



City Hall Commission Chambers
3650 NE 12 Avenue
Oakland Park, FL 33334

MINUTES
SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2022, 5:30 P.M

The regular meeting of the School Advisory Board of the City of Oakland Park, Florida was called to order at 5:31pm by Board Chair Jack Donnelly.

Due to COVID-19, precautionary safety measures were in place and access to city facilities was limited to ensure social distancing. The opportunity of public participation has been provided by email or by calling the City Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jack Donnelly, Board Chair
Narciso Cherson, Board Member
Emma Collum, Board Member
Daniela Fenu Foerch, Board Member
Dominic Michael Iradi, Board Member
Lewis Naylor, Board Member

Also Present:

Heidi Burnett, Staff Liaison
Danielle Alfonso, Board Secretary

Absent: Daniel Peters

1. Presentation about Oakland Park School Grades

Present:

Sarah Leonardi, School Board Member
Richard Baum, Broward County Public Schools Employee
Dr. Nicole Mancini, Broward County Public Schools Employee *
Judith Marte, Broward County Public Schools Employee*
Sam Bays, Garth Solutions*
Kathleen Langan, Garth Solutions*
Keyera Lyn, Garth Solutions*

* Attended on Zoom

School Board Members, Broward School Employees, and representatives from Garth Solutions attended the meeting to provide a presentation to the School Advisory Board regarding the school grades of Oakland Park schools. The presentation was given to Staff Liaison Burnett to send to the School Advisory Board members after the meeting. The presentation compared student testing scores from 2021 to 2019 (pre-pandemic when all

students were at the schools in-person). The achievements in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies went down, but Math Gains improved. Mr. Baum suggested a website for getting valuable information on each school from the Florida Department of Education: knowyourschoolsfl.org.

The presentation also went over the new assessment test starting this school year called the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking, or FAST. This refers to the new Coordinated Screening and Progress monitoring (CSPM) System assessments, which are aligned to the Benchmarks in Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards. These assessments include VPK through 10th grade in English Language Arts and VPK through 8th grade in Mathematics. Testing will occur three times in a school year with the first Progress Monitoring assessment (PM1) within the first 30 days of school. Grades 3-10 are tested on full-grade content so students are not expected to do well in the fall because they have not been taught the content yet but should do better in the spring. The three windows for testing are:

PM1: September 6-23

PM2: December 5-16

PM3: May 1-19

The School Advisory Board members asked various questions of the School Board members present, however there was another City meeting taking place on Zoom at 6:30pm and the School Board members attending via Zoom were cut off.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Board Member Naylor made a motion to approve the August 15, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Cherson, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Board Member Cherson, Board Member Collum, Board Member Foerch, Board Member Iradi, Board Member Naylor, Board Chair Donnelly

3. **Public Comments**

None.

4. **Election of a Board Chair and Vice Chair**

Board Member Naylor nominated Board Chair Donnelly to remain Board Chair. Board Member Collum seconded the nomination, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Board Member Cherson, Board Member Collum, Board Member Foerch, Board Member Iradi, Board Member Naylor, Board Chair Donnelly

Board Member Naylor nominated Board Member Cherson for Vice Chair. Board Member Collum seconded the nomination, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Board Member Cherson, Board Member Collum, Board Member Foerch, Board Member Iradi, Board Member Naylor, Board Chair Donnelly

5. Board Member Updates

Board Member Naylor reported that he attended the September 7th SAC meeting at Lloyd Estates Elementary. Principal Allen began the meeting with a statement from Superintendent Cartwright. Ms. Allen shared that the schools are no longer in the north area, they are now part of the north regional area. The Title I budget was shared at the meeting and the Title I representative, Ms. Palanka will be asking for parent representatives to attend a Title I event. Third grade is a mandatory retention grade and they had 19 students who were retained from last year, which required the school to add a 5th third grade classroom. Out of the students who were eligible to attend summer school, only one attendee passed and was promoted to fourth grade. There were no environmental safety incidents reported. Ms. Allen talked about curriculum and testing updates. Lloyd Estates is a “raise” school which is a school that had low literacy achievement in the prior year. The grade level was brought up to a C but they are still receiving support from a Raise specialist, Gladys Vega. Ms. Vega is the state literacy director. They were not able to achieve their school improvement goals for the previous school year. The City of Oakland Park is conducting the aftercare at Lloyd Estates and at the time of the September meeting, they already had 40 students enrolled.

Board Member Naylor reported that he attended the October SAC meeting at Lloyd Estates Elementary. Principal Allen gave an update on the enrollment. There are 426 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade and 20 students in VPK. The school made an effort to call all of the families that they thought were eligible for school and found out that a lot of people left the area. Their enrollment is down a bit and that affected their Title I funding, which is down \$10,000. Multiple SAC positions remain open, including Parent of a Gifted Student. There is only one student enrolled who is currently classified as gifted. Two parents were added for ESE and a Pre-K parent rep. The Community Eligibility Provision was brought up. The CEP is for low-income/Title I schools who are entitled to free and reduced lunches. Lloyd Estates is designated as a CEP school. There were no safety incidents to report. Active assailant and fire drills were being conducted as required by the state and the district.

Board Member Cherson reported that Northeast High School’s September SAC meeting was cancelled and October’s meeting conflicted with the meeting at Floranada Elementary. Mr. Cherson attended the August SAC meeting on August 30th and it was well-attended. Principal Valachovic said the date of the August meeting was at the same time as open house and they had 50 attendees. The magnet coordinator was present and gave a presentation on the Cambridge program. The literacy coordinator also spoke about what they’re doing to increase proficiency by having after-school programs on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3pm-5pm. There were few minor behavioral issues reported. The school received many new enrollments, especially to the magnet school.

Attendance for the previous year was fairly good as it was close to 90%. Club activities were discussed and the Cambridge courses were emphasized. There are 125 students newly enrolled in Cambridge and 400 in AP courses. Mr. Valachovic spoke about the construction on the new building.

It was suggested at this point by Staff Liaison Burnett that due to the conflict with Northeast High School and Floranada Elementary's meeting dates that Northeast High School should be assigned to Board Member Iradi.

Board Member Cherson reported that he attended the September 20th SAC meeting at Floranada Elementary. Principal Balchaitus emphasized the need to complete the Title I applications in order to be eligible for the free and reduced lunches. The Title I benefits and funding may be in peril for the 2023-2024 school year. The Family Engagement Plan was discussed; this plan includes activities and communication. The parents at Floranada are very involved. The School and Parent Compacts were reviewed. These compacts include the school's, parents', and students' responsibilities. There will be an emphasis on computer-based lessons moving forward. Principal Balchaitus spoke about the impact of losing Title I benefits. In previous years, the funding covered the cost of three teachers and other supplies. It was reported that the population and demographics of the school is changing very quickly. A lot of the new students are coming in from the northeast of the country. The ESOL population is growing, but the language that is spoken at home varies greatly. There are 13-14 different languages spoken at home among the students. There is a violence prevention program in place though there have been no incidents to date. The data from the previous school year was reviewed: FSA ELA was 77% on or above grade level, math was 76%, and science was 69%. The school did receive an A last year. Floranada is the second highest non-charter Title I school in the county. All grade levels fell within the top 16% statewide. The updates regarding the new testing procedures were provided. The SAC by-laws were reviewed and the new membership on the SAC was discussed.

Board Member Cherson reported that he attended the October SAC meeting at Floranada Elementary. The FAST testing was discussed again. There was a lot of discussion regarding remedial measures for the FAST where students will be given a paper test and teachers will input the information onto the digital test. This is mostly for the younger grades or those who don't have computers at home and don't know how to use them. The SAC fund is currently \$14,843. Last year, new carpets were provided to the classrooms using PTA funds. The Review Parent Involvement Fund is at \$2900. The School Improvement Plan was reviewed again and approved. The SIP goal is for 80% of the students within grades 3-5 to be proficient in math by the December FAST test and by May 2023 the goal is to have 80% of the students in grades 3-5 proficient in reading. There were no incidents to report. Teacher of the year is Marsha Lichtenburg and employee of the year is Rocio Botero. There was an open discussion about how to be more effective in helping the younger students accustomed to the FAST testing.

Board Member Collum reported that she attended the SAC meeting at Oakland Park Elementary. Lea Cooper is the SAC chair. The meeting was well-attended. BSO Community Officer Osborne will be moving to downtown Fort Lauderdale so the school will be seeing more of Deputy Garcia. The school accountability funds are currently at \$6,002.52. There were no incidents to report. SAC by-laws were reviewed and minor changes were made, including the election and meeting dates. They will now meet the 1st Tuesday of the month. Principal Garcia explained the new testing system and talked about the new Pre-K playground which is currently being bounce-tested. The A/C had been down which misplaced one Pre-K and one Kindergarten class but the issue has now been cleared up. Dawn McMann, the Title I liaison, went over the school-parent compact. The school has moved into a B school this year. The PTO have aged out so they are trying to bring in a new board. Staff Liaison Burnett assisted Board Member Collum to engage a trick-or-treat drive for the PTO. 510 bags of healthy snacks were put together and the Kiwanis of Oakland Park and Heart to Heart Dental and School Board Member Leonardi assisted in making it a reality. Board Member Collum will be dropping the bags off on Monday in costume. The PTO and community members are working on a revitalization of the school entrance with the help of the City and volunteer organizations. The hope is to have it completed by Martin Luther King Day.

Board Member Foerch attended the September meeting at North Andrews Gardens Elementary but was unable to attend the October meeting because it was moved to a day she was unavailable. The school grades were discussed. They are currently at a B but they are very close to an A. The current enrollment is 770 students. The new test assessments were discussed. The accountability funds had not been reported yet. Title I initiatives were discussed, along with the parent and family engagement plan. They plan to have family events throughout the year and Board Member Foerch will be hosting one of the events on March 1st. The event will be linked to literacy since it's the same week as the Scholastic Book Fair. Board Member Foerch would like to ask the community for gift cards or donations (like books) so that parents will have an incentive to attend. There were no safety incidents reported.

Board Chair Donnelly reported that he attended the September 13th SAC meeting at Rickards Middle School. The school has been going through some growing pains with the portables. They are changing their SAC and PTA meetings from the 2nd Tuesday of the month to the 1st Tuesday of the month for November. In December, it will be the 2nd Tuesday, then in January-May it will be on the 4th Tuesday of the month. There were no parents at the meeting, except those that were involved in the PTA. They discussed how to get parents more involved. There were a total of four SESSIR reports for the month of September. The corner store next to Rickards has closed so they expect the tobacco and vaping issues to drastically fall off. The unified dress code began at the beginning of the school year. About 95% of all students were following the dress code but there were some students who could not afford the clothing and the school administration stepped in to assist. The SAC composition is still being worked on. They were missing a lot of slots for parents and community representatives. The school went to the executive airport to tap some of the guys who are funding the aeronautics program at Rickards and they are

going to step in as community representatives. The current enrollment is 756 students. The 8th grade Vice Principal Claire Sheffield was moved to Pompano Beach Middle about two weeks into the school year. It was an unexpected move and now they are short a principal. The School Board was supposed to approve the contractors' final plans in the October meeting and they expect progress on the building in December or January. Last year, the school grade was barely a C and the principal is striving for a B this year. The School Parent Contract was pushed to the October meeting.

Board Chair Donnelly reported that he attended the October SAC meeting at Rickards Middle School. The PTA had issues finding people to sit on their staff. Board Chair Donnelly is now the Vice President of the Rickards PTA. There was consideration as to whether it had to be a parent or not and Mr. Donnelly was chosen. The Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon. Because Rickards is in portables right now, the media center is doubling as a band room so there is no room for the Book Fair. There is an online application that Scholastic provides to schools who have this kind of issue. The school found out that they had \$1,138 Scholastic dollars available to spend that hadn't been touched in five years. The Tortuga Music Festival will be in March. The PTSA plans on having both sides of a booth with beer and mixed drinks. The SAC finished their composition. They were missing one community representative and Board Chair Donnelly asked Board Alternate Peters to be a community representative and he agreed. The SESSIR for October went up to 9 reports. Ms. Balog went back in her notes and found the number for the same time period in 2021 and there were 20 incidents so they are way under this year. Hispanic Heritage Night was October 13th. They offered food and well over 100 parents and students showed up. The next PTA meeting will be on November 1st. Board Chair Donnelly has approached Dixie Pig and they are supplying 100 pulled pork sliders, trays of mac and cheese and coleslaw. The school will provide the drinks and utensils. They are advertising the meeting in the hopes of getting more participation. Hurricane Ian caused no damages to the school. There was one canopy between the portables that ripped but it was replaced with one they had on site. Three teaching positions are open and they can't seem to fill them. This seems to be a District issue, not just a Rickards issue. Coach Davis was named teacher of the year and Mr. Carl was named employee of the year. Ms Rowl moved up to be 8th grade Vice Principal from the 6th grade and Ms. Valentino was hired in by the Principal this past week. The Principal was given the opportunity by the District to interview 9 of the candidates that had applied for it so it was his decision. There has been no update on the construction. Accountability funds haven't been rolled over for the new school year yet but they expect that within the next month. The next meeting will be on November 1st.

6. New Business

Board Member Foerch asked if the library provides any tutoring for high schoolers who are trying to take the ACT or SAT. Staff Liaison Burnett said the library does not. It is not within the library's budget to hire tutors and in the past volunteers were not qualified so it wasn't something the library could promote. The library is happy to make public space available for people to meet though. There is a Broward County program that

offers the PSAT for 10th graders, but no SAT/ACT tutoring. The Broward County library offers free tutoring but spots disappear quickly.

7. Staff Liaison Updates

Staff Liaison Burnett will invite the School Board Members back to the November meeting because we did not get to hear from the facilities folks. Board Member Cherson asked if we could invite someone who could talk about the social and emotional learning programs that are available. Board Member Naylor mentioned that there are parent universities available online on each school's website. Ms. Burnett suggested that if the board members are interested in attending City events and handing out literature for their respective schools, that could be done. Board Chair Donnelly mentioned that they used to do this at Youth Day but received no traffic from attendees.

Staff Liaison Burnett talked about the City's Halloween event coming up at Wimberly Field this Friday. Ms. Burnett also reported that she attended the ribbon cutting at St. Mark's Episcopal School for their Sea Lab. They are a private Pre-K through 8th grade school and they are uniquely situated on the water. The Sea Lab partner is Nova. They are also building a new science lab on campus and privately raised \$2 million to make that happen. Ms. Burnett would like to invite them or their principal to talk about what they have going on since they are a school within the boundaries of Oakland Park.

Staff Liaison Burnett reported that this past Friday was the ribbon cutting for Phase 1 for City Park. Phase 1 includes two new playgrounds, five pickle ball courts, a new fieldhouse, revitalized concession stand, and a new splash pad. The splash pad is the first water play feature that the City has ever built or installed.

Staff Liaison Burnett is working with the School Board to come to the December commission meeting for the bond update.

Staff Liaison Burnett wanted to remind the board that there is an alternate who is not assigned a school. Board members are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Burnett if they cannot attend a meeting so that she can see if Alternate Peters can attend in their stead.

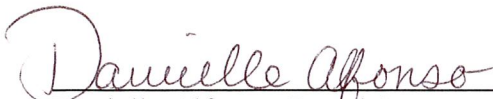
Board Chair Donnelly asked if the student member from Northeast High School could be a junior instead of a senior. Staff Liaison Burnett has reached out to Northeast but has not had further contact regarding a student member for the School Advisory Board.

8. Other Business/Next Meeting

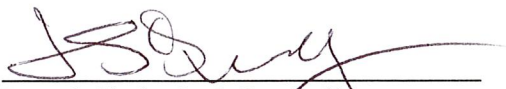
The next School Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2022.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.



Danielle Alfonso, Board Secretary



Board Chair, Jack Donnelly