

**Town of Southwest Ranches**  
**School Education Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday

Town Hall

October 10th, 2021

13400 Griffin Road

7:00 PM

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330-2628

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**Board Members Present:**

Kathy Sullivan

Jennifer Montgomery

Chris Brownlow

Francesca Case

Leah Castello

Debbie Green

Priscilla Prado-Stroze

**Board Members Absent:**

Page Giacin

Rosina Marrapodi-Bove

**Staff Present:**

Debra Ruesga

**Council Liaison:**

Steve Breitreuz

**Council Present:**

Jim Albritton

Bob Hartmann

Gary Jablonski

David Kuczinski

**Guests Present:**

Pablo Calvo

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

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| Debbie Green motioned to accept the June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 minutes as amended. Priscilla Prado-Stroze seconded and the motion carried. |
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Discussion Items:

- Pablo Calvo (Early Learning Coalition...ELC) introduced himself and wishes to return with his CEO and a formal presentation specific to SWR as compared to the rest of the county. ELC has returned to services in-house, saving \$5 million in overhead. The ELC focuses on school readiness, is income-based, available to working and/or schooling families, and is federally funded. Their pre-COVID clients numbered 14-

16,000 on average. The past year was challenging for kids attending via Zoom both on a developmental as well as internalizing level. At this juncture, ELC is now capable of enrolling \$2,000 more children. Its staff has grown from 18 to 180 people (although recruiting and retaining has been hard). Students are eligible for VPK at age 4 (as of 9/1/'21 anywhere in FL). FL leads the nation in VPK education, covering the cost of the first three hours of instruction daily. The annual "summer slide" became "the COVID cliff" following the pandemic. Students have demonstrated behavioral challenges, low academic scores...this group could be affected their entire educational lives. Scores have been waived, schools will not be penalized for drops in score up through 2022...kids must test, but there are no penalties. The score issue has had an effect on teacher salaries. ELC is training approximately 3,000 teachers in remedial training, trauma training, and challenging behaviors via Zoom and interaction with trained professionals. Right now, there is a 1,000-2,000 deficit in pre-school teachers. In Broward, the teacher-student ratio is as follows: one/four for ages 0-2 years, one/nine for ages 2-4 years, and one/twelve for ages 4-5 years. The business model of day care is based upon these ratios, but salaries are horribly low and recruitment/retention very bad (Starbucks pays better!). ELC has retained 740 out of 800 centers and is assisting with loans, licensures, employees, etc., as people need safe spaces for their children.

- We are having issues with money dispersal from the town (again). Gary and Bob will verify and fix the issue.
- Financials: As of September 2021, we had \$43,161.38. \$30,000 went to scholarships, \$2,500 is yet to be paid, expenses were \$1,237, so the balance going forward is \$10,661.38. This year, we will purchase table covers, tents, flamingos, etc. Our expenses will be given to Debbie and Debra first. For this year, let's decide ahead of time what we would like to hold-back as a cushion.
- Fundraisers for 2021/22: Flocking (Debbie will support in spring); October 15<sup>th</sup> food truck event with Hawke's Bluff (we'll get money from the petting zoo); WBHS fundraiser on November 20<sup>th</sup> @ Equestrian Park from 11-6pm; Restaurant nights? (Leah will check with Wunderbar); SRHOA will be motioning to approve a donation.
- Redistricting will not affect our kids at present. Weston is the only city to have their kids in their own schools.
- Items for the next meeting: FL Project; Pageant; Festival: Barn Dance
- Announcements: Urgent Med is providing Pfizer shots, PCR testing, etc., @ Town Hall, M-S, from 9-6; the traffic study board will begin in January...Council will make appointments; SRHOA is having a Happy "Hay"lloween contest; Wednesday is the mayor's monthly Zoom chat; Debbie commented on the wonderful September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial.

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm.