

**VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE &
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
JOINT WORKSHOP
AUGUST 1, 2017 - 5:30 PM
WELLINGTON CITY HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Senior Advisory Committee: Howard Trager, Veronica McCue, Mary Kastner, Sam Nebb, Sharon Lascola and Sally Schwartz.

Education Committee: Marcia Hayden, Shelly Albright, Donna Baxter, John Webber and Ruthann Retterbush.

Members Absent: Senior Advisory Committee: Jose Soto, Sharon Lascola and Sally Schwartz.

Education Committee: Francine Nelson and Beth Gillespie.

Village Staff: Paulette Edwards, Meridith Tuckwood, Geneeka Morris

I. Call to Order/Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was added to the meeting procedure in order to be consistent with the Village Council meetings.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Ms. Baxter gave the second. The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. August 1, 2017

Ms. Albright made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Kastner gave the second to approve the Minutes of the joint meeting.

V. Staff Updates

Mrs. Edwards presented the school grades for 2016-2017 that were published in June. The highest ranking school is Wellington Landing Middle with the third highest performing middle school in the County and Panther Run Elementary is the fourth highest performing school in the County.

Mrs. Edwards reported on the SWAG program (Students Working to Achieve Greatness) noting that the Community Services Department had partnered with Wellington InterFaith.

Ms. Albright updated the committees on the SWAG Program noting what the children have learned through the program from how to introduce themselves, where to place your name tag, and how to have a successful interview. Wells Fargo was able to come in and speak with the youth about banking information. Ms. Albright explained what the children are experiencing and how they have benefited in the program. One of the students informed her that the Boys & Girls Club hired him for the year and they normally don't hire kids under the age of 18. They felt that he would do a great job with their STEAM program and the smile on his face was gigantic. The program runs until September and they will be taken on a college tour. Ms. Albright advised the committees that the children met with Mayor Gerwig who shared with them her work experience and also how she became Mayor.

Mrs. Edwards announced that Mayor Gerwig was so impressed with what Ms. Albright has done that she wanted to help with next year's funding.

Ms. Baxter stated that they would like to know who the children are, so they can provide additional support at school. Knowing they are already motivated to make some changes and could be used as peer mentors on the campus.

VI. Old Business

Ms. Albright and Ms. McCue reported that they have been working together to get the program ready. They have been reviewing all the assessments and applications for the volunteers that are coming in. At this time, they have 21 seniors who will be helping with the program. When Ms. Albright and Ms. McCue met with Binks Forest Elementary, they noticed that each school's needs are a little different. Whereas New Horizons Elementary is looking for a buddy program to facilitate the learning in the children and Binks Forest Elementary is looking for more involvement academically. They are hoping for more participation from the other elementary schools. They are also looking for a more diverse group of volunteers, so the children can identify whoever will be mentoring them. The program also needs male role models to have lunch with, be able to talk to and open up with to prepare them for better learning.

Ms. Edwards stated she will put the word out with the Village Staff.

Ms. Albright would like to reach out to different business partners to ask for assistance from some of their volunteers and some workforces pay their employees to go out and volunteer like Wells Fargo. They are trying to reach out to the business partners to obtain interest. They would like about 40 to 50 volunteers total.

Ms. McCue would like to try to reach out to the High School AP classes or seniors that would be able to possibly earn community service hours and be able to tutor in the math skills. Binks Forest Elementary was very interested in focusing on their math skills.

Ms. Baxter stated that in the high schools they have the Florida Future Educators of America Clubs that are built in groups of students that will be most interested in doing mentorships.

Ms. Albright asked if it would be okay to come out and speak to the club when they have a meeting. Ms. Baxter replied, "sure!".

Ms. McCue stated that the program is ready to go; however, they do need to know what the times would be for the volunteers.

Ms. Baxter invited the Volunteer Specialists from the different Wellington schools to come out to the joint meeting. The Volunteer Specialists are the first line of defense dealing with volunteers at the school.

Ms. McCue stated to everyone that the goal which is to have this program for all eleven (11) school in Wellington.

Ms. Hayden would like to help with the diversity by reaching to her college sorority that has a graduate program here. She stated there are a number of women who are retired that volunteer. Ms. Hayden will put Ms. Albright in contact with them.

Mrs. Edwards asked the school representative what the process is to be a volunteer at the schools.

Ms. Erika Gustavsson, New Horizons Elementary School, outlined the general process for the Raptor System, what they needed to bring, and what they need to do each time they volunteer at the schools.

Mrs. Edwards questioned whether the process would be the same at each school. In response, Ms. Gustavsson explained that the volunteers should be in the school's system if they have the same one; however, they should call the school before arriving just to make sure.

Ms. Baxter informed everyone that the school system has now added a one-time application entry so that the background will be checked each time the volunteer swipes. She noted that the application has to be entered in a school computer.

Ms. Diana Borges informed the committees that there are two volunteer systems that the schools use. Ms. Borges talked about another system called the VIPS System, which keeps your hours and the Raptor checks your background every time you come in.

Ms. McCue explained that they will have a day when all the volunteers will come in and Ms. Borges will help put their information into the system.

Ms. Hayden asked Ms. McCue if she had a date when the volunteers could sign up.

Ms. Baxter informed the committees that in late August/early September the District will hold training for all the volunteer coordinators and they will then get updated for the new school year.

Ms. McCue explained that it won't be until October, so teachers can get to know their students.

VII. New Business

VIII. Public Comment

Ms. Susan Perconte, Panther Run, thought the mentoring program, as well as a buddy program, would be helpful. Ms. Sarai Aristizabal asked if the volunteers at the schools can be trained on the mentoring program, and if so, who will do the training. The Committee indicated that the volunteers would be trained. Ms. McCue asked that the names be given to Mrs. Edwards who will then contact them and provide information regarding the mentoring program.

Ms. Edwards informed the public that they can contact her with any concerns which she will in turn bring to the committees.

Ms. Albright gave the background on how the Senior Advisory Committee and Education Committee joined together to work on this project.

IX. Board Comments

Ms. Baxter expressed her excitement about the mentoring program noting that no one wanted to be left out of it. She stated that the high schools are waiting patiently for the program to come to them. She further stated that they know that it will help them in the future as they are better trained in the elementary schools. She thanked everyone for their efforts.

Ms. Edwards thanked Ms. Baxter for inviting the Volunteer Specialists.

Ms. Albright was excited to be working with Ms. McCue and Ms. Edwards who have been wonderful. She thanked them for all their help.

Mr. Webber thanked everyone for their efforts and wanted them to continue to spread the word about the program.

Ms. Hayden thanked Ms. Albright and Ms. McCue for this being their brain child and for all of the hard work they had put into the program.

Mr. Trager informed everyone that he had volunteered at New Horizons in 2002-2003 where he worked with the 5th graders on a newspaper called the "Pioneer Times." He indicated that the 5th graders were wonderful. He extended his thanks to the Volunteer Specialist for all they do for the children.

Ms. McCue stated that her goal was that by the time the elementary students get to high school, they won't need the program because they will already have learned all the skills they need. She said they could then take the 25 percentile and make it null and void.

Ms. Kastner indicated that she was just excited to see how quickly everything for the mentoring program has come together which she felt was a tribute to everyone involved.

Mr. Nebb had no comments.

X. Closing Comments

Mr. Trager expressed his thanks to everyone for attending the meeting, and for taking an interest in our children because our children are the seniors of tomorrow.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm by Mr. Trager and second by Ms. Baxter.

Approved and Adopted:

Howard Trager, Chairperson	Date
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Geneeka Morris, Recording Secretary	Date
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