



## MINUTES

### CITY OF DORAL

## SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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**Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 6:30 pm**

8401 N.W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Terrace

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room

Doral, FL 33166

1. Call to Order chairman adjured and seconded by Luz Rosenfeld
2. Roll Call of Members

Meeting was called to order @ 6:30 p.m.

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Carolina Cano        | Absent                    |
| Jorge Van Balen      | Present                   |
| Luz Marina Rosenfeld | Absent                    |
| Yolyed Yrausquin     | <del>Absent</del> Present |
| Michael Festa        | Present                   |
| Galina Vitols        | Absent                    |

**Also present were:**

Michael Festa, Staff Liaison, Erin Weislow, Staff Liaison

Public present:

Mrs. Vivian Nunez & Mr. Matthew Volker from Miami Dade County Public School, Division of Special Education.

Residents: Matilde hidalgo, Narcisa Martillo, Yolanda T. de Serrano, Vinita Tandon, Lourdes L. Rocca, Rosa Sanabria, Erika Marcano, Aida Salman.

There were only two board members present. Therefore there was no quorum. Discussion of agenda was postponed to next meeting. Public views, and Staff Liaison recap for the Special Needs Summer Camp were heard instead. They were as follows:

## Public Comments:

1) Parents and representatives of children that attended the 1st Special Needs Summer Camp, sponsored by the City of Doral, expressed their views.

Most parents thought it was a resounding success. Their children had significant progress in the intellectual area (acquired more vocabulary, obtained greater fluency, learned to structure longer sentences, the system of cards with figures applied improved their mode of communication and socialization), and physical area (It helped them in their body and stability balance). A few advises were also presented to improve the relationship between coaches/volunteers and campers. Parents and representatives requested to increase the duration of next year.

2) Mrs. Vivian Nunez and Mr. Matthew Volker from the Miami Dade Public County Schools, Division of Special Education, brought up the idea of working together with the City of Doral on an Employment Internship Program for student in Doral high schools SPED Program.

Mrs. Nunez presented to the audience the Victory Project (Community Vocational Instruction and Training Opportunities for Youth), which takes place in the Ronald Reagan / Doral High School for students between 16 and 21 years. The aforementioned project will train students to perform in jobs commensurate with their skills, talents and knowledge; to enable them to develop as productive people in society, and integrate them into the workplace.

Parents expressed interest in that as soon as possible to develop this project in our community. In other cities Dade County this program is working and getting very positive results for students, families and the companies involved.

3) ESE Programs in Doral schools: Parents and guardians expressed concern about *another* situation that occurs in Doral Schools in relation to the "Special Class" in ESE Program.

The board shared with the audience that it is working to improve this situation. According to the IEP (Individualized Education Program), there are five Education Placement Considerations where students are placed according to their disability, which are:

- 1) General Education Inclusion.
- 2) Resource Room.
- 3) Special Class.
- 4) Special Day School
- 5) Hospital Homebound.

While it is true that ESE Program is implemented at Doral public schools, it seems like only the Education Placement Considerations # 1 and # 2 are applied to a small population of students and residents of Doral.

The Education Placement Considerations # 3 "Special Class", is currently not available in school at Doral and at any level of education, namely: Elementary, Middle School and High School.

It is known that there is a population of Doral resident students that must travel daily by bus to other public or private schools outside our city, for example: Hialeah, Miami Spring, Miami Lakes, Miami Garden, North Miami Beach and Kendall.

The total number of residents attending the different ESE placement levels is not known. The Board already approved a motion to do a census in the city to get exact information Doral resident students enrolled in the Public and Private Educational System that they should have their homeschool in the city. At the same time, it will be very helpful to get this information directly from the Miami Dade County Public Schools.

The Census could have detailed information on how many children with disabilities have at Doral who move to other schools outside of our city every day, what kind of school attended (public or private, student condition, age, etc. The goal is to bring all this detailed information and present it to the Board of Education of the Miami Dade Public Schools and make our Doral Schools implemented the Special Class in educational levels Elementary, Middle and High School.

4) Parks & Recreation Department Staff Report on Special Needs Advisory Board. First Summer Camp for Special Needs residents.

Registration for the Special Needs Summer Camp opened on Monday, June 15 at 9:00am at Morgan Levy Park. The camp was advertised to the City's special needs database on Monday June 8 via e-mail. The blast was successfully delivered to 83 unique e-mail accounts of past participants in our special needs programming. The e-mail was opened by 49 of the 83 participants (59%). Additional advertising was done on the City of Doral's website and in the Summer edition of the Parks and Recreation Program & Events Guide. I personally communicated the information to approximately 30 Special Olympics Team parents at our annual Summer Potluck & Social at Morgan Levy Park.

On Monday, June 15 a total of nine (9) participants registered within the first hour of the registration period. A tenth, and final registration, was completed later that afternoon to put the camp at capacity. All registrants had to provide proof of residence in the City of Doral. This could have been in the form of a driver's license, electric bill, etc.

To my knowledge, one additional person inquired about signing their child up for the camp following this. I spoke to Behavior Links (the camp provider) to inquire if they would be able to accommodate one more participant, but I was told Power Tumble Gymnastics would charge the provider more to make the accommodation. This person was placed on the waiting list in the event a camper dropped out.

On the first day of camp, the participants arrived early to Power Tumble Gymnastics, received a warm welcome and their new shirts provided by the City. Throughout the camp's duration, I spoke to the parents and campers that participate in our Doral Special Olympics Team practice to ask them how everything was going to the camp. I received highly positive reviews on the location and the camp provider.

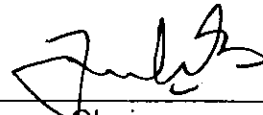
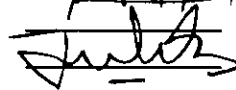
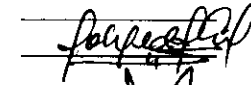
Surveys were distributed towards the end of camp, with all six (6) that were returned coming back as 'Satisfied' or better.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jorge van Balen

Patricia Kayser  
Carolina Cano  
Luz Marina Rosenfeld  
Galina Vitols  
Yolyed Yrausquin  
Michael Festa  
Jorge Van Balen



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Vice-Chairperson