

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Village Hall Council Chamber  
12300 Forest Hill Blvd.  
Wellington, FL 33414

Tuesday, September 6, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Village of Wellington Education Committee was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 commencing at 6:31 p.m. at Wellington Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414.

Committee Members present: Marcia Hayden, Francine Nelson, John Webber, Donna Baxter, Beth Gillespie (phone in), Ruthann Retterbush and Shelly Albright.

Staff Members present: Ed De La Vega and Laura Aldrich

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** - Marcia Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL:** Committee members present: Marcia Hayden, Francine Nelson, John Webber, Donna Baxter, Beth Gillespie (phone in) and Ruthann Retterbush.

Ms. Albright arrived at 6:45 p.m.

**IV. OPENING COMMENTS:** Marcia Hayden welcomed the new Committee members and asked each of the members to introduce themselves and share some information about themselves. She also thanked Tanya Siskind, Michelle McGovern, Anne Greenspan and Theresa Ventriglio for their past service. She also thanked Ellen Smith from Waste Management for the two scholarships that were provided to Wellington's high schools last year.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Gillespie asked that the spelling of Betsy Cardozo's name be corrected in the draft minutes provided. Ms. Hayden then called for a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

***Ms. Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.***

**VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Hayden asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

***Ms. Baxter made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.***

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ms. Hayden asked for an update on the Girls in Tech Program that had taken place over the summer. Mr. De La Vega provided an update of the Girls in Tech Program which had concluded in August. He added that the Village was

under contract with the Mosaic Group for this program as well as an entrepreneur program for girls ages 18 to 24. They were in discussion with Mosaic regarding whether the Village was going to move forward with the 18 to 24 entrepreneurship program and would look at whether money had been budgeted for similar programs in FY17.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **a. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Hayden asked for nominations for a Chairperson of the Committee. Ms. Baxter nominated Ms. Hayden.

***A motion was made to elect Ms. Hayden as Committee Chairperson. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

Ms. Hayden then called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Committee. Ms. Retterbush nominated Ms. Baxter. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Hayden called for a motion.

***Ms. Retterbush made a motion to elect Ms. Baxter as Committee Vice Chair. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

### **b. Keely Spinelli 2016/2017 Education Grant Presentations**

Ms. Hayden asked whether there were any questions related to the grant process or about what had taken place last year. At the time of the last meeting the District had been undergoing some changes. They were now in the Central District which was run by Dr. Frank Rodriguez who was not currently in attendance.

Ms. Vivian Green introduced herself as the Instructional Superintendent for Elementary. Ms. Green thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Jeff McKee introduced himself as the Central Area Regional Instructional Superintendent for the Secondary Schools. Dr. McKee had moved into his position from the City of Boca Raton where he had served for 18 years. He thanked Wellington and the Committee for their support. He also informed the Committee that Dr. Avossa and Ms. Andrews from the School Board would be arriving around 7:15p.m.

At this time Committee member Ms. Albright arrived and was introduced.

Ms. Hayden asked whether there were any questions regarding the matrix that had been provided in the agenda packets.

Mr. De La Vega thanked everyone who had submitted their grant information timely even though the deadline had coincided with the start of the school year as well as some staff transitions within the Village.

The matrix provided a grant results summary from 2015 to 2016 along with new requests for 2016/2017. The matrix outlined specifics as to how the funds had been utilized, whether there had been any deviation from what had been requested and whether there were funds remaining to be rolled over into FY17.

At this time, representatives from each of the schools made their grant presentations. Schools presenting included, in alphabetical order:

Binks Forest Elementary  
Elbridge Gale  
Emerald Cove Middle School  
Equestrian Trails Middle School  
New Horizons Elementary  
Palm Beach Central High School  
Panther Run  
Polo Park Middle School  
Wellington Elementary School  
Wellington High School  
Wellington Landings

Ms. Hayden thanked all of the schools for their presentations. In addition, three schools would be receiving books from Waste Management for the 2016/2017 school year: Binks Forest Elementary, New Horizons and Polo Park Middle School.

Ms. Andrews from the Palm Beach County School Board thanked the Committee for all of their work and support. She also thanked the Village Council for their foresight in taking care of Wellington's students as well as thanking the Principals and Administrative teams.

Dr. Robert Avossa stated that they were fortunate to have a city like Wellington that recognized that there were students in the schools that might be struggling. The vast majority of the level I and II students were in A and B schools.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**IX. STAFF REPORT:** Mr. De La Vega provided information regarding the availability of summer camp scholarships which allowed children in need to attend camp. He also provided information on the Summertime Block Party which had taken place on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The event had provided backpacks and school supplies to underprivileged Wellington students. They had also taken part in the Back to School Bash sponsored by Whole Foods and conducted the Empowering Tech program where 9 students were employed and paid as summer interns.

**X. CLOSING COMMENTS:** Mr. Webber thanked all of the administrators and staff in attendance for their grant presentations. He stated that he had had an opportunity to meet with some of the principals in August and tour some of the schools. He discussed ways that the Committee might be able to help the schools and suggested forming a mentoring program. He challenged the Committee to focus on developing a program utilizing Village resources. Other suggestions also included looking at ways that the Village might be able to assist in finding qualified tutors. He also voiced concerns over the need for painting and other maintenance issues in the schools.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Hayden called for a motion to adjourn.

***Ms. Baxter made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.***

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Approved and Adopted:

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**Marcia Hayden, Chairperson**

**Date**

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**Laura A. Aldrich, Recording Secretary**

**Date**