

# CITY OF WESTLAKE



## MINUTES

### **Education Advisory Board Meeting**

Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM

The Lodge at Westlake Adventure Park  
5490 Kingfisher Blvd. Westlake, Florida  
33470

Live Broadcasting:

<https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com>

Meeting ID: 2862 859 4425 | 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, September 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM., at The Lodge at Westlake Adventure Park, 5490 Kingfisher Blvd. Westlake, Florida 33470. 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: 2862 859 4425

Password: hello

2. By Phone:

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

Meeting ID: 2862 859 4425

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Anita Kaplan called the Westlake Education Advisory Board meeting of Thursday, September 11, 2025, to order at 6:45 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present and constituting a quorum:

Board Member Christian-Upia  
Alternate Board Member Dr. Christopher A. Tompkins Sr.  
Board Member Lexima  
Chair Dr. Kaplan

Also present:

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

Absent:

Board Member Colleen Forlizzi  
Vice Chair Barron

### **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 board member Lexima to approve the agenda of September 11, 2025, seconded by alternate board member Tompkins.

**UPON ROLL CALL:**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Board Member Christian-Upia     | YES |
| Board Member Lexima             | YES |
| Alternate Board Member Tompkins | YES |
| Chair Kaplan                    | YES |

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes\_Education Advisory Board Meeting - 08.07.2025 – 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 August 7, 2025, seconded by alternate board member Tompkins.

**UPON ROLL CALL:**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Board Member Lexima             | YES |
| Alternate Board Member Tompkins | YES |
| Chair Kaplan                    | YES |
| Board Member Christian-Upia     | YES |

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No items were discussed under unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Restaurant Feedback - RE: Participants - Dates, Times and Funding Amounts.

Chair Kaplan explained that this meeting was called primarily so board members could share what they learned from visiting area restaurants about potential fundraising events.

Board Member Lexima reported on her visits to Starbucks and Carmela Coffee. She was unable to speak with anyone at Starbucks yet. At Carmela Coffee, she spoke with the manager who was receptive to the idea and provided the owner's contact information. The manager mentioned that the grand opening for their Westlake location is scheduled for November.

Board Member Christian-Upia reported on her visits to KFC and Marco's Pizza. KFC was receptive, and she learned they have a website for these types of fundraising events. The manager at KFC will reach out to the franchise owner. At Marco's Pizza, she spoke with a partner who said he would discuss it with the other partner. Both establishments seemed open to the idea but wanted to determine specific dates.

Chair Kaplan reported that she had visited Jabrowski's with Vice Mayor Langowski before the last meeting, and they were very receptive and are just waiting for a date. She also visited Lewis Prime, which was also receptive. She noted Lewis Prime is more expensive compared to other restaurants and suggested possibly discussing menu alterations with them for the fundraising event.

The board discussed timing for these events, agreeing that:

- Wednesday or Thursday evenings would be best
- Events should be scheduled around 5:30-8:30 PM to accommodate work schedules
- They should organize one event in October and one in November
- November events should not be too close to Thanksgiving

The board decided to schedule Jabrewski's in October and Lewis Prime in November. Chair Kaplan will work on confirming dates with both restaurants.

Regarding marketing, the board discussed distribution of flyers. Chair Kaplan mentioned she had spoken with Robynn Johnson, the lifestyle director, about possibly placing flyers in the Adventure Park. Staff clarified that while paper flyers were approved by City Council, any electronic distribution or posting at the lodge would require additional council approval.

A board member suggested distributing flyers through schools. Staff advised that board members should approach school principals directly to determine the best way to do this.

#### B. Potential Comcast Funding for Westlake Schools

Chair Kaplan shared that she had read an article about Comcast making a significant presence in the area. She noted that Comcast has a foundation and suggested exploring potential collaboration with them to support school needs, particularly for the high school scoreboard. Chair Kaplan mentioned she knows the regional outreach person for Comcast and thought this could be an opportunity for sponsorship.

Board members expressed support for exploring this option, noting that schools would likely welcome such sponsorship opportunities. Chair Kaplan indicated they would need council approval to pursue this further.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES**

Board members discussed scheduling a special meeting with the Palm Beach County School Board and related officials to discuss the new elementary school planned for Westlake. The main topics of interest identified were:

1. Zoning
2. Traffic
3. Curriculum and programs

Staff informed the board that they would reach out to Ms. Andrews office to identify appropriate representatives to address these concerns. Board members emphasized the importance of scheduling this meeting soon, as the elementary school is set to break ground in March.

The board also discussed the need to improve the agenda creation process for future meetings, with suggestions to use the board member comments section at the end of meetings to identify items for the next agenda.

Chair Kaplan mentioned attendance requirements for board members.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comment – Darline Winewski – 5948 Button Bush Dr – Ms. Winewski a Principal of Acreage Pines Elementary and resident provided suggestions for the board's restaurant fundraising efforts:

- Don't limit locations to just Westlake, as people will travel

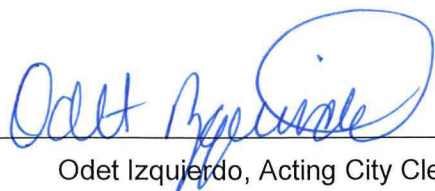
- Texas Roadhouse has an excellent established program
- Consider food trucks, which often give percentage back
- Chick-fil-A does fundraisers and is already in the area on Mondays
- Small establishments like ice cream shops can be effective options
- Social media is the best way to promote events rather than flyers
- Regarding the scoreboard, she cautioned that naming rights involves a complex process through the county
- For the new elementary school, she suggested considering VPK, special needs classes, and choice programs
- For traffic concerns, she mentioned PBSO is working on outreach with schools

Public Comment – Jennifer Bermuda – 16061 Whippoorwill Circle - Ms. Bermuda, ESC Coordinator at Acreage Pines Elementary and resident, suggested considering the Ron Clark Academy House system for the new school. She described its benefits including community building, positive school culture, motivation, engagement, character development, equity, and inclusion. She noted 27 schools in the district use this program and suggested inviting Kristen Rullison to discuss it at a future meeting.

Public Comment - Alicia Torres - 5447 Whippoorwill Circle – Ms. Torres asked about the board's absence policy, suggested pursuing the Roger Dean Stadium opportunity as baseball season ends, and expressed concerns about meeting efficiency. She encouraged the board to move forward with restaurant events rather than waiting for everything to be perfect.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.



Odet Izquierdo, Acting City Clerk



Anita Kaplan, Board Chair