

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of the February 5, 2020 Meeting

In attendance: Chair Jena Rae McClure, Vice-Chair Melissa Megna, Helen Cohen, Renee Grutman, Robert Fleischer, Ellen Kay, Chun Majahan, Richard Quiroga,

Guests: Commissioner Max Pulcini, Howie Sorkin (by phone), Broward Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie, Angel Gomez, Danny Jardine, Janelle Cedeno, Leo Quinn, Board Liason Tina Hudson

Absent: Anabelle Andon

Meeting called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Jena.

Motion was made to approve minutes from 12/4/19 meeting by Chun, seconded by Helen.

Jena introduced our guest, Superintendent Robert Runcie of Broward County Public Schools. Mr. Runcie did a PowerPoint presentation.

Graduation rate in Broward has increased. Broward has the highest graduation rate of all of the largest districts in Florida. Improvement was seen especially in the areas of Students with Disabilities and African-American students.

Third grade literacy scores: third grade proficiency has gone up. Broward scores are tied with the largest district in Florida.

Broward has STEM rich programs. We also have debate programs in all middle and high schools. There are Cambridge and IB programs. Broward schools also work with local businesses.

\$110 million has been spent on security. Brian Katz was hired to oversee safety and security. He has much experience nationally. All schools now have a single point of entry. \$53 million was invested in security staff. There is central oversight to all security staff at this time. There are 14 managers overseeing. There is consistent training for security personnel across the district. In addition there has been an increase in security cameras in the schools along with other security equipment. Access to cameras is shared with some police departments.

Broward schools has a budget of \$4 billion. Broward schools is the largest employer in Broward. Central administration is considered .08% of total employees. Broward spends about \$7800 per student. This amount is controlled by the state. This is also well below many other states.

Taxpayers pay less in total millage in Broward at this time then in 2014.

Superintendent Runcie stated that children's ability to succeed in school is contingent on mental health. The school board approved an additional \$16 million in support for mental health services, including social workers, psychologists, etc.

SMART bond program update: when the bond was past, the school board had almost \$1,000,000,000. The actual cost of the program added up to \$1.4 billion.

About nine schools have been completed in terms of work from the bond.

Mr. Runcie explained that renovation work is different from new construction.

Renovation is more complex. Renovation tends to cost a lot more.

Arts programs are complete. Schools received materials and equipment for arts including instruments for bands and kilns for fine arts. (McArthur high school got first place in an art competition)

94,000 computers were delivered to schools at a cost of \$11 million under budget.

Cost for Cooper city schools enhancement/construction

Funds allocated:

Cooper City elementary – \$1 million

Embassy Creek Elementary – \$3.4 million

Griffin Elementary – \$3.3 million

Pioneer Middle – \$9.1 million

Cooper City High School – \$8.8 million

Superintendent Runcie was asked about the effect of charter schools on the district. He stated that 12 - 13% of school population is now attending charter schools. Charters receive a \$330 million budget which covers in excess of 20,000 seats.

He talked about the consolidation of schools. Some buildings are not at capacity. The schools may be consolidated to create more opportunities for students. These conversations will happen within the communities. He stated that many of the schools are in East Broward.

Schools are losing students due to Charter Schools and decreasing birth rates. In addition, a high percentage of income goes to rent, so people are moving out of South Florida.

Superintendent Runcie was asked about special needs students. Students with dyslexia need the proper interventions. If these interventions are in place for all students, all students will learn. The interventions need to be put in place in grades kindergarten through second. He will look into progress on Dyslexia screener. He also said that money will also be provided for services for middle school transition from elementary to provide more support facilitators, etc.

Superintendent Runcie was asked about security for extracurricular and after school activities. He responded that when it is a school district event, the district works with

law-enforcement to provide security. If it is a school event, the school must have money allocated in their budget for the event to provide security. There has also been an increased emphasis on "See something say something." Parents and students had become more involved.

Superintendent Runcie was asked about the Corona virus and how the district is handling that. He stated the health department has jurisdiction. He said there was an incident with the Mersa virus, and the CDC was involved. All areas in involved schools including seven activity buses were sanitized. Whenever there is a health crisis directions taken from the health department.

For our anti-bullying conference/iZone meeting:

The Principals are meeting on Friday.

The iZone meeting/Anti-Bullying conference will be held in the Cooper City High School Auditorium on February 12, 2020.

Many thanks to Howie Sorkin for securing Robert Lupo from safe schools Florida to present at the conference. Aimee Wood from School Climate and discipline will also be presenting. The high school drama Club from Cooper City High school will present an anti-bullying skit, then they will be a question and answer session by the Principals.

A draft of the flyer for the event was distributed to give us a snapshot of what the event will look like.

The little free libraries: we were wondering if the recreation board could take care of them since they are all located in the parks?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at Cooper City Hall at 6:15 pm.

The foregoing minutes were respectfully submitted by Secretary Ellen Kay and approved by Chairperson _____ on date ____/____/____