CITY OF WESTLAKE

MINUTES

Education Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Westlake City Hall, located at 4001
Seminole Pratt Whitney Road, Westlake,
Florida, 33470

Board Members:

Dr. Anita Kaplan, Chair
Krystal Lexima, Vice Chair
Jennifer Christian-Upia, Board Member
Chad Lovitt, Board Member

City Staff:

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Chad Lovitt Congratulations / Regular EAB Member / Need for new Alternate Member

The Board congratulated Alternate Board Member Chad Lovitt on his swearing-in as a regular EAB member. It was noted that his elevation to regular member status creates a vacancy for an alternate member.

The Board discussed how best to recruit a replacement, with the consensus that personal recommendations from existing members tend to be more effective than general outreach or marketing efforts.

Members were encouraged to identify candidates for the next meeting. The staff liaison clarified that candidates must be Westlake residents and may not be employees of the school district, citing a conflict of interest as the rationale for that restriction. One member indicated she had already been contacted by a prospective alternate candidate.

B. EAB Attendance Policy Distributed and Reviewed

The Board sought clarification on how to apply the attendance policy given that the Board has been meeting more frequently than the quarterly minimum required by the city ordinance.

The staff liaison confirmed that while the Board is only mandated to meet quarterly, it may convene more often at its discretion. Consequently, the attendance policy as written is anchored to the quarterly meeting requirement and cannot be administratively modified without amending the ordinance.

Members acknowledged the clarification and agreed this resolved the existing confusion. Chair Kaplan reminded members to notify staff when unable to attend and noted that meetings are recorded and available for review.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Suggestions from Vice Chair Baron-Regarding H.S. Teacher: Appreciation/ Dual Enrollment Students / Donations from Restaurants and Businesses etc.

B. Chair Kaplan in person meeting with SPW High School Principal Hatcher regarding: *Future Roger Dean Chevrolet Event / Al Packer *Dual Enrollment H.S. Student Graduates at potential June Council Meeting to honor students *Teacher Appreciation Award Selected by Principal Thatcher annually to be honored at June Council meeting.

Chair Kaplan reported on an in-person meeting she had held with Seminole Ridge High School Principal. She noted that the principal appeared to have limited prior awareness of the Board's outreach and past donations to the school and emphasized the value of face-to-face engagement.

Principal Hatcher raised a potential conflict with the proposed Roger Dean Chevrolet community event, as the school holds a ten-year sponsorship contract with Al Packer, of which approximately three to four years remain. The Board discussed alternatives, including whether a similar event could be organized through the middle school instead, or whether it might be better timed to coincide with the opening of the new Westlake elementary school. The Board agreed to table the Roger Dean Chevrolet concept for the high school and revisit the idea as a potential community kickoff event tied to the new elementary school's opening, where it could serve as a broader community celebration.

Principal Hatcher expressed strong support for recognizing dual enrollment graduates, approximately 35 or more students expected to complete both a high school diploma and an associate's degree this year. He indicated he would have finalized names available by the second week of May. The Board agreed to coordinate group

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES

Discussion about the new Westlake elementary school's enrollment boundaries. The Board also considered having a table at the July 4th event. Members discussed potential giveaways and agreed to check the legality of using a community directory for outreach.

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.

Public Comment - Alicia Torres - 5447 Whippoorwill Circle – Ms. Torres discussed fundraising ideas, including community events such as a soapbox derby-style race or themed family activities, as potential vehicles for raising funds in support of school programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

Anita Kaplan, Chair