

**City of Hollywood  
Education Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2020  
Via WebEx**

- In Attendance:** Chair Dan Derrico, Ellen Suppa, Kathy Thomas, Donna Greene, Joel Levine, Vice Chair Cheree Liebowitz, Graham Rubin, Timi Adelakun, Carol Fischer
- Staff:** Anthony Grisby, Interim Community Development Manager  
Peggy Eads, Administrative Assistant 1
- Non-Members:** Angel Gomez, Governmental Affairs, Broward County Public Schools  
Patty Brown, Principal, South Broward High School

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Dan Derrico noted the presence of a quorum and roll was taken.

Donna Greene made a **motion** to approve the February 10, 2020 minutes. **Motion** was seconded by Graham Rubin, and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**.

Dan commended Student Member Timi Adelakun for his wonderful achievement of graduating as valedictorian of South Broward High School with a 5.604 GPA, the highest GPA ever recorded at that school.

Dan went on to thank the outgoing EAC members for their service to our Committee: Carol Fischer, Matthew Laskowski, and Timi Adelakun. He then gave the names of the new members appointed by the Hollywood Commission to the committee, effective June 30: Peggy Cannis, Diana Marrero, Kypps Pollard, and student member Gabriele Short. Also, Allan Libero was reappointed, and student member Graham Rubin was reappointed. There remains one vacant position for a “teacher” member.

Patty Brown, Principal at South Broward High School, updated the committee on activities at SBHS, and answered many questions. She mentioned their 96% graduation rate this year. Need for mentors and volunteers. Special concerns about the pandemic and school opening issues in August. Need for more teacher training in online learning. Students at home with no access to personal counseling. Difficulties with logistics of school meals during this pandemic. There

was discussion of BCPS plans for the 2020-2021 school year, not as yet fully decided. Issues with student readiness from feeder middle schools require more collaboration. Need for more funding from the state, help from the city of Hollywood, and access to more grants from public and private sources. Not all students have internet access at home. More family financial problems due to recent surge in unemployment. On behalf of the EAC, Dan thanked Patty Brown for an excellent presentation and response to the member's questions.

## **II. New Business**

### **Impact of pandemic on Hollywood schools**

The committee discussed the availability of wifi access for students involved in distance learning, especially for those students living in shelters. Donna suggested investigating grant programs that the city could utilize to make funding available for all students to have access to computers and wifi. Ellen asked if volunteers/mentors are still needed and Patty said yes. Angel promised to send information on volunteer registration to the committee.

## **III. Old Business**

### **Schedule of invitations to high school principals**

After general discussion, the committee agreed to send invitations to high school principals to attend upcoming meetings. Peggy will invite the principals of Hollywood Hills, McArthur, and Hallandale high schools to our July 20, September 21, and October 19 meetings. It was decided to table the question of inviting middle school principals until we complete the meetings with our high school principals. We will then consider other guests such as Superintendent Runcie, School Board District 1 member Anne Murray, Broward Teacher Union President Anna Fusco, and others.

### **Status of School Survey**

Status of school survey of parents: After some discussion, and considering the impact of the pandemic, we decided to defer this matter to our next meeting for further consideration.

### **Discuss/Plan Broward County School Board Forum**

Broward County School board Forum: The timing no longer makes this practical for our committee to arrange. We will support the virtual forum already planned by the League of Women Voters, scheduled for July 27.

IV. **Member Comments/Updates**

Donna spoke about book update, Cheree mentioned the June 16 BCPS 2020 - 2021 school year planning workshop, Carol thanked the committee for working with her for her many years on the EAC. Dan again commended Carol, Matthew and Timi for their service to the committee.

V. **Staff Report**

Anthony reminded the committee members that due to the Sunshine Law, all correspondence to be forwarded to the group should be sent to his office first so that Peggy can disseminate to the members.

VI. **Adjournment**

Grahm Rubin made a **motion** to adjourn, which was seconded by Cheree Liebowitz. Following a unanimous voice **vote**, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

**The next scheduled committee meeting is on Monday July 20 at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx.**