

Village of Wellington

*12300 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, FL 33414*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

5:30 PM

Wellington Community Center Grande Ballroom

Education Committee

*John Webber, Chair
Shelly Albright, Vice Chair
Donna Baxter
Beth Gillespie
Marcia Hayden
Francine Nelson
Ruthann Retterbush*

I Call to Order

Mr. Webber called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

II Pledge of Allegiance**III Roll Call**

Mr. Webber called the role. Present were Shelly Albright, Donna Baxter, Beth Gillespie, Marcia Hayden, Francine Nelso, Ruthann Retterbush.

IV Opening Comments

Mr. Webber asked that Opening Comments be skipped in the interest of time as they had the joint meeting scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm

V Approval of Agenda**A. [EC-060](#) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Webber asked for any comments or changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Webber asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Albright made the motion, seconded by Ms. Baxter. Motion passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

VI Approval of Minutes**A. [EC-059](#) APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 5, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Webber asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting as presented. Ms. Albright made a motion, seconded by Ms. Baxter. Motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

VII Old Business

Mr. Webber noted that there was no old business.

VIII Staff Report**A. [EC-063](#) STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Edwards noted that the joint meeting would begin at 6:30 immediately following the regular meeting. The Committees had requested to meet jointly to discuss school safety and student altercations both on and off campus. She stated that, for the record, the

meeting had been discussed and scheduled prior to the February 14th incident at Parkland. Wellington recognized the importance of school safety and the impact of the Parkland tragedy on the community.

Ms. Edwards reported that last year had been the first year of the SWAG (Students Working to Achieve Greatness) program. This year 12 students from Palm Beach Central High School and Wellington High School had begun weekly mentoring. They would continue with 8 week job assignments over the summer consisting of approximately 20 hours per week. The program was funded through the HUD CDBG grant.

IX New Business

A. [EC-062](#) WELLINGTON'S ANNUAL WASTE MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ms. Edwards described the Waste Management Environmental Scholarship program. Applications would be sent to the Committee with a deadline of April 13th. Staff would hand deliver all applications along with the matrix for scoring and a deadline for returning the information to staff. Scholarship awards would be announced at the May regular meeting.

B. [EC-061](#) KEELY SPINELLI GRANT AMENDMENT - NEW HORIZONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Betsy Cardozo explained the requested amendment to the Keely Spinelli grant for Emerald Cove Middle School. They had been unable to locate a part time reading teacher so they were requesting use of the funds for additional technology for the younger students who are below grade level as well as some of their exceptional education students. The amendment requested the purchase of 36 Chromebooks, a charging cart and headphones with additional funds also going toward the after school tutorial.

Mr. Webber called for a motion to approve. Ms. Retterbush made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gillespie. Motion passed unanimously to approve the Keely Spinelli Grant Amendment for Emerald Cove Middle School.

C. [EC-064](#) EDUCATION COMMITTEE SCHOOL LIAISON REPORTS

In the interest of time, members provided brief updates on each of their schools as assigned. It was noted that more detailed updates would be provided at the next regular meeting in May.

Ms. Edwards recognized the arrival of Ms. Andrews from the PBC

School Board.

Ms. Edwards also noted that the Chief of the Palm Beach County School Board Police as well as the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office were in attendance for the follow up Joint Meeting at 6:30 pm to address the issue of school safety.

Mr. Webber commended Wellington's school principals for the measures already being undertaken to address the issue of school safety. He also stated that the recognition of the High Impact Teachers would be on the May agenda.

X Public Comments

Mr. Webber stated that there was one comment card submitted by Ms. Veronica McCue who wished to speak.

Ms. McCue introduced herself and stated that she was a current member of Wellington's Senior Advisory Committee. Ms. McCue read a prepared statement, expressing her concerns regarding school safety and the use of Wellington's schools as polling places during the recent municipal elections. She was aware that the teachers had no jurisdiction in this decision, as polling places were determined jointly by the Supervisor of Elections and the Palm Beach County School Board. She asked members to petition the school board to revise this practice, suggesting that schools be closed when being used as polling places.

Ms. Caroline Epstein, parent and teacher at Binks Forest addressed the Committee, expressing concern that students would be on campus and school in session while their school was being used as a polling place. She had emailed the Village, the Supervisor of Elections and the School District with her concerns, noting that District Police would only be on site for two hours that day. She suggested that children and staff not be in attendance during voting.

Ms. Ann Gerwig, 14505 Paddock Drive, speaking as a resident, stated that there had never been an incident at a school on an election day. Voting at fire stations had been an issue due to lack of air conditioned space. She noted that moving election days was not easy and difficult to accommodate by the school schedule. Accommodating a school schedule for a day off would be nearly impossible to standardize.

Ms. Marcia Andrews, District 6 School Board member, stated that additions and revisions to the school calendar were sometimes made as issues arose. They were brought to the calendar committee and the

Superintendent for review and discussion.

Mr. Webber recognized Area Superintendent Frank Rodriguez as well as the Central Regional Instructional Superintendent Vivian Green and Central Regional Secondary Instructional Superintendent Edward Tierney.

Mr. Rodriguez shared his pride in the students who had spoken out since the incident at Parkland.

XI Closing Comments

Mr. Webber stated that the Joint Meeting with the Public Safety Committee would begin in approximately 15 minutes.

XII Adjournment

Mr. Webber called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nelson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gillespie. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.