

Town of Southwest Ranches
School Education Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Monday

Town Hall

December 13th, 2021

13400 Griffin Road

7:00 PM

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330-2628

Board Members Present:

Staff Present:

Council Present:

Guests Present:

Kathy Sullivan

Debra Ruesga

Bob Hartmann

Maria Elena Manrique

Jennifer Montgomery

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Angel Gomez

Chris Brownlow

Mayor Breitreuz

David Kuczenski

Francesca Case

Jim Albritton

Page Giaicin

Debbie Green

Priscilla Prado-Stroze

Board Members Absent:

Leah Castello

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

Debbie Green motioned to accept the minutes of November 8th. Jennifer Montgomery seconded, and the motion carried.

Priscilla Prado-Stroze motioned to have the Barn Dance on March 12, 2022. Debbie Green seconded and the motion carried.

Discussion Items:

- Debbie gave the treasurer's report: We have \$13,161.38 thus far. \$1,500 has come in from the SRHOA since the last meeting. Monies from the petting zoo are due.
- The Sikh Youth Association will have their next Unity in Diversity 5K on February 26th.
- Both the Chair Liaison Appointments and Scholarship Application will be tabled until the next meeting.

- We would like to tie the Cow Pie Bingo and Food Truck event together in the future. The Barn Dance is set for March 12, 2022. This also will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Angel Gomez, from the Office of Governmental Affairs, was one of the evening's guests. He told us to call him if needed, as he knows we are the voice in the community. Angel is a former administrator, and his son's mother is currently a teacher. Angel's son, Jacob, attends WHS...he loves his teachers and enjoys playing basketball. Unfortunately, due to reporting a threat he heard at school, Jacob has been ostracized, and now wishes to remain home. Angel will be seeing his school counselor. This is just an example of what kids are experiencing at their schools, and it is taking an emotional toll. Angel used his son's story a segue to introduce our other guest, Maria Elena Manrique, Family Therapist with Student Services of BCPS. Angel told us he will be happy to follow-up on any questions we may have throughout the presentation.
- Maria Elena shared the following (notes are presented as they arose within discussions): Therapists and social workers are at schools and available via telehealth at nights. Student Services is the umbrella of mental services support. Every school has at least one social worker. The HEART program is for homeless assistance; TALK UP is available via CANVAS; SEL means Social/Emotional Learning for pre-K to 12. The Family Counseling Program has ~50 licensed clinicians for private/public/charter schools and service individuals or families...no referral required. Therapy is provided in two zones. Kerlin Casada is the social worker at WBHS. Bi/tri lingual services are provided through the Student Services program...call (754) 321.1590...we dialed the number...it has "office hours". TALK UP has an application via CANVAS and a therapist will respond within 24 hours (confidential between applicant and therapist...student decides what to share). Private schools not on CANVAS may call the number. Folks can go to the Broward County website, enter school name, and the therapist & phone number will show. School counselors and BRACE have a terra matrix screening process which shows kids' levels of need (1-5). Anyone at the 5th level receives feedback within 24 hours. We, as a board, can suggest help and provide the phone numbers given. Kathy reflected on Madison's issues at WBHS. She, Maria Elena, and Angel agreed...find one person who cares...that person is in the school regardless of their role/position. Page emphasized the need for an individual in position who knows all the information given us tonight. Jennifer expressed concerns and needs within private school...a text and assistance from the pastor was immediate. Calls to the therapy phone number, if by choice, are not always followed-up by parents. By the way, everything told to us tonight is presented at the beginning of the school year. Our board will test all the information provided tonight. The family therapist at WBHS is Roberto Diaz (Maria Elena's daughter attends WBHS). She mentioned the main offices are in Ft. Ldle...they assess kids' needs and if long-term services are required. They may have brief, or long-term cases...they can contact ninth graders without parental notice...parents can be linked to services if required at the home. She will connect us with Dr. Shapiro, he is in charge of SEL for the county...it has been implemented for the year for all elementary to high school students. PASSEL...teachers trained to do quick check-ins. On the website we will also find "We Think". Basic process at school site is as follows: 1) see your guidance counselor, 2) go to the social worker, 3) see the family therapist, 4) see the principal! A call to 211 results in the mobile crisis unit being dispatched to house or school. Debbie said 211 helped one of her daughter's friends in college (although ok, some confusion sent the unit to her home, but it came!). Kathy's niece cannot find the app on CANVAS at this time. Maria Elena will send the therapist from WBHS to meet us.

The meeting concluded at 8:20pm.