

EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Cheree Liebowitz – Chair
Catherine Palmer – Vice Chair

Mitch Anton
Ellen Davis
Daniel Derrico
Carol Fischer
Jacqueline Grant
Joel Levine, Ed.D.
Sofia Mukamal (student)
Kypps Poliard
Ellen Suppa
Roxana Tumbaco
Rodney Velez



MISSION

The mission of the Education Advisory Committee is to obtain and review information regarding educational matters, advise the City Commission regarding such matters, and support and promote quality education in order to make the educational opportunities in Hollywood the best available in the State of Florida.

- from the Citizens Boards and Committees Handbook, 2020

COMMITTEE'S UNDERSTANDING OF ITS MISSION / PURPOSE

The Education Advisory Committee fully understands its mission and intended purpose. The Committee believes that engaging in the following practices will enable it to achieve its mission.

- Promote the many outstanding accomplishments and improvements of Hollywood schools.
- Enhance and promote communication between the City and the School District and local schools.
- Collaborate with other City advisory boards / committees on educational issues.
- Participate in the Broward Coalition of Education Advisory Boards (CEAB), South Area Advisory Council, and BCPS Gifted Advisory Committee.
- Encourage community members to make suggestions for the improvement of Hollywood schools.
- Encourage community member (parent organizations and civic associations) suggestions for improvement of Hollywood schools, and their participation in city sponsored events and projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One or more of our committee members:

Established a Schools Web Page on the City of Hollywood website to provide the public with information on Hollywood schools, including an interactive location map, principal's message, school narrative and teacher grant awards.

Coordinated with the Broward Education Foundation to evaluate grant proposals submitted by Hollywood teachers and recommended funding in the amount of \$20,000.

Advocated for expansion of the Broward County Public Schools Gifted Program to include a Hollywood school.

Participated in numerous meetings of countywide Coalition of Education Advisory Boards (CAEB), South Area Advisory Council (SAAC), and BCPS Gifted Advisory Committee.

Conducted discussions of goals and objectives, accomplishments and improvements, needs, priorities, issues, and information exchange with invited guests, including district staff.

Attended various meetings and workshops of the Broward County School Board.

Attended school meetings and events, and volunteered at various Hollywood schools. Activities included reading to classes including Broward Reads for the Record, Reading Pals program, math tutoring, and mentoring individual students.

Initiated correspondence with the principals of all Hollywood public schools for their input for inclusion in the City's public information publications and on the city's website.

Participated in discussions regarding the Broward County Public Schools reopening plans during the pandemic, including the health and safety of the students, faculty and school administration.

Advocated for the BCPS teachers to be considered first priority healthcare workers in receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

Reached out to Broward County Public Schools to help identify ways to use CDBG-CV funding for school needs.

2021 SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

January 25: EAC members reviewed and discussed the Broward Education Foundation Teacher Grant Program and how the pandemic had affected how the grants were processed. The members agreed that they hoped to be more involved in the process in 2021. Dan made a motion to accept the grant awards as selected by the BEF staff. Ellen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Ellen made a motion to approve the 2021 meeting calendar. Joel seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The committee discussed the 2020 Annual Report and agreed on several modifications, additions and deletions. There was consensus on the revised version of the report, which would be submitted to the City Clerk the following day. The committee discussed the effect of the pandemic on schools, school staff and students. The Committee agreed that teachers should be considered high priority as far as getting the vaccine. Dan made a motion to recommend to the City Commission that Hollywood teachers and school staff be designated high priority front line workers. Ellen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

February 22: Dan announced the resignation of two members, Peggy Cannis and Allan Libero, due to health issues. The committee discussed the topic of inviting guests to speak at committee meetings. Some members felt that inviting the new Commissioners and middle school principals to future meetings. Some felt that they should focus on Goals and Objectives instead. Dan tabled the topic for future consideration. The members discussed a draft letter from Dan to school principals discussing school needs during the pandemic. After some deliberation, Dan decided to table the discussion until a future meeting. The committee discussed the 2021 Goals and Objectives. It was generally agreed that each member would focus on a specific goal for the new year. Anthony reviewed the timeline for the upcoming board appointments.

March 15: The committee members discussed the 2021 Goals and Objectives. It was decided that Ellen, Kathy, Joel, Donna and Kathy would focus on various aspects of Goal 1: Support and promote student literacy and opportunities for student growth. Cheree and Dan would focus on Goal 2: Support and promote the safe return of students and faculty to Broward County Public Schools during the pandemic. Donna would focus on Goal 3: Continue to support and promote the funding for accreditation of Early Childhood Centers in Hollywood. Joel and Ellen would focus on Goal 4: Advocate for additional funding, grants, and donations for Hollywood schools. Joel, Ellen and Dan would focus on Goal 5: Inform and involve Hollywood families and help to attract new families to Hollywood by promoting Hollywood schools and Goal 6: Support and promote Hollywood schools that want to make commitments to replicate innovative educational programs and activities, such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), Coding, Career Exploration, Critical Thinking/Problem Solving, Active and Self-Directed Learning, Social and Emotional learning, and other programs that are based on successful research and may be supported by grants, and Goal 7: Make recommendations to the Hollywood Commission on ways to advocate with the Broward County School Board on ways to improve Hollywood public schools. Dan made a motion to establish a subcommittee to meet to work on goals 4 through 7. Members will be Dan, Ellen and Joel. Graham seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

April 19: Due to technical difficulties that prevented Dan from being heard, Cheree served as chair for the meeting. The committee discussed the Hollywood Web Page project. Joel recapped the Web Page

subcommittee meeting held on April 12, 2021. Anthony provided an overview of how the page would appear, including the table with school information linking to the school's website and an interactive map showing school locations in relation to a residential address. Each member would be assigned 3-5 schools from a listing of schools that would include public schools, charter schools and centers. The table would include each school's accomplishments, achievements and current and future improvements. The committee discussed how to allocate schools to each member. Dan made a motion that Peggy send a list of schools to the members with a request for them to list their preference of schools to be a contact for, in order from 1 to 5, with number 1 being their first choice. The Schools Web Page Subcommittee would then review their responses and allocate 1 to 3 schools to each member. Cheree seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The committee agreed to table the discussion on Goals and Objectives.

May 17: Anthony reviewed the timeline for the upcoming board and committee appointments. The Committee discussed the assignment of schools to each committee member as a contact for the schools webpage. Two to three schools were assigned to each member by the schools web page subcommittee based on preferences submitted by each member. The committee decided to table the discussion on Goals and Objectives until the June meeting. Attendee Angel Gomez spoke about the Cares University, a summer program focused on students who haven't shown adequate progress during the pandemic.

June 21: In Dan's absence, Cheree called the meeting to order. Cheree recognized Broward County School Board Member for District 1, Ann Murray, who spoke about the summer school program for students as well as staff, where an emphasis will be placed on social-emotional wellness. She also spoke about changes in school personnel in Broward County. Ms. Murray updated the Committee on three schools in Hollywood that will have a new principal: Boulevard Heights Elementary, Attucks Middle School and Beachside Montessori. Ms. Murray spoke about the progress made with school improvements using the school bond funds. Cheree recognized other visitors: Mitch Anton and Carol Fischer, previous Committee members who are newly appointed, and Rod Velez, a newly appointed member and a candidate for Broward County School Board District 1. Also attending was Marie Murray Martin, a teacher at Apollo Middle School and a candidate for Broward County School Board District 1. Hollywood Schools Web Page Subcommittee Chairman Joel Levine updated the Committee on the progress that had been made since the last meeting. A letter from Chair Dan Derrico was sent to the 23 public schools, 8 charter schools and 1 center. The letter outlined the Web Page project and asked the school principal to designate someone from his/her school to serve as a contact. Anthony showed the Committee members how the schools webpage can be accessed on the City's current website and noted that this may change as the City is revamping its website. He suggested having the Committee members bring updates from their schools to the monthly EAC meetings, and stressed that the long term goal is to build a relationship with the school. Cheree thanked Joel, Dan and Ellen for their hard work on the project. Both Donna and Kathy, who have termed out and will be leaving the Committee, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the community and thanked the Committee members. Cheree thanked the two of them for their years of service. Anthony said that Parks and Recreation have been given CDBG-CV3 funding for laptops and HVAC systems for after school programs in parks located in low to moderate income areas.

July 19: Vice Chair Cheree Liebowitz called the meeting to order. Noting that a quorum was present, Cheree asked the members to vote on allowing Chair Dan Derrico to attend the meeting virtually via WebEx. Mitch Anton motioned to allow Dan's virtual attendance. Jacqueline seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Cheree asked returning members Mitch Anton and Carol Fischer and new members Catherine Palmer, Roxana Tumbaco and Rod Velez to introduce themselves and they did so. Deputy City Attorney Damaris Henlon spoke about the Sunshine Law relating to the EAC. She stressed that members of the committee should not have a conflict of interest, that all meetings are open and noticed to the public, and that members should not speak to each other about any item that might come before the committee. Joel said that he is excited to see the progress being made on the Schools Web Page project and recapped the process that had been followed for assigning schools to EAC members. Peggy said that ten schools had responded to the June letter asking the principals to designate a school liaison to work with the committee. Anthony presented a PowerPoint with proposed wording for the landing page and proposed "buttons" that will appear for types of schools. The Principal's message (50 words) and school narrative (150 words) will appear. The principal's message should be geared toward the audience, especially parents who are considering a move to the area, and the narrative will include school updates including accomplishments, improvements and achievements. Anthony said that school or student achievements might be publicized in other City venues, such as the New Horizons newsletter. Joel recapped the topics discussed at the Schools Web Page Subcommittee meetings. The committee entered into a general discussion of the direction to schools on the targeted audience for the principal's message and school narrative. The committee decided to table the discussion on goals and objectives.

September 13: 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. 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 nominated Cheree Liebowitz for Committee Chair. Carol seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously. Dan then opened the nominations for Committee Vice Chair. Rod nominated Catherine Palmer. Mitch seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously. Cheree recognized Angel Gomez, Governmental Affairs Liaison for Broward County Public Schools. 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 also 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. For the benefit of the two new members present, Joel reviewed the schools web page project and asked if members would like to share successful strategies in working with the schools. 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. Anthony shared the schools web page with the committee members and explained the school categories, links and interactive map, which will be added later. Cheree urged the members to obtain the necessary information from the schools that had been assigned to them.

October 18: Cheree recognized Angel Gomez, Governmental Liaison for Broward County Public Schools. He notified the members that a meeting with Dr. Vicki Cartwright, Interim Superintendent of Broward Schools, had been set for District 1 at Hollywood Hills High School on December 16th, beginning at 5:30 pm. He then spoke about the redistricting process the county is undergoing. He then discussed how the pandemic is affecting school counts. Anthony gave an update on the schools web page project. He said that the school narratives and principals messages are beginning to be inserted into the website, and that

he would have an update soon on the interactive map. Joel spoke about linking the progress being made on the schools web page project to the goals and objectives for 2021. Joel spoke about the word count parameters for school submissions. The committee discussed the best way to handle submissions that are outside of the parameters and the best way to engage with the schools. Angel offered help with facilitating meetings with the schools.

November 15: The committee discussed the Goals and Objectives and Issues sections of the 2021 Annual Report. Carol made a motion to accept the Goals and Objectives and Issues section with the minor word changes as discussed. Dan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Joel and Anthony updated the committee on the Schools Web Page project and spoke about adding the Broward Education Foundation teacher grant winners from Hollywood to the web page. Angel Gomez was given a list of schools to contact to help encourage their cooperation in submitting information for the page. Anthony spoke about the upcoming Citizen Needs Assessment meeting in December..

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

Travel, participation in events, meeting attendance, school visits, other activities, and progress on our goals and objectives were limited in 2021 by conditions of the Coronavirus pandemic. They may be limited to some extent again in 2022.

The Education Advisory Committee has identified the following goals and objectives. Specific objectives have been identified for each goal.

Goal 1: Support and promote student literacy and opportunities for student growth.

- Objective 1a – Support implementation of the Broward Reads campaign in Hollywood schools, in person or virtually.
- Objective 1b – Continue EAC Recycle Books program to provide used children’s books in Hollywood schools.
- Objective 1c – Serve and encourage the recruitment of community members as tutors and mentors in Hollywood schools, in person or virtually.
- Objective 1d – Continue to advance the city’s financial support of the Reading Pals program to additional schools in Hollywood.

Goal 2: Support and promote the safe return of students and faculty to Broward County Public Schools during the pandemic.

- Objective 2a – Continue to attend various meetings conducted by the school board of Broward County regarding this issue.
- Objective 2b – Liaison with the Hollywood schools to serve as a resource and try to address their needs and concerns.

Goal 3: Continue to support and promote the funding for accreditation of Early Childhood Centers in Hollywood.

- Objective 3a – Collaborate with BCPS staff and designees of the Early Learning Coalition and designated Broward Commissioners and/or City Commissioners.
- Objective 3b – Continue to attend various meetings (local and state) conducted by the school board of Broward County and the Early Learning Coalition, regarding this issue.
- Objective 3c - Advocate for community support for certified and appropriately funded Early Childhood programs in the Hollywood area by encouraging members to talk to school board members, city commissioners, parent organizations and civic associations.

Goal 4: Advocate for additional funding, grants, and donations for Hollywood schools.

- Objective 4a – Support the City’s relationship with the Broward Education Foundation to provide city-funded grants to teachers in Hollywood schools by evaluating grant proposals in conjunction with the City’s Achieving Excellence in Education Grant Program.
- Objective 4b – Seek out additional funding and donation opportunities for Hollywood schools, especially with local businesses and civic associations.

Goal 5: Inform and involve Hollywood families and help to attract new families to Hollywood by promoting Hollywood schools.

- Objective 5a – Recommend additional enhancements to the City’s website to promote Hollywood schools.
- Objective 5b – Advocate for the creation and distribution of informational material to market the programs, and the achievements and awards of Hollywood schools, and of their students, faculty, and staff.
- Objective 5c – Collaborate with the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce’s Education committee projects to promote Hollywood schools.
- Objective 5d – Promote committee and school related events via the City’s public relations and marketing programs, including online distribution.

Goal 6: Support and promote Hollywood schools that want to make commitments to replicate innovative educational programs and activities, such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), Coding, Career Exploration, Critical Thinking/Problem Solving, Active and Self-Directed Learning, Social and Emotional learning, and other programs that are based on successful research and may be supported by grants. Such programs have demonstrated student success in Broward County, in Florida, and nationally.

- Objective 6a –Provide links on the City of Hollywood website to successful preK-12 educational programs and activities in Broward County schools, including grants won by Broward teachers.
- Objective 6b – Provide principals with possible sources of funding to implement such programs or activities in their schools. (see Goal 4)

Goal 7: Make recommendations to the Hollywood Commission on ways to advocate with the Broward County School Board on ways to improve Hollywood public schools. These may include the following.

- Objective 7a – Improving the physical appearance of the schools.
- Objective 7b – Implementing new and innovative academic programs.
- Objective 7c – Obtaining more business and community support in funding, supplies and equipment, specialized staff, tutoring, mentoring, and other resources.

- Objective 7d – Providing additional positive public relations support.
- Objective 7e – Providing additional funding for teacher innovative activities and grants.

The Education Advisory Committee is concerned with the following issues:

1. Inadequate state and local funding for Broward County Public Schools that negatively impact their staffing, resources, quality teaching and student success.
2. The need to better promote the accomplishments of Hollywood schools, their programs, and awards and achievements of their students, faculty, and staff.
3. The impact of charter schools on the enrollment and funding of traditional K-12 public schools in Hollywood.
4. The inadequate number of accredited childhood early learning facilities in Hollywood.
5. The concern posed by state legislative action to local control of schools, and how schools are evaluated at the state level.
6. The need for greater involvement of the business community to support public schools via mentoring, tutoring, and financial support for needed supplies, equipment, and technology.
7. The relatively high teacher attrition rate and its negative impact on the quality of education.
8. The negative educational and financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how our Hollywood schools can recover from this dire emergency. This will require additional federal, state, and local government support, and private sector assistance.
9. The students receiving remote learning who are failing to make adequate progress or performing below grade level.
10. The overall mental health and well-being of students, faculty and staff, especially as a result of the pandemic.
11. The enrollment decline and attrition of students in the Broward County Public School system.

Chair signature

Date