

**City of Hollywood  
Education Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2021  
6:00 pm  
Via WebEx**

**In Attendance:** Mitch Anton, Chair Dan Derrico, Ellen Davis, Carol Fischer, Jacqueline Grant, Joel Levine, Vice Chair Cheree Liebowitz, Sofia Mukamal, Catherine Palmer, Kypps Poliard, Ellen Suppa, Rod Velez

**Absent:** Larry Perez, Roxana Tumbaco

**Staff:** Anthony Grisby, Liaison  
Peggy Eads, Administrative Assistant

**Non-Members:** Angel Gomez, Governmental Affairs, Broward County Public Schools

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Dan Derrico called the meeting to order. Roll was taken and is noted above.

Dan noted that two new members, Ellen Davis and Sofia Mukamal, were attending a meeting for the first time. He asked each of them to introduce themselves and talk about their motivation for applying and they did so.

**2. Review of minutes from July 19, 2021 meeting**

Mitch **motioned** to approve the July minutes. Jacqueline seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**3. Acknowledgement of BCPS personnel in attendance**

At this point in the meeting, none were in attendance; however, Angel Gomez joined the meeting a few minutes later.

## **4. New Business**

- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Dan Derrico said that having served as Chair for four years, he would like to step down and give someone else the opportunity to serve. He then nominated Cheree Liebowitz for Chair of the committee. Carol seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously. Dan then opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Rod nominated Catherine Palmer. Mitch seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously.

Cheree noted that Angel Gomez had joined the meeting and asked him if he wanted to address the committee. Angel congratulated Cheree and Catherine. He also welcomed the two new members in attendance. He updated the committee on the new Interim Superintendent of Broward County Schools, Vicki Cartwright, and spoke about the Broward School's mask mandate. He informed the committee members about the Covid-19 Dashboard that has up to date information on the pandemic as it affects the schools in Broward County. He noted the safety protocols schools are putting in place for the protection of students and staff. Cheree asked about the school grading system and if schools could opt out, considering the effect that Covid has had on student's performance. Angel answered that most schools have opted out and for those schools that chose not to opt out, the academic department is working closely with them. Dan asked how the schools are dealing with students whose parents have chosen not to send them to in-person classes. Angel said that the schools are working with parents to provide them an IEP plan or accelerated 504 plan.

## **5. Old Business**

- **Update on Schools Web Page Progress**

For the benefit of the two new committee members, Joel Levine gave an overview of the Schools Web Page Project, which will provide users with updated information on each school in Hollywood, as well as useful links and an interactive map. Joel went on to ask the committee members their ideas about the best way to share successful strategies for obtaining the necessary information from schools. Dan said that successful strategies could be shared during committee meetings. He reminded the committee that because of Sunshine Law rules, any

website content should be sent to Peggy. Anthony cautioned that emails from committee members to and from the schools fall under the Sunshine Law and therefore it is preferable to communicate with school liaisons in person or on the phone. A general discussion ensued on the Sunshine Law and how it addresses emails as written records. Cheree suggested that a city attorney could elaborate on the written communication aspect the next time the committee is briefed on the Sunshine Law. Joel suggested that the members send successful strategies to Peggy who can then share those strategies with the members. Rod asked if the principal's message on the school website could be copied for the city's schools web page. Joel answered that the target audience for the city's web page is different than the one for the school. He also said that the school would also have to give permission to copy something on their website. Carol thanked Cheree for the email template she had provided. Joel reminded the Committee of the school categories used by the Florida Department of Education which was sent to the members.

Anthony shared the schools web page with the committee members and explained the school categories, links and the interactive map which will be added later.

Cheree thanked the subcommittee for their hard work on the web page and urged the members to obtain the necessary information from the schools that had been assigned to them.

## **6. Member Comments**

Mitch asked about the K through 8 initiative in Hollywood and Cheree said she believes it has been tabled for the time being. Joel asked about when the committee would return to inviting principals to speak to the committee about happenings at their school. Cheree answered that the schools web page project is taking most of the committee's time and should be the focus right now. She suggested tabling it until January. Dan said that he agreed with Cheree. Dan also suggested that the committee would need to talk about goals and objectives for the coming year at the October or November meeting.

## **7. Staff Report**

Anthony reminded the committee that the city has a rental assistance program for those residents whose income has been affected by the pandemic. This program is separate from the program being offered by Broward County.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mitch made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting and Ellen Davis seconded it. It was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

**The next scheduled committee meeting is at 6:00 pm on Monday October 18, 2021 via WebEx.**