



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, Senior Planner
Date/Time: October 11, 2016, 10:00-11:30 AM
Location: 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach

Meeting Attendance:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr Robert Avossa | School District of Palm Beach County |
| 2. Erica Whitfield | School District of Palm Beach County |
| 3. Amity Chandler | School District of Palm Beach County |
| 4. Hazel Lucas | Florida Rural Legal Services |
| 5. Thomas Totz | Plantation Community |
| 6. Bill McDonald | Plantation Community |
| 7. Lana Martinez | San Castle Community |
| 8. Johasse Pierre-Louis | Limestone Creek Community |
| 9. Emily Gorman | Adopt-A-Family |
| 10. Patti Guill-James | Resident |
| 11. Michael Bolduc | National Disabled Veteran Business Council |
| 12. Joe Franklin | National Disabled Veteran Business Council |
| 13. Ed Shakespierre | Color of Hope |
| 14. Sgt. Angelo | PBSO |
| 15. Sgt. Custer | PBSO |
| 16. Sgt. Hightower | PBSO |
| 17. Sgt. Searing | PBSO |
| 18. Deputy Barricklow | PBSO |
| 19. Deputy Diejuste | PBSO |
| 20. Deputy Delaura | PBSO |
| 21. Deputy Rouzeau | PBSO |
| 22. Deputy Roman | PBSO |
| 23. Joanna Aiken | Solid Waste Authority (SWA) |
| 24. Dawn Wynn | PBC County Attorney's Office |
| 25. Michael Sklar | PBC Department of Economic Sustainability |
| 26. David Rafaidus | PBC Community Services |
| 27. Casey Pranckun | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 28. Michael Owens | School District of Palm Beach County |
| 29. Gregory Gabriel | PBC Youth Services |
| 30. Lisa DeLaRionda | PBC Public Affairs |
| 31. Robin Rance-Hoffman | PBC Commissioner Burdick's Office-District 2 |

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 32. Houston Tate | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 33. Ruth Mogueillansky | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 34. Chrystal Matthews | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 35. Audley Reid | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 36. William Wynn | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. He welcomed all attendees and asked the group to introduce themselves.
- II. **Presentation- Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent School District of Palm Beach County**

After an introduction from Mr. Tate, Dr. Avossa shared with the group the School District's vision, mission, accomplishments, and the highlights of 5 year Strategic Plan. The paragraphs that follow summarize Dr. Avossa's presentation.

School District's Vision

- The School District 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.

Mission

- 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.

Opening of School 2016

- Student Enrollment PK-12 191,002 Traditional Students
- Hired 1,000 teachers opening day vacancy just 1.4%
- 10 New choice Programs
- 5 new lunch menu items – burritos, calzones, yogurt parfaits and BBQ chicken pizza
- 139,525 free breakfasts served during week 1
- 352,643 lunches served during week 1
- Named 22 new Principals, 13 of which are accepting their first school
- 697 drivers for 647 routes

Projected Long Term Outcomes

- Increase the reading levels for 3rd graders
- Ensure that middle school students are academically, behaviorally and prepared to be engaged at the high school level
- Increase the high school graduation rate
- Prepare high school students for post high school success including industry certifications, college enrollment and military

Accomplishments

- Higher percentage of A and B rated elementary, middle and high schools than State or other large urban districts.
- Lower percentage of D and F rated elementary and middle schools than State or other large urban districts.

- Larger decrease in the percentage of elementary schools rated D or F than State or other large urban districts
- 21 Elementary Schools rated D or F improved to a rating of C or higher
- Regional Principal Support/Supervision Model
- Redirected \$5.5M to Title I Schools
- 64 Single School Culture Coordinators
- K-5 iReady Implementation for Reading and Math
- AMP – for advanced math
- Reduced school suspensions
- For FY17, Increased VPK/Title 1 Enrichment Seats by 80%

Poverty and School Readiness

- Poverty remains an important factor influencing kindergarten readiness.
- Fewer than half (48 percent) of poor children are ready for school at age five, compared to 75 percent of children from families with moderate and high income, a **27 percent gap.**
- It's estimated 64,000 students in Palm Beach County are food insecure

Supporting the Emotional Needs Students

- Motivational Coaches in 39 Middle Schools, 7 Alternative Schools and 4 High Schools through a grant funded partnership with NVPUA Healthcare
- Will work as the first line of contact for social and emotional concerns
- Works with families and serves as the primary point of contact for outside agency referrals and follow-ups to ensure student needs are being met
- Monitors risk indicator data and provide early intervention (tardy, absences, etc.)

Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Strategic Themes

1. Effective and relevant instruction to meet the needs of all students
2. Positive and Supportive School Climate
3. Talent Development
4. High Performance Culture

Capital Budget Needs - The loss of capital revenue has lead to...

- a. Growing back log of deferred facility maintenance
- b. Dated and inadequate classroom technology
- c. Aging Information Technology infrastructure
- d. Limited funding for security improvements

Penny Sales Tax

• District Schools will Benefit

- a. The vast majority of District schools, regardless of age, are in need of major capital improvements, such as building envelope projects, classroom lighting retrofits and fire alarm system upgrades.
- b. In addition, all schools and ancillary facilities are in need of security and technology enhancements

For more information go to: www.OneCountyOnePenny.org

Dr. Avossa commended the employees of Palm Beach County, EOC and PBSO for the preparation for Hurricane Matthew. This shows that the One County One Plan Program working together matters.

The school district will be working hard to local providers and vendors have preference in bidding for upcoming projects.

The surtax if approved will stay local it will not go to the state and be redistributed. Also Palm beach County is a donor county. Money from taxes is sent to the state and in return the state sends back less than what was received. If this county was able to retain some of these tax dollars the school system would be in much different position than currently.

Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties are expensive counties to live in and there should more infancies on the fact that theses counties are expensive to live in which makes it difficult to attract teachers at a \$40,000 salary.

Erica Whitfield, School District Board Member, commented that when schools do not have support from the community it's noticeable. For an example of support, there was a school in Jupiter in North County whose PTA raised \$75,000 to hire personnel to do the copying for all the teachers thus freeing up the teachers to do more for their students. By this kind of interest taking place from the community there is no equity for the school district because the district is not supporting this school like other schools. The school district will have to do a better job to make school buildings look the same around the county.

Mrs. Whitfield stated that she gets all types of messages on face book and twitter. A question from a number of teachers is interested to know what will happen as far as raises if the sales tax is passed. Mrs. Whitfield stated that teacher pay is an important issue. The district is currently in negotiations with the teachers. Teacher pay is one of the reasons why this sales tax is needed. Paying teachers what they are worth is a priority of the school district as well as repairing the buildings so that the teachers can have a safe place to work. Another frequent question is what the district is doing on some of the things that are mandated by the state such as the class size amendment. These mandates are priory but the state does not give funding to help with some of the mandates so the district has to work within their restraints to be given. The last time funds were received by the district the funds were used properly and came were used within the set budget. These funds were overseen by an outside committee and the same will be done for future funding. The role of the community leaders that are in support for the sales tax is to get out in the community and let the community know they are is support so they hopefully will support the tax as well.

Questions & Answers

- Robin Rance-Hoffman, Senior County Commission Administrative Assistant to Palm Beach County Commissioner Paulette Burdick, asked about the in school and out of school suspension policy. Dr. Avossa advised that there is in school and out of school suspension. He explained that about 10 years ago the state of Florida continued to reduce the per pupil allotment, as a result school districts go rid of alternative suspension sites these sites were where students that were suspended had to attend and the parents knew where they were. Districts want to reinstitute these types of programs but when there is only a 1% yearly increase in budgets it makes it difficult.
- David Raifadus, CCRT representative from the Community Services Department, asked why the GRE scores and the graduation rate scores are greater in the western communities than in the eastern communities but the number of students that go to college is greater in the eastern communities than in the western communities.

Dr. Avossa explained that the GRE is for graduate school admission and the SAT is for admission to undergraduate school. The SAT scores in the western communities are lower than the students in the eastern communities, but for the students from the western communities that enter college they have a higher percentage in persistence of completion. It is a fact that students that come from tougher communities actually do better on persistence and completion.

- Ed Shakespierre asked what is being done to help the Haitian victims of Hurricane Matthew and Haitian students.

Dr. Avossa replied that the school district is putting out a big effort for the students to get involved in helping the families in Haiti. There already been schools having food drives, collecting money. The main issue now is which agency is actually going to give the donations and money to the victims. For the Haitian students the counselors and teachers do work the students and discuss natural disasters. Dr Avossa's concern is the level of support in new immigrant communities. The support is needed before, after school and on weekends in the communities because the students are only in school 6 to 7 hours a day. Support during these times will be a benefit. Dr. Avossa also stated the school district has recently bought time on Haitian radios where information is being shared with parents of students and the Haitian community.

- Sam Roman inquired about the certification programs for graduates.

Dr. Avossa replied that the School District of Palm Beach County has robust programming divisions in career and technical education in the state of Florida. School District of Palm Beach County has more industry certifications than Miami-Dade being only half their size. Years ago several technical centers were closed. The district is now in discussions about revitalizing. Ten million dollars has been set aside for the Delray Full Service, ten million for West Tech and ten million for Roosevelt Full Service Center. The district is Also in discussion with community leaders and business partners on revamping and energizing these spaces.

- Sgt Searing asked if the Digital Divide program still exist where the school district donates outdated computers and other electronics.

Mrs. Whitfield stated that she does not believe that this program still exists. Dr. Avossa added that there are organizations that have those programs nationwide where they donate older computers; he also stated that he's not familiar with the program but he will check into it.

- Mrs. Whitfield asked if there were any questions about the sales tax and what are the communities feeling about the sales tax.

Chrystal Mathews stated that a lot of residents are unsure about the sales tax because they don't feel that the tax dollars won't be used for what its purpose is suppose to be. Dr. Avossa added that every promise that was made in 2004 was kept and delivered under budget with no exceptions and there was a third party to oversee these funds.

- Patti Guill-James asked about all the funds from the Lottery that is supposed to be used for education.

Dr. Avossa replied that about 60% of the funds from the Lottery go to higher education in the form of grants and scholarships. He also stated that the school district gets enough money from the Lottery to run the school district for only 2 days. If the sales tax passes all of the money from the tax will stay within Palm Beach County.

Mrs. Whitfield added that there are some small amounts of funds that are paid out as incentives to schools that get "A" grades. The district has to deal with the capital crisis on its own without state assistance.

- Ruth Moguillansky, OCR Principal Planner, commented on the number of undocumented students whose dream is to pursue education but face significant hurdles to access such education, and asked about the School District efforts to support their enrollment, equal access, and integration into the school system.

Dr. Avossa replied that everyone gets to go to school, the district is not allowed by law to ask for any information or driver's licenses etc. A bill is asked just for the purpose of having emergency contact information. There are a lot of ESOL programs that are filled with persons wanting to learn English. Also there is a large number of people going to night school wanting to pass their GED.

- Ruth Moguillansky also asked what how much money will be allocated to public schools if voters approve the 1-cent sale tax increase?

Dr. Avossa replied that the state only allows the school district to ask for 50% of the funds generated. The county and municipalities were looking at a sales tax of their own. The school district, county and municipalities are all one community and it was decided by the leaders and boards for all to work collectively with a one penny one plan approach.

- Ed Shakespierre asked about the resources from the use of penny sales tax dollars.
Dr. Avossa replied that the school district has a fantastic website that shows all the projects and plans that this tax would be used for. All the projects have already been identified. This information can be accessed at www.OneCountyOnePenny.org
- Thomas Totz, Plantation Community representative, asked a question about the lottery and give one take one.

Mrs. Whitfield replied that there is some money that the school district gets but not what the district thought it would get. The majority of the funds come from property taxes.

- Carl Gutierrez asked how Charter Schools will be affected by the Penny sales tax.

Mrs. Whitfield replied there are a few charter schools that really help to do amazing work but then there are some that can be frustrating with issues of staying open. The district is working with the state to close the loopholes of charter schools closing and taking the funding. The district is now asking charter schools to take out bonds for certain period of time and if the school fails within that time the district will get their funds back. Each student that comes into the state, schools will get around \$7,000

per student. ESE students get additional funds. The amount of these funds will depend on the students' status. Charter schools have more control of what type of students they take in, public schools cannot choose their students.

Thomas Totz asked about what is being done to engage parents.

Mrs. Whitfield replied that the district has an iReady program where levels of assessments are done once a month. It is a continual training program; Students have to complete a certain number of minutes per week on it. It is essentially an assessment of each individual student. iReady is a supplement to classroom teaching. It is a constant diagnostic which allows the district know what levels the students are at and where. The teachers will discuss with parents and tell the parents will know where their child is academically. This helps the parents in knowing where their child is on a more frequent basis than just having progress reports. The teachers will also give parents ways they can help the student at home. Also the district does have parenting classes that are done by community organizations as well as the Safe Schools department that see if the student have needs then supply the parents with the resources or information to an outside organization that can help.

David Rafaidus raised questions about the annual budget and the 50% sales tax.

Mrs. Whitfield replied that the annual budget is 2.3 billion but 900 million of that is funding from the USDA for school food service. In reference to the sales tax Mrs. Whitfield stated that the tax has a 10 year time limit.

III. Department Updates

Joanna Aiken, SWA representative, reported on the following:

- Ms. Aiken stated that she has recycled paint applications for distribution to communities. The paint comes in ten colors. The homes must be owner occupied single family homes. There is no income limit.
- Also Ms. Aiken stated since Hurricane Matthew vegetation removal has begun in Loxahatchee and The Acreage.

David Rafaidus, Community Services Department representative, reported on the following:

- Mr. Rafaidus stated that he would like to present on Community Access to Resources and Social Services (OSCARSS) at an upcoming CCRT meeting

Michael Owens, School Board, representative, reported on the following:

- No Update

Gregory Gabriel, Youth Services, representative, reported on the following:

- Mr. Gabriel report on the Birth to 22 Youth Council. Birth to 22 mission is to support the healthy growth, development and education of our children and youth prenatal through young adulthood so that they graduate from high school and succeed in life.
- The next meeting will be on October 25th from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at 50 S Military Trl, West Palm Beach, Fl. 33415 The meetings are held twice monthly on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Casey Pranckun, Parks and Recreation (P&R) representative, reported on the following:

- Parks and Recreation will be applying for a 2017-2018 FRDAP Grant (\$200,000) to do improvements to the Mound Circle areas existing facilities and for other proposed improvements. Mounds Circle is located at John Prince Park in Lake Worth.
 - A. Existing facilities improvements include:
 1. Playground with sand surfacing
 2. Cricket Field
 3. Picnic Facilities
 4. Bike Trail
 5. Parking lot and Landscaping
 - B. Additional renovations and improvements include:
 1. Playground renovations
 2. Cricket Field Renovations
 3. Bike Trail Renovations
 4. Picnic Renovations
 5. Renovation of Parking and Landscaping
 6. New Dog Park
 7. New Picnic Facilities
 8. New Bike Trail
 9. New Parking and Landscaping

- The grand opening for Watergate Estates Park in Boca Raton set for Saturday, October 8th was postponed due to Hurricane Matthew. The opening event will be rescheduled to a later date.

Sgt Custer, PBSO representative, reported on the following:

- Sgt Custer stated the preparation for Hurricane Matthew was great training for PBSO and other agencies being that the storm didn't have as serious of an impact on Palm Beach County as was prepared for.

IV. OCR Staff Report(s)

Audley Reid, OCR Senior Planner, reported on the following:

- The upcoming edition of the Community Connect publication will be distributed the week of October 17th.

V. Follow Ups
N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Approved by: Ruth Moguillansky, OCR Principal Planner

