

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

Education Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, August 07, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Westlake City Hall
4001 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd.
Westlake, Florida 33470

Live Broadcasting:
<https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com>
Meeting ID: 2865 162 6275 | Password:hello
Or
United States Toll: 1-650-479-3208

Board Members:

Dr. Anita Kaplan, Chair
Lisa Barron, Vice Chair
Colleen Forlizzi, Board Member
Krystal Lexima, Board Member
Jennifer Christian-Upia, Board Member
Dr. Christopher A. Tompkins Sr, Alternate Board Member

City Staff:

Greg Langowski, Councilmember Liaison
Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, City Clerk
Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

A meeting of the Education Advisory Board of the City of Westlake was held on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM., at Westlake City Hall, 4001 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road. Members of the public also live streamed the meeting through electronic means and accessed as follows:

1. Webex Meeting: <https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com/>

Meeting ID: 2865 162 6275

Password: hello

2. By Phone:

United States Toll: +1-650-479-3208

Meeting ID: 2865 162 6275

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Anita Kaplan called the Westlake Education Advisory Board meeting of Thursday, August 7, 2025, to order at 6:04 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

Alternate Board Member Dr. Christopher A. Tompkins Sr.
Board Member Lexima
Vice Chair Barron
Chair Dr. Kaplan

Also present:

Zoie Burgess, CMC, City Clerk
Greg Langowski, Vice Mayor
Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

Absent:

Board Member Colleen Forlizzi
Board Member Christian-Upia joined meeting at 6:09 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Kaplan led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Chair Kaplan called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Vice Char Barron to approve the agenda for August 7, 2025, seconded by Alternate Board Member Tompkins.

UPON ROLL CALL:

Board Member Lexima	YES
Alternate Board Member Tompkins	YES
Board Chair Kaplan	YES
Board Member Tompkins	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (4-0).

OATH OF OFFICE

A. Oath of Office

Lisa Barron

Krystal Lexima

Oath presented prior to meeting to meet quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes_Education Advisory Board Meeting - 06.12.2025 - DRAFT

Board Chair Kaplan identified the approval of minutes and called for a motion to approve.

Motion by Board Member Lexima to approve the minutes of June 12, 2025, seconded by Alternate Member Tompkins.

UPON ROLL CALL:

Board Member Lexima	YES
Alternate Board Member Tompkins	YES
Vice Chair Barron	YES
Chair Kaplan	YES
Board Member Christian-Upia	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Reconfirmation of EAB Assigned Restaurants for School Donations Related to School Needs

- Baron -Taco Bell / Gator Shack
- Lexima - 3 Natives / Starbucks
- Forlizzi - Chipotle / Habit Burger
- Christian - Upia / Marco-Pizza / KFC

Chair Kaplan reviewed the restaurant assignments, noting a few updates and changes. The board confirmed the current restaurant assignments for board members.

B. Approval to Move Forward with Donation Requests from Restaurants

The board discussed the status of restaurant outreach efforts, further discussed the donation letter that had been previously approved by the City Council, which explains the fundraising initiative to provide schools with donations. They agreed to personalize the letters for each business and have board members deliver them in person to their assigned restaurants.

The board discussed potential uses for the funds raised, with a particular focus on supporting Seminole Ridge High School. Board Member Lexima offered to set up a meeting with the high school principal to discuss specific needs.

Board members agreed to visit their assigned restaurants before the next meeting in September and report back on the interest level from each establishment. They also discussed strategies for spacing out the fundraising events, possibly doing one restaurant per month, to maintain community interest and maximize participation.

C. Zoning Letter to School District

This item was addressed during the presentation by school district representatives. The board discussed ongoing concerns about school zoning, particularly regarding students from Westlake being bused to Osceola Creek Middle School rather than attending nearby Western Pines Middle School.

D. Review of Assigned Schools to Board Members

This item was briefly discussed as part of other agenda items, but no formal review occurred.

E. Trade Show Development Strategies

This item was not discussed during the meeting and was tabled for the next meeting.

F. EAB member to New Elementary School

Chair Kaplan asked about the process for having an EAB member serve on the committee for the new elementary school. School Board Member Marcia Andrews explained that there wasn't a committee yet, as the principal hasn't been named for the new school. She indicated that once planning begins, there would be opportunities for community involvement.

The district representatives provided information about the timeline for the new elementary school, stating it is scheduled to open in August 2027, with boundary planning expected to begin in fall 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Strategies to Involve Parents in Supporting School Rezoning

The board had an extensive discussion with School Board Member Marcia Andrews and district representative Patrick Sipple about school zoning, boundaries, and community involvement.

Ms. Andrews provided an update on Palm Beach County School District achievements.

Ms. Andrews and Mr. Sipple provided detailed information about the boundary process for the planned new elementary school in Westlake, which is scheduled to open in August 2027. They explained that boundary planning would begin in the fall of 2026, and this would be an opportunity to address existing concerns about middle school boundaries as well.

The board discussed the current issue of Westlake students being zoned. Mr. Sipple noted that any boundary changes would require a comprehensive approach considering multiple schools in the area.

The representatives suggested the board begin engaging with the district boundary committee in summer 2026, and specifically recommended the boundary committee representative for the area.

Board members expressed interest in touring the newly opened Elementary School, as it shares a similar design to the planned Westlake elementary school. Ms. Andrews offered to arrange a tour for the board.

The board discussed strategies for parent involvement, including:

1. Collecting data on how many students aren't attending their zoned schools.

2. Hosting informational meetings with district representatives.
3. Creating a timeline of important milestones in the planning process.
4. Utilizing social media and community outreach to keep parents informed.

The board decided to invite district representatives to a special meeting in October to continue discussions about school planning and zoning.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES

No additional comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section of the agenda allows for comments from the public to address the Board. Each speaker will be given a total of three (3) minutes to comment. Please address Board from podium, and prior to addressing the Board, state your name and address for the record.

Board Chair Kaplan called for public comments.

Public Comment - Alicia Torres - 5447 Whippoorwill Circle – Ms. Torres introduced herself as a writer for the local Westlake Wanderer blog. She inquired about community involvement in the school planning process and how parents could effectively participate in shaping the new school.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM.



Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

Anita Kaplan, Board Chair