

May 4, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the **CHARTER ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order by Chair Fernandez, on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 6:01 P.M. in the City Clerk's Conference Room at the Charles F. Dodge City Center, 601 City Center Way, Pembroke Pines, Florida. The Charter Elementary Middle School Advisory Board is holding a "virtual" meeting using communications media technology ("CMT").

CITY HALL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO THE COVID 19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND HEALTH ALERTS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC). GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS' EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-316 EXTENDED THE FLORIDA STATE EMERGENCY ORDER FOR ANOTHER 60 DAYS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 29, 2020. PEMBROKE PINES EMERGENCY ORDER 1952 WAS ADOPTED NOVEMBER 18, 2020 REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF CONDUCTING PUBLIC MEETINGS ON AN ELECTRONIC VIRTUAL PLATFORM USING COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY ("CMT"). THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES UTILIZES THE CISCO WEBEX VIRTUAL PLATFORM. In accordance with this order, and due to prohibition on public access to City Hall because of the risk to public health, the City is holding the meeting virtually.

2020-2021 CHARTER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD:

PRESENT: Chair McGovern, Vice Chair Dawkins, Members Laljie, Gill, Osorio, Crute, Perez, Sabniveesu, Baranwal and Siddiqui, Alternate Members Phillips, Sylvester and Cambry (all via WebEx)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Aner Gonzalez, City Comptroller Jonathan Bonilla; Principals Augustin, Chance, Castellano and Libidinsky (all principals via WebEx); Board Secretary Katherine Borgstrom

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant City Manager Aner Gonzales spoke about the 2021-2022 Charter School Budget and indicated that the process should be finalized later this month, as soon as there is a final budget signed by the Governor. At this time it appears the budget has increased the per student funds by \$53 per student. The City administration will present the 2021-2022 budget to the advisory board on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Jonathan Bonilla, City Comptroller, spoke about fundraising efforts. He reminded parents about the Charter Foundation raffle for a Florida Pre-paid College Scholarship with a value of \$28,000. There are 1000 tickets available for \$100 each to be included in the raffle. The raffle will end on May 14 and the winner will be announced on May 19 at the City Commission meeting. This is a great way to support the foundation and multiple family members are eligible to purchase the raffle ticket. There is a link on the school website and the ticket can be purchased online. He also reported that the SOS Parent Donation has raised closed to \$32,000 this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Member Sabniveesu, seconded by Member Osorio, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting as corrected, passed unanimously.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

A motion by Member Osorio, seconded by Vice Chair Dawkins, to excuse the absence of Members Osorio, Sabniveesu, Gill and Baranwal and Alternate Member Phillips from the April meeting, passed unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Castellano reported testing continues through the month. He also thanked all the assistant principals for their dedication to the schools, as this is National Principal Recognition Week. He introduced the new assistant principals for Central and West Elementary as the replacement for Ms. Iznaga and Ms. DiGioia, who are retiring this year. Mr. Castellano also informed the parents about the upcoming Raising Positive Children seminar on Monday, May 17 and that families can earn up to five volunteer hours for attending on line.

The Meet the Candidates Session for advisory board nominees for 2021-2022 was held during this point of the meeting. The following candidates either spoke (if online) or their nominations were ready by the campus principal.

East Elementary – Gahodery Cambry, Alicia Crute, Diana Lee Baptiste, and Donald Nicolas.

Central Elementary – Ron Osorio

Central Middle – Katrina Dawkins, Imran Siddiqui, Lee Ann Gill, and Edward Sylvester

West Elementary – Ana Perez, Sia Sabniveesu, Mark Phillips

West Middle – Nicole McGovern, Bhavna Baranwal, Jocelyn Figueroa, and Diana Hteit

All campus' will send out ballots and have voting for two regular members and one alternate, with the results being announced at the June meeting.

Principals also mentioned that there will be a Parent Workshop on May 10 for Central Elementary grades 3 through 5. Emails are and will continue to go out to introduce the parents to the new on-line curriculum and grading software called Focus.

This software will be used beginning with the next school year. Students will also get new passwords and QR codes for the new software. All three principals thanked the retiring assistant principals for their many years of outstanding service to the Charter System.

OPEN FORUM:

Parents asked about and received answers concerning any type of “graduation” celebrations for fifth and eighth graders, will after school clubs be returning in the fall, continuation of CDC guidelines, as they are relaxed for the fall school sessions, will summer school be offered by the charter schools, introducing new kindergarteners and other new students to the school, teachers, campus will be provided through some workshops at this point, but is a very fluid situation where more decisions will be made by early August. Parents asked about masks being worn in classroom if Broward Schools goes to no mask requirement and Mr. Castellano replied that the Charter System does follow guidelines that Broward Schools puts out. Members who spoke during the forum were Member Gill, Member Osorio, Member Siddiqui, and Member Cambry. Parent who spoke was Adriana Murillo and several questions were answered from the chat of the WebEx.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members voted to ratify Mr. Ron Osorio as the Central Elementary representative for 2021-2022 as he was the only nomination. All other divisions/campuses will run elections for advisory board members.

A motion by Member Osorio, seconded by Member Siddiqui, to ratify Mr. Ron Osorio as the Central Elementary representative for 2021-2022 passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Member Osorio, seconded by Member Siddiqui, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Katherine Borgstrom

Katherine Borgstrom
Board Secretary

ADJOURNED: 7:15 P.M.
APPROVED: June 1, 2021