Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, OCR Director
Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner
Date/Time: September 25, 2018
Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1W-47, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Meeting Attendance:
1. Joanna Aiken SWA
2. Deputy Apple PBSO
3. Eric Call PBC Parks & Rec
4. Keith Clinkscale PBC OFMB
5. Samantha Corr PBC ERM
6. Deputy Cruz PBSO
7. Larry Diegart Plantation Area Resident
8. Dr. Donald Fennoy School District of Palm Beach County
9. Adrienne Frazier Boynton Beach Resident
10. HBen Frazier Black Village Voice
11. Pamela Frazier WPB Mental Health
12. Linda Hamilton WPB Resident
13. Marcia Hayden Wellington Resident
14. Mark Howard School District of Palm Beach County
15. Capt. Kirshcher PBSO
16. Larisa Lagasse Parent Child Center
17. Hazel Lucas Florida Rural Legal Services
18. Chrystal Mathews PBC OCR
19. Jean Matthews PBC Parks & Rec
20. Bill McDonald Plantation Area Resident
21. Ruth Moguillansky PBC OCR
22. Michael Owens School District of Palm Beach County
23. Deputy Payne PBSO
24. Maura Plante Living Hungry
25. Paul Pontrelli WBCC
26. Ike Powell PBC Youth Services
27. David Rafaidus PBC Community Services
28. Robin Rance-Hoffman PBC Commissioner Burdick's Office
Meeting Minutes

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Houston Tate, Director OCR, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. and asked the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) members to introduce themselves and go over the mission/purpose of their respective organizations. Ruth Moguillansky, OCR Principal Planner, introduced the OCR team and provided a summary of OCR services and programs.

II. **Department Updates:**

**Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation – Jean Matthews, Senior Planner**

- Caloosa Park Construction Project – Applying for a $50,000 grant to improve the exercise trail, resurface the basketball court, upgrade the playground and do some improvements to the restrooms, the ADA parking and pathways.

- Canyon District Park New Construction Project – Applying for a $50,000 grant to assist with the cost for this project. This project will be completed in two (2) phases. Phase 1 will include three multipurpose fields, picnic tables, lakes and infrastructure. Phase 2 will include construction of new roads, new drainage, and installation of new water and sewer lines. Phase 1 is projected to be completed within a year after construction begins. Phase 2 design will begin following the completion of phase 1.

**Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation – Eric Call, Director**

- Mr. Call reported that Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation was selected as The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2018 National Gold Medal Award Grand Plaque Award winner for the best parks and recreation department in the country(*Class 1- population 400,001 and over*).
Palm Beach County District 2 – Robin Rance-Hoffman, Senior County Commission Administrative Assistant

- Mrs. Rance-Hoffman reported that Commissioner Burdick would like everyone to vote for the 1 Cent Sales Tax.

III. Presentation:

The School District of Palm Beach County – Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D. Superintendent

Dr. Fennoy made a presentation on the School District of Palm Beach County, and engaged meeting participants with enthusiastic announcements for the school year and continued support of the mission and strategic plan for Palm Beach County schools. The presentation was emphasized by highlight videos of many area schools. Below is a summary of the information presented by Dr. Fennoy. Files containing the entire presentation are attached.

School District of Palm Beach County’s Vision and Mission - The School District of Palm Beach County envisions a dynamic, collaborative multi-cultural community where education and life-long learning are valued and supported and all learners reach their highest potential to succeed in the global economy.

The School District of Palm Beach County is committed to providing a world-class education with excellence and equity to empower each student to reach his or her highest potential with the most effective staff to foster the knowledge, skills, and ethics required for responsible citizenship and productive careers.

School District of Palm Beach County At a Glance
- Tenth (10th) Largest School District in the Nation
- “A” rated school district. When compared to other large districts in Florida, the district demonstrated higher performance overall and in 4 of the 11 components including: match achievement, science achievement, math learning gains for all students and high school graduation rate.
- Ranked 13th in Florida and 1 of 20 districts to receive an “A” grade.
- 90% graduation rate 2016-2017
- 68% of district graduates from 2017 attended a postsecondary education
- Three billion dollar budget FY 2018-19
- $41,000 starting teacher salary
- 174,000 students in 179 district operated schools
- 22,340 employees
- 12,900 classroom teachers
- Riguros program offering with Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) diploma.

Your Penny At Work Supporting Technology, Transportation and School Safety
- 117 Summer 2018 projects started – 112 completed. Projects range from paving, air conditioning replacement, new roofs, improvements in outdoor lighting and waterproofing.
- 157 new school buses
- 24 Police Vehicles
- 56 White Fleet
- 11,000 flat panels installed over the next two years
- 19k new Chromebooks for schools last year and 25k additional chromebooks deployed this year
- Audio upgrades installed over the next two years
- More google certified educators than any District in the Nation
- 18 security enhancement projects are underway throughout the district and dozens more are in the process. Some security enhancements include the installation of safe rooms, added fences and gates, security camera system enhancements, as well as modified doors and locks.
- 44 Officers from area municipalities
- 10 deputies from Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office
- 171 School Resource Officers (up 27 new officers)

**Every Day Counts – Student Attendance and Achievement**

**Student Information System (SIS) Gateway App**

The School District of Palm Beach County recognizes the positive impact that regular school attendance has on student achievement. Parents/guardians play a key role in helping their children achieve their goals.

When students are not in class they miss important information and instruction. Quality education requires regular and continuous instruction. For our students to experience continued improvement, we need to have all students in school EVERY DAY and ready to learn. Regular attendance benefits the student, the class, the school and the community.

- Attending school every day is one of the most powerful tools for student success.
- Students need parental support to help them develop the habit of regular school attendance.

The Student Information System (SIS) Gateway is a tool that has been put in place to provide parents/guardians and students timely access to students’ information and track school progress. The systems provides access to students’ grades, attendance, graduation requirements, even class ranking.

The School District website offers wonderful resources to parents and students. They include access to a school locator, routes and bus stop locator, the school year calendars, students’ registration, and food service information, among others.

**Referendum to Approve AD Valorem Levy for School Safety, Teachers and Operational Needs (November 6 ballot)**

Dr. Fennoy explained that Palm Beach County residents will vote in November on whether to raise property taxes to provide more money for teacher salaries and campus safety in the County’s public schools. The language of the referendum is provided on the following page.
“Shall the School Board of Palm Beach County have authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage dedicated for operational needs of District public schools to fund school safety equipment, hire additional school police and mental health professionals, fund arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers, and improve teacher pay beginning July 1, 2019 and automatically ending June 30, 2023, with oversight by an independent finance committee of citizens and experts?”

IV. Questions/Comments:

- Ruth Moguillansky asked what would be the impact on property taxes if a property owner voted in support of the referendum.

  Dr. Fennoy replied that $1.00 for every $1,000 of the assessed value of the property.

- Staff from Bound For College asked if they were going to be an increase of mental health counselors in the schools, what would be the student to counselor ratio.

  Dr. Fennoy replied that the mental health counselor component is still being developed. In addition, there has not been a function of counseling. As of now, the idea is to provide one counselor per school as well as have triage teams that will come in and address the more intense work with the students that have been identified with challenges. The passing of the referendum will allow for the hiring of the mental health counselors. The school district is currently working with over thirty-three partners.

- Dr. Fennoy was asked a school psychologist is allowed to discuss with a student about their gender without parent consent.

  Dr. Fennoy replied that he is not aware of school psychologists discussing gender with students. Parents are contacted if a student self-reports, and resources can be provided after their approval.

- Nicole Davis stated that when students get into fights and there are no injuries they get arrested. She asked whether the school district is going to continue the practice of arresting students?

  Dr. Fennoy replied that the district will continue this practice, but it will depend on the level of the disruption and the educational environment.

- Pam Frazier asked whether the district would consider having some type of mental health first aid training for students.

  Dr. Fennoy replied that there are approximately 200,000 students in schools, and there are logistical issues with doing this type of training. Furthermore, a large number of parents do not want their children addressed regarding certain issues. State of Florida says that if a student has past mental issues the parents are supposed to self-report this to the schools but it is something difficult to enforce.

- Jean Matthews asked how do the charter schools impact the traditional school system?
Dr. Fennoy replied that charter schools affect the school district from a business standpoint by getting taxpayer money when they are private institutions. Charter schools create a competitive space and if they’re doing great things the district may decide they should consider that approach as well. If a charter school fails that money is lost, and the facilities used by the school are not returned to the local school system. In addition, when a charter school fails and a student is behind, it is now the job of the traditional public school to bring the student up to par.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director

[Signature]