

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of the Meeting
February 24, 2021

In attendance: Chair Jena McClure, Kirk Englehardt, Ellen Kay, Chun Majahan, Richard Quiroga, Howie Sorkin

Absent: Helen Cohen

Guests: Denise LaSarte, Richard Baum (Director of Student Assessment and Research), Angel Gomez, Debra Hixon (School Board Member), Commissioner Howard Meltzer

The meeting was called to order by Jena at 6:06 pm

The minutes from the January 27th meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Kirk and seconded by Richard.

We have 2 guests, Angel Gomez, and Richard Baum. Richard is a Cooper City resident, and he can answer questions about State Assessments. He stated the district will be serving up to 56,000 students this summer. The school board will be offering a program this summer to identify students that need help due to the Covid situation.

Cooper City High will have live graduation this year. More details to follow. The district will follow all protocols and precautions necessary to keep the students safe. The EAB is still planning to hold the Senior Parade.

Debra Hixon came to introduce herself as the district-wide school board member. She wants to make sure the EAB knows she is available to us if we need anything. She stated that the district has identified 56,000 students that will be eligible for summer school, so she would appreciate us getting the word out that there will be a program this summer for qualifying students. Summer school will be a 4-hour program, the criteria has been defined by the governor. The focus will be on math and reading, but there will also be art, etc.

Ms. Hixon is excited we will be having a Senior parade. She was invited by Denise to attend our senior parade. Ms. Hixon can be reached at debra.hixon@browardschools.com or 954-328-0986.

Richard Baum was available to answer questions. Kirk asked what is the district's point of view about the kids coming in for the sole purpose of taking the FSA. Answer: The state put out an emergency order, this allowed for flexibility, which means they allowed extra time (there is a window of time) the schools can test. The school can determine when they want to test. Also, any student who is learning on campus as opposed to virtually must be tested. Parents can decide whether it is safe to bring their

children in to be tested, but there is technically no "opt-out." Each school is being asked to create a plan for testing and schools will communicate the plan to parents. Parents should be notified by March 15 for the writing assessment. For the May assessments, parents should hear by April 19.

There is a statute that says that all students must participate in state testing. The school must notify the parents of the consequence of not participating in the state testing. Jena asked about a medical opt-out. there is an opt-out for Medically fragile students.

Kirk asked, "How do they know it will be safe for the kids?" Angel answered that the school board is following the data provided by the CDC. He stated the percentage of students in the school who are becoming infected is in the decimals, not even a whole percentage point. He also stated to open the schools safely it is not necessary to vaccinate the staff at the schools. Go to the school's covid site to check the data: www.browardschools.com/Page/55422.

March 3, 2021 is the day allocated for students to take the SAT during the school day. The funds were allocated through the CARES act. Many other states are waiving the SAT requirement to go to a state school, but Florida is not waiving this requirement.

Graduation parade: June 4-June10 are the tentative dates the district wants to do the in-person graduations. June 12 was one of the proposed dates for the parade. since it is outside of the graduation ceremony dates, this would be the desirable date. Denise will propose this date to the City Manager. If it is approved, we can start planning, contacting BSO, etc. We will be working in conjunction with the school. Jena spoke with the Junior class officers last week, and they asked if we could take the Founders Day route. We will keep the same route as last year because that worked out very well.

Action item: Jena will tell the Junior class officers that we will use the same route as last year

Action item: Denise will contact the City manager to get the date of June 12, 2021, approved

Friday 2/26 at 1:00, Jena will have a meeting with the CCHS Principal to discuss the time capsule for the 50th year anniversary of CCHS. The different classes can vote on what they would like to contribute to the time capsule.

Founder's day is coming up. We probably will not have a booth, but all residents are invited to go.

History Museum: Commissioner Meltzer said there are artifacts at the pool and tennis center that need to be cataloged and coded and archived. It will take time to complete, but it will be a museum where people can come see our history. Maybe we can get corporate sponsorship, some High school kids to help catalog, Maybe we can offer this as community service hours to high school students. In addition, there are residents that

have been living in Cooper City for 50 years that can give oral stories of the city through interviews. Tina Maggio at the community center may know people who might participate in the interviews. Commissioner Meltzer would like to be part of the museum.

Kirk made a motion to adjourn the meeting , Richard seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm

Next meeting: Next meeting will be Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

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