

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor and Commissioners  
**THRU:** Charles F. Dodge, City Manager  
**FROM:** Katherine Borgstrom – Board Secretary  
**DATE:** December 5, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Charter Elementary/Middle School Advisory Board Regular Meeting  
December 3, 2019

## S U M M A R Y

### **2019-2020 CHARTER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD:**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Martinez, Vice Chairman McGovern, Members Razza, Dawkins, Osorio

**ABSENT:** Members Sylvester, Crute, Gill, Baranwal, Estevez, Alternate Members Leljie, Balli, and Hteit

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Charles Dodge, Assistant City Manager Aner Gonzalez, City Comptroller Jonathan Bonilla, Vice Mayor Siple; Principals Augustin, Chance and Castellano, Board Secretary Katherine Borgstrom

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**THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY ONLY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE DECEMBER 3, 2019 MEETING. DETAILED MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON APPROVAL BY THE BOARD AT THE NEXT MEETING**

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### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:03 AS A WORKSHOP**

City Manager Dodge spoke concerning the November approval by the board of the Middle School A+ Funds Distribution vote. He provided information to the board indicating that the process for the voting was not handled properly and to solve the issues that had developed, the board could discuss and act upon the new information that he was providing.

The information concerning the process was that 1) The board member was not present at all the meetings; 2) the board did not have all the information concerning the process and vote before the meeting; 3) some employees have stated they were told they could not vote.

A survey had been provided after the November advisory board meeting to the middle school employees concerning the process and vote and the results were shared with the board members.

Mr. Dodge stated that Vice Chair McGovern had provided information concerning the state regulations and the county standards that showed the flaws in the process. She spoke with many staff members (instructional and non-instructional) and also noted these problems: 1) three days notice should be given for meetings and voting; 2) the questionnaire and the ballot should have option of "None of the above"; and 3) board member should be present at all meetings.

The board members discussed.

At 6:32 PM the Chair adjourned the workshop,

At 6:33 PM and called for the meeting to begin. Secretary took roll and declared a quorum.

**PRESENT:** Chair Martinez, Vice Chair McGovern, Members Crute, Baranwal, Razza, Dawkins, Osorio; Alternate Member Hteit

**ABSENT:** Members Sylvester, Gill, Estevez, Alternate Members Leljie and Balli

The board members continued the discussion of the A+ Funds Distribution process for the middle school. A motion carried to withdraw/nullify the November 5, 2019 vote approving the results of the Middle School A+ Fund Distribution vote. A motion carried to use the time line developed by Vice Chair McGovern for a re-vote; to have Member Dawkins meet with the Central Middle School staff and Vice Chair McGovern staff on Friday, December 6, to provide explanation of the board's action and to work through a new questionnaire, which will lead to a vote on December 16 & 17 for the Middle School staff on the distribution ballot (following the time line presented).

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)**

Jonathan Bonilla spoke concerning the current fundraising efforts including the parent donation letter, the restaurant charter nights, the banner program and the upcoming spring events including the Taste of Pines, the Mayor's Golf Tournament and Light Up the Night 5K Run.

Vice Mayor Siple and Principal Castellano spoke about the Raising Positive Children seminar that took place on November 21<sup>st</sup>. They reported over 2,300 attended and that the evening was encouraging, inspirational and motivational for all. They both remarked especially on the students who had participated in the evening with music, drama, poetry, and other presentations. They both thanked all the schools staff and parents and the board members for their continued support of this program.

#### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Principal Castellano introduced the curriculum specialists for the elementary and middle schools at both campuses, Keren Surowitz-West Elementary; Marta Tapanes-West Elementary and Cynthia Adorno-Central Middle. They presented the School Improvement Plans for the Elementary and the Middle School for 2019-2020 and answered questions from the board and parents. The board approved the plans and will send to Commission for final approval and thanked the teachers for their presentation.

Mr. Chance reported that the Middle School Girls Soccer and Cross Country teams would be recognized at the City Commission on December 4 for their accomplishments in district championships. Mr. Chance answered questions about how the sports program for middle schoolers is handled with two campuses (one team is created from both campuses). The robotics club will be sending two teams to state competition and many students from the band will be going to state competition also.

#### **OPEN FORUM:**

Comments were made about the great opportunity the families have that are a part of the Pines Charter School System.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair Cruz of the Academic Village Advisory Board was in attendance and reported on their November meeting.

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**ACTION TAKEN:**

- Motion passed to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting as received.
- Motion passed to excuse absence of Member Sylvester, Gill, Leljie, Estevez and Balli for the December meeting.
- Motion passed to withdraw/nullify the November 5, 2019 vote approving the results of the Middle School A+ Fund Distribution vote
- Motion passed to use the time line developed by Vice Chair McGovern for a re-vote; to have Member Dawkins meet with the Central Middle School staff and Vice Chair McGovern staff on Friday, December 6, to provide explanation of the board's action and to work through a new questionnaire, which will lead to a vote on December 16 & 17 for the Middle School staff on the distribution ballot (following the time line presented).
- Motion passed to approve the 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan Elementary and to forward to the City Commission.
- Motion passed to approve the 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan for Middle School and to forward to the City Commission.

**PLEASE NOTE: The next Regular Meeting of the Charter Elementary Middle School Advisory Board will be Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at the Charter School, East Campus, 10801 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida.**