

**City of Hollywood
Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2021
Via WebEx**

In Attendance: Chair Dan Derrico, Donna Greene, Joel Levine, Vice Chair Cheree Liebowitz, Kypps Poliard, Gabrielle Short, Ellen Suppa, and Kathy Thomas

Absent: Jacqueline Grant, Grahm Rubin

Staff: Anthony Grisby, Community Development Manager
Peggy Eads, Administrative Assistant 1

Non-Members: Carol Fischer

1. Call to Order

Dan noted the presence of a quorum at 6:06 p.m. and roll was taken.

2. Review of minutes from January 25, 2021 meeting

Kathy **motioned** to approve the January minutes. Cheree seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

3. Acknowledgement of BCPS personnel in attendance

None in attendance.

4. New Business

Dan announced the resignation of two members, Peggy Cannis and Allan Libero, due to health issues.

- **Discussion on Guests to Invite to Future Meetings**

The committee entered into a general discussion on inviting guests to future meetings. Kathy suggested inviting the two new Commissioners to get their ideas on education. Cheree stated that she would rather focus on Goals and Objectives for the coming year. Joel said that it

would be worthwhile to invite middle school principals to discuss their needs. Cheree mentioned that the middle schools had conducted open houses and she had attended some, and again stated that it would be more advantageous to focus on Goals and Objectives. Dan suggested the topic be tabled for future consideration.

Cheree went on to say that the Broward County School Board would conduct a workshop the following day on various topics.

- **Questions / Recommendations for Next Round of Broward Education Foundation Teacher Grants**

The Committee talked about the fact that because of Covid-19, they didn't have as much involvement with evaluating the grants in the current cycle as they had in the past. They asked Peggy to let Coco Burns know that they want to go back to the process that was in place pre-Covid. Members of the committee will volunteer to meet at the grant reading to evaluate the Hollywood applications and make recommendations that will then be reviewed and voted on by the committee for final approval. Joel suggested that Coco be asked for a timeline of the grant cycle process.

- **Discussion / Approval of Letter to School Principals**

The members discussed the letter that Dan had drafted. Donna said that asking what schools need and promising to help is not something the Committee has the power to do. Joel asked if putting school needs on the website would be appropriate. After some further discussion, Dan decided to table the discussion to a future date.

5. Old Business

- **Discussion / Approval of Letter to City Commission**

The Committee discussed the letter asking the City Commissioners to help lobby to give all teachers front line worker designation so that they can get Covid-19 vaccinations. Kypps said that all teachers going back

into the classroom should have access to the vaccine, especially teachers with health issues. Cheree said she thinks the letter is good. The committee discussed the fact that since most teachers are now back in classrooms, with substitute teachers filling in for those teachers with health issues, the letter should be revised to reflect that. Dan said he would make adjustments to the letter reflecting the change.

- The committee went on to discuss Goals and Objectives for 2021, as outlined in the 2020 Annual Report. Cheree said that each member should advocate for a specific goal, and that she would like to take on Goal 2, “Support and promote the safe return of students and faculty to Broward County Public Schools during the pandemic.” Dan said that he would like to focus on Objective 2b, “Liaison with the Hollywood schools to serve as a resource and try to address their needs and concerns.” Joel said that he would advocate for Goal 5, “Inform and involve Hollywood families and help to attract new families to Hollywood by promoting Hollywood schools.” Donna said that she would focus on Goal 3, “Continue to support and promote the funding for accreditation of Early Childhood Centers in Hollywood.” Joel suggested focusing on Goals and Objectives at the March meeting, with each member advocating for a Goal or Objective.

6. Member Comments

Cheree mentioned that she received a call from the Literacy Coach at Oak Ridge Elementary asking for more books. Donna said she has a problem accessing the work/storage location because of the pandemic. Cheree said she would circle back with the school.

Kathy spoke about the importance of students’ mental health during the pandemic and the possibility of reaching out directly to marginalized kids with a virtual story hour.

8. Staff Report

Anthony said that in regard to upcoming board and committee appointments, the deadline to submit applications is April 15th and the Commission meeting to make appointments will be on May 26th.

9. Adjournment

Cheree made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting and Joel seconded it. It was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next scheduled committee meeting is on Monday March 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx.