

**City of Hollywood  
Education Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2020  
Via WebEx**

- In Attendance:** Chair Dan Derrico, Vice Chair Cheree Liebowitz, Ellen Suppa, Kathy Thomas, Donna Greene, Joel Levine, Diana Marrero, Gabrielle Short, Graham Rubin, Jacqueline Grant, Kypps Pollard, Mitchell Anton, Peggy Cannis
- Staff:** Anthony Grisby, Community Development Manager  
Peggy Eads, Administrative Assistant 1
- Non-Members:** Dan Most, Principal, Hollywood Hills High School  
Alan Fallik, Deputy City Attorney, City of Hollywood  
Angel Gomez, Governmental Affairs, Broward County Public Schools  
Carol Fischer

**I. Call to Order**

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

Graham Rubin made a **motion** to approve the June 15, 2020 minutes. **Motion** was seconded by Ellen Suppa, and it was unanimously approved by voice **vote**.

**II. New Business**

• **Introduction of New Members**

Chair Dan Derrico noted the presence of the four new members and asked them to introduce themselves. The new members for the 2020-2021 term are Peggy Cannis, Diana Marrero, Kypps Pollard and Gabrielle Short.

• **Presentation on the Legal Aspects of Advisory Committee Membership and the Florida Sunshine Law**

Deputy City Attorney Alan Fallik briefed the committee about the Florida Sunshine Law, and answered member questions. He stressed that it is important that two or more members of the committee not discuss or communicate on matters that may come before the committee except at properly noticed public meetings. All committee meetings are to be properly noticed, and are open to the public. Minutes

must be taken of all committee meetings, which are then part of the public record. Email communication is best done through Peggy Eads who can forward such emails to all members of the committee. Members are not to respond to emails. All emails and documents are part of the public record which citizens and organizations may request under the Florida Sunshine Law.

- **Presentation by Daniel Most, Principal, Hollywood Hills High School**

Mr. Daniel Most, the new principal of Hollywood Hills High School, gave a presentation about his experience and vision. Mr. Most has considerable education experience. He mentioned the many quality programs at HHHS including AP classes, Dual Enrollment with BCC, Drama, ROTC, Robotics, and Debate. There was a general discussion of the effects of the health pandemic on the school system. The Board of Education will soon make the decision on how the schools will open and operate in August.

Donna Green expressed that the leadership of the principal was so important to the success, the attitude, and the positive perception of any school. She emphasized leadership, energy, commitment, and enthusiasm. Marketing programs and student success were important, as was working with school alumni to garner community support.

Mitch Anton asked about the possibility of an on-campus football stadium, which most other Broward County High Schools have. The Board was told that there is an agreement between the community and Hollywood Hills High that states that the school may not have bright lights surrounding the school, could not hold night games, and therefore building a football stadium would not be feasible.

Cheree Liebowitz expressed that the neighboring Emerald Hills area was not feeding many of its students into Hollywood Hills High School. They are mostly sending their children to private schools or charter schools, or they are moving out of the area or out of Hollywood to be close to other public schools. We must change this pattern. Obtaining a high academic program like the gifted program, IB Program, or even the Cambridge Program would help. She wanted to know if he feels a new program should be implemented, and if there was anything the Committee could do to help as they are here to support him. Parents want to know that their students will graduate high school as “college ready”, including a chance at being accepted in the top universities.

Mr. Most informed the members that their best achieving graduates have been accepted to Ivy League and other high quality universities. Many other students, who have started high school academically low achieving, have greatly improved and have graduated prepared for college. He told us that 28% of their students this past year did not have English as their first language, and that 82% of their students were economically disadvantaged to the extent that they qualified for free or reduced lunch.

The EAC assured Mr. Most that the members are willing to work with him on his efforts to improve the enrollment of his high school, and the educational experience of his students. Dr. Derrico commended Mr. Most for his excellent presentation, his enthusiasm, positive attitude, and commitment to quality education at Hollywood Hills High School.

### III. **Old Business**

- **Discussion on Education Survey**

Two projects that the EAC had been working on for 2020 were:

1. Parent Survey of middle school students to determine which high school they preferred for their children and why; and
2. Plan and moderate a candidate forum for the 2020 school board election for the at-large representative.

Due to the situation with the current Coronavirus pandemic, it was decided to cancel these projects for this year.

### IV. **Member Comments/Updates**

Joel Levine asked that the teacher grants (\$20,000) that the EAC awarded this year be placed on the Hollywood website. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to recommend that this be done, and that this be mentioned in our meeting minutes.

The members had a general discussion about the pandemic and classes that might be on-line, and how that would work with teachers in their classrooms with their materials there, and students in their homes being able to see and hear the teacher and each other through platforms like WebEx or Zoom.

### V. **Staff Report**

Anthony Grisby informed the members about three programs administered by the Community Development Division: The Neighborhood Pride Program and the Home Rehabilitation and Repair Program, as well as the Eviction Prevention Program that helps residents impacted by Covid-19.

### VI. **Adjournment**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

There is no August meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via WebEx.