Members were desirous of having their concerns and discussion forwarded to the City Commission prior to the Sept. 18 workshop. Lorie advised that she would send minutes summarizing their concerns to the City Commission prior to workshop. She will also send the presentation to Committee members.

NEW BUSINESS. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

Mitch made a motion to select Dan as Chair of the Committee. The motion was seconded by Cheree and passed unanimously. Dan made a motion to select Cheree as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Allan and passed unanimously.

As it was already late, the discussion on the survey was deferred to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.