



Education Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Sunrise Civic Center Art Gallery

Address: 10610 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Sunrise, FL 33351

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Call to Order

- 1. Roll Call - Present:** Eileen Davis, Jacqueline De Ferrari, Erncy Dumornay, Cheryl Levy, Dr. Anelle Moss, Kevin Sawyer, Rona Somers, Dr. Carolyn Stewart. **Absent/Excused:** Dawn DaCosta, Ingrid Morgan, Lindsay Ostroff, Brittany Ross. **Not Excused:** N/A. **Staff Liaison:** Christine Pfeffer. **Board Secretary:** Karen Lawrence.

Introduction and Roll Call

II. Introduction and Roll Call

Christine Pfeffer introduced Karen Lawrence as the new Board Secretary who works in the City Manager's Office.

III. Open Discussion

Meeting was called to order; Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

The floor was open to visitors to provide a brief update of their schools as follows:

1. Stephane Monereau, Assistant Principal, Piper High – The school is getting a new marquee which will be exciting for the community and school. March 4, 2020 will be Broward County's School Day SAT day when all Juniors will receive free SAT testing. Calls and information were sent to the parents requesting that students be in school to take advantage of the free testing. Mr. Angel Gomez of BCPS stated that SAT testing increased from 52% to 97%.
2. Rachele Boggan, Media Specialist, Discovery Elementary – The school is celebrating *Women's History Month*, and starting March 9, 2020 there will

be a *Book Fair* as well as the *Golden Pencil Awards* for best writers. There is also *FSA Rewards* on Fridays, which is best practice implementation. The *FSA Rewards* is incentive based, meaning the students that have everything checked off by their teachers, up to and including homework, and other requirements, will be able to participate. Checkpoints are also the week of March 9th, and there will also be *Data Chats* which is considered item analysis to recognize where teachers need to implement different strategies to meet the needs of the students. It aids in determining teacher as well as student strengths and/or weaknesses, and how to address deficiencies as a means of increasing both teacher and student productivity.

3. Stephen Decotis, Principal of Sawgrass Elementary School – The school hosts an event called the *Panther Prowl* which has been ongoing for the past nine (9) years. The SRO from the City of Sunrise set up the initiative with the parent group. The event is a modified 5K where the kindergartners go around the bus loop a couple of times, first, second third graders run a mile, while the fourth and fifth grader run through the neighborhood. This year there were 1,300 people, both kids and adults. SROs, SWAT members and other police staff provided much-needed assistance. The difference is that this year the PTA made it a fundraiser, successfully raising over \$20,000 for security purposes in the school. The money was used to purchase films for all the exterior windows. From the outside people see a beautiful mural, but from the inside, students, teachers, and staff are able to see outside. There was also an event called *Caribbean Dream* which tied into the Black History theme of February. The goal was to tie into the Equity Theme. Representatives from various cultures presented. Mayor Ryan has taken the time to get out to schools and speak with children about civics. He also shares with students how important it is to hear differing points of view and still remain cordial to each other.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Cheryl Levy made a motion to approve the February 4, 2020, minutes as transcribed. The motion was seconded by Rona Somers. There was no opposition from the board.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

1. Coronavirus Update

Mr. Angel Gomez of BCPS spoke about the importance of being aware of what is happening as far as the coronavirus, as there is much misinformation. The website link, which will be forwarded to Christine to

share with board members, will be able to provide vital information. He voiced that the District is as ready as they can be as far as the coronavirus is concerned. One of the biggest things being done is custodian training; preparing the custodians regarding essential tools and tasks needed in preparation for the virus. The District is also asking the teachers to educate the students about the importance of handwashing, and referring families to the website for information.

2. Guest Speaker: Mark Swanson, U.S. Census Bureau

Mr. Gomez communicated that March 12, 2020, is the approximate date when cards will be received in the mail by everyone, encouraging them to fill out the Census as soon as possible.

He introduced Mr. Mark Swanson as the educational contact for the Census. His main task is to focus on the Census as it pertains to education. His goal at this meeting is to provide enough information where the Board liaisons could go to their schools and speak to everyone on the importance of being counted in the Census. The District has a website up and running, which outlines Census information in different languages.

Mark Swanson, U.S. Census Bureau, Partnership Specialist

Mr. Mark Swanson, U.S. Census Bureau, Partnership Specialist, thanked everyone along with Mr. Gomez for what the District is doing as it concerns the Census. What the District has implemented as it pertains to the Census will aid in reaching over 270,000 kids and their guardians. He asserts that the Census Bureau recognizes that in 2010, there were roughly a million kids under the age of five (5) that did not get counted during the Census; that number of unaccounted individuals is detrimental from a federal funding standpoint. The families that need the funding the most are the least likely to respond; most do not respond out of fear.

On April 1st, the Census counts everyone living in the U.S. The count includes undocumented families, citizens, and children. Of the million kids in Broward in 2010, more than 60% of those were Hispanic and/or Latinos. Kendall was one of the South Florida communities that had a massive undercount. Because of this, they were underfunded, and have struggled with providing the necessary programs that aids the very families that are undocumented, uncounted, and in dire need.

The Census does not share anyone's information. Schools are the vital contact points for assisting with the Census. Complex households are also reasons that there is a massive undercounting on the Census. The kids that are split between two households, or that may be homeless, are the children that are often unaccounted for.

There are exactly ten (10) questions on the Census paperwork. The first nine (9) questions relate to the individual (head of household) that is filling out the Census, and the final question ask about those that reside within the household, and their relationship to the individual completing the form. Personal information is requested on the form, but the Census Bureau does not allow for sharing the information gathered. Title 13 prohibits the Census from sharing anyone's personal information; sharing the information is deemed a criminal offense. The Constitution prohibits the release of any personal information gathered on the Census form. Therefore, no information is shared with any other federal entity. Title 44 seals the information for 72 years.

Mark affirmed that the first Census was started in 1790, and further confirmed that Broward School District has a tremendous communication plan as far as the Census is concerned. People can respond before April 1st until the end of July when filling out the form. Babies born on April 1st get counted, those born April 2nd, do not get counted. Where a person is located on April 1st is where they get counted.

Schools have Civics and Social Studies teachers that are able to assist with speaking with parents and students about filling out the Census form, and those teachers should be tasked with relaying this information. The more information the children take home as far as the Census, the more valuable and effective.

Mark said that he is more than willing to present at any school to provide information as far as it relates to the Census. His goal is to get all 270,000 students in Broward County counted on the Census.

Q&A covered the importance of parental involvement as it pertains to the Census, and the impact that staff and students, particularly younger students, play in getting increased interest in filling out the Census. Further questions were addressed about how the Census forms are sent to the homes and whether the forms were only computer or paper based, and what, if any, confidentiality can be expected when the forms are completed.

Mark said that best practices that are effective in having people fill-out the Census should be implemented in the various schools. Jacquie advised that the front desk workers who are usually the face of the schools would be better served if they were equipped with information that they could share with the students and parents, as far as the Census is concerned. Further, Mark disclosed that the schools are considered safe zones; therefore, being able to engage the younger students by providing them

with information they could take home, would be beneficial towards increasing response in filling out the Census.

Mr. Gomez suggested that an added value from the City of Sunrise EAB would be if the Board took some time to visit and peruse the www.Browardschools.com site in order to gather more information about the Census.

Mark confirmed that the Census is not only paper based, but can also be completed online. There is a card that is sent out which aids the Census Bureau in determining the address of the individual filling out the form. By providing families with the form to fill out, completing the form is easier. While the Census is trying to get away from the paper format, filling out the Census is extremely important.

Online, the Census Bureau provides the information in roughly thirteen different languages to make the form easier to navigate. Broward County has translated the information in more languages than the Census Bureau currently has. There is also a confidentiality clause that serves to protect those that may fear filling out the form.

Mr. Gomez articulated that the Census will be an up-hill battle, but the customers are the kids. The kids are the ones that relay important messages to their parents or caregivers, and those messages are heard. It is important to spread the information about the importance of the Census in the schools. Parents are often comfortable with school staff, and that is also a great way to share information. Mr. Gomez suggested the schools will be best served by finding ways that encourage increase interest about the Census. The schools have to know what works best for their schools, and can make the determination as to what will provide the parents with information.

Dr. Carolyn Stewart told the Board that there is a *Community Involvement Awards* program at Broward College scheduled for May 7th. The program honors volunteers, mentors, and other individuals that are contributors to the district. The program is district-wide, and deemed a great forum for introducing topics about the 2020 Census.

Mark reminded the Board that the City of Sunrise is pro-Census, and promotes the importance of responding to, and filling out the form. Mark also concluded by providing his work number as well as his email address: He can be reached at 678.733.2897 or Mark.Swanson@2020Census.gov. Further, he is more than happy to provide documents and answer questions in the schools as well as other forums as it pertains to the Census.

There are incentives that can be provided to families as a means of encouraging them to filling out the Census forms. It should be noted that many parents feel safer if they are able to fill out the form at the school.

2. Introduction of new Board Member

Christine Pfeffer introduced Dr. Anelle Moss as the newest Board Member, and asked that she share some information with the Board. The Board Members introduced themselves to Dr. Moss, and gave brief synopsis of the schools they are liaison to.

Dr. Anelle Moss divulged that her emigration was by way of Trinidad & Tobago, then from the Bahamas in 2006 to the United States. She is an alumnus of Florida A&M in Tallahassee, moving to South Florida to complete her PhD. She is currently on staff at Broward College, serving as the Student Success Coordinator on central campus. She is tasked with assisting students in navigating community resources that aids them in matriculating earlier. She was once employed at FAU, and felt that it is essential for her to give back to the community. She has been in education for more than ten (10) years, and has been a Sunrise resident since June 2019.

3. Miscellaneous

Christine Pfeffer mentioned that all Board members are assigned to a school at this time. She provided the members with a list to show who was working with what schools. She also reminded the team that the scholarship applications are still being received, and acknowledged that the applications are due by March 15, 2020. On April 7, 2020 the finalist will be interviewed.

Beginning March 2020, she will be transitioning the Board to Sady Diaz who is familiar with many Board members. Sady is involved with the City's education initiatives, and will be the primary point of contact for the Board. Christine confirmed that she will be present to assist with the scholarship interviews.

VII. Adjournment

Eileen David made a motion to adjourn. Rona Somers seconded the motion. There was no opposition from the Board.

The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2020.

Transcribed by: _____

Karen Lawrence, Board Secretary

