



**School Advisory Committee**

Kavita Deshpande  
Marina Kessler- Lumer  
Erika Koopman  
Gina Preciado

**City Manager**

Ron Wasson

**Principal**

Anthony Tyrkala



**Administrative & Educational Services**

Charter Schools USA

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## Minutes Aventura City of Excellence School School Advisory Committee April 13, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**The meeting was called to order at 7:47am. Present virtually were Erika Koopman, Marina Kessler Lumer, and Kavita Deshpande. Also present was City Manager, Ron Wasson, Assistance Manager, Brian Raducci and Principal Anthony Tyrkala. The following EESAC staff members included teachers that also attended: Ms. Phinn, Ms. Fernandez, Ms. Melhuish, Ms. Alvarez-Harris, Stephanie Concepcion and Ms. Griffin.

### **2. EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

- Reviewed 2021-22 proposed budget, highlighting that uncertainty from COVID-19 led to the development of a conservative budget consistent with the needs of previous years with plans to supplement resources using Federal grants and amending should the need arise.

**3. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** a review of budget served as City Manager's Report

**4. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** see attached

**5. NEW BUSINESS (Open forum for parent's discussion):** Ms. Deshpande inquired about 8th graders taking online courses over the summer. Mr. Tyrkala directed her to contact the articulating high school for this option. Ms. Deshpande also inquired about the mail in elections. This is required every 5 years according to their city's charter. Hopefully, the recommendation of a 6 year vote instead of 5 year will be accepted and then it will be on the same cycle as the national election. Ms. Kessler asked about the Aventura Young Leader's Group and learned that it is a group of junior and seniors in high school that are part of the youth advisory board and they have been given a mission to present to Trader's Joe to open a store in Aventura. Ms. Kessler inquired about new COVID-19 cases and the school reported that a while had passed without new cases. Currently, the Department of Health contacts the school when new cases are confirmed. At this time, some students are being quarantined as a precaution due to a party over the weekend. Mr. Tyrkala stated that the virus is not spreading on campus when masks and social distancing take place. It appears that spreading of the virus is taking place at private and personal events that are maskless and indoors. We are interested in gaining more clarity on the spread of the virus as it relates to the vaccinations. Ms. Kessler asked about the 8th grade field trip. Mr. Tyrkala said that it's guaranteed to happen and that the school will help coordinate the event but parents are responsible for driving their children to Orlando. It will most likely take place the Friday before school ends or even early summer. They will also have an 8th grade party which will be Tuesday or Wednesday of the last week of school. We are waiting to hear from the local high school about their graduation dates. ACES graduations will take place and we are currently

researching options for the 8th graders location. Ms. Koopman commended the school for their commitment and great job during the pandemic. Mr. Tyrkala stated that staff are energized after the TAW week and spring break.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:23am and is the final meeting for the year.

This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 305-466-8901, not later than two days prior to such proceeding. Agenda items may be viewed at the Office of the City Manager, City of Aventura Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive, Aventura, Florida, 33180. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of any agenda item should contact the City Clerk at 305-466-8901.

# Administration Report

## EESAC

April 13, 2020

We are in the second week of quarter 4 and we begin state testing tomorrow. At present we have 82% of students on-campus and 18% mobile, and we are providing flexible spacing for mobile students including using cafeterias and the community recreation center.

- **2021 Focus**

- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Student Innovation and Exploration
- Reflective Practices

We continue to prioritize these four areas through ongoing collaboration, professional development, and investing time during the school day teaching emotional regulation and positive behaviors.

### **2021-22 Planning**

- The Governing Board will evaluate the proposed 2021-2022 calendar this week and will vote on it in May. The proposal is to remain consistent with MDCPS with the exception of extending Thanksgiving break for the entire week and extending school to the end of the week of Friday, June 10

### **FLDOE Emergency Order**

- Removed the **high-stakes elements** of testing, but not testing itself. It also did not remove the expectation that students are able to demonstrate grade-level mastery prior to being promoted to the next grade. Alternate means are able to be used for this determination when necessary, which is especially relevant in 3rd grade.
- All tests are still required, though the use of the data for accountability purposes is more limited

## **CSUSA Spring Survey**

- All families received the spring survey. This is part of our commitment to continuous improvement. Please encourage other families to complete it.

## **Accreditation**

- ACES has been awarded accreditation through Cognia, which is one of the premier accreditation organizations. Cognia is committed to supporting our continuous improvement efforts and their accreditation affirms our commitment to excellence.

## **Moving Up Ceremonies**

- 8th Grade families were encouraged to complete a survey indicating their hopes and comfort levels for the moving up ceremony. Over 85 families completed the survey. Overwhelmingly the desire is for an in-person indoor event, and coordination has started to strive to make this happen safely. We have a committee of 5 families that are supporting and Ms. Farrah has been asked to lead this from the staff perspective. Once 8th grade details are finalized Kindergarten and 5th grade will be planned, though there will certainly be celebrations for each.

## **TAW Thank You**

- Our Teacher appreciation week committee went above and beyond, as usual, to show appreciation to our staff during the week before Spring Break. Staff were treated to breakfast and lunch and provided gifts throughout the week. The efforts of our families never leave a doubt about how much the commitment of our amazing staff is valued!

## **Read-a-Thon**

- We recently completed a school-wide Read-A-Thon. Through this Fundraiser and challenge, ACES raised over \$14,000 and read 32,827 minutes as a school. This was a new fundraiser for us, but it is one we really enjoyed as a school community and hope to build on next year.