

Town of Southwest Ranches
School Education Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Monday

Town Hall

January 13th, 2020

13400 Griffin Road

7:00 PM

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330-2628

Board Members Present:

Staff Present:

Council Present:

Guests Present:

Kathy Sullivan

Russell Muniz

Bob Hartmann

Steve Breitzkreuz

Jennifer Montgomery

Gary Jablonski

Gabriela Rafford

Chris Brownlow

Doug McKay

Carole Mitchell

Francesca Case

Patricia Good

Page Giaicin

Janelle Cedeno

Debbie Green

Keri Drane

Rosina Marrapodi-Bove

Robert Runcie

Priscilla Prado-Stroze

Leo Quinn

Board Members Absent:

Deniese Williams

Leah Castello

Tara Terribile

Call to order at 7:00pm. A quorum was established.

Priscilla Prado-Stroze motioned to excuse the absences listed above. Francesca Case seconded, and the motion carried.

Page Giaicin motioned to keep the officer position from 2019 in effect for 2020. Jennifer Montgomery seconded, and the motion carried.

Discussion Items:

- Tonight's meeting featured a visit from Superintendent Runcie, and members of his staff, including Carol Mitchell and Gabriel Rafford from the District's Homeless Education department. Due to the length of the presentations, some items were tabled until the next meeting.
- All board members, town officials, and guests gave introductions. Kathy followed with a description of our board's duties, the town's boundaries, board projects, fundraising events, partnerships/sponsors, and scholarship monies raised to date.
- Mr. Runcie gave an extensive review of Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) strategic plan highlighting programs and advancements in four key areas: academics, safety/security, mental health, and finances. He also addressed the SMART (Safety/Music/Arts/Renovation/Technology) initiative. Details and Power Point for both are available through the BCPS website (www.browardschools.com).
- Tara discussed her certificate program in veterinary technology available at West Broward High School. This dual-enrollment program allows students to receive vocation training while in high school, and then transition to a technical college, etc. District 2 School Board Member Patricia Good gave Tara high praise for her work.
- Kathy mentioned our collective concern, and work toward addressing WBHS student safety, at the Griffin Road/US 27 intersection. We need, and have, the school board's support. Mayor McKay mentioned School Days are coming to Tallahassee...our town liaison will bring this to light.
- Members mentioned concerns about Bright Future's requirements and class size.
- Kathy mentioned her frustration over the lack of information and help with a homeless student at WBHS. Carole Mitchell (District Homeless Education Liaison) and Gabriela Rafford (Homeless Education Specialist) of BCPS HEART program addressed Kathy's concerns, and provided a thorough review of their program's support services. Each board member received an informational folder, and we reviewed a HEART Power Point. HEART info goes out to all schools at the beginning of the school year, but Ms. Mitchell would like to see further training within schools. Mr. Runcie and Ms. Good took extensive notes and promised to look into improved HEART service delivery at the school-site level. Information on the HEART program may be accessed directly at <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/35699>.

The meeting concluded at 9:30pm.