

1 **EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

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3 The regularly scheduled Meeting of the Educational Commission was held on Tuesday, March
4 6th, 2018.

5
6 **INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:**

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8 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

9
10 **Members Present:**

11 Kjuana Marshall, Don Ransford, Kelvin Oliver, Trustee Liaison, Cheryl Rutherford (Via
12 Telephone), Dr. Delores Woods, and Dr. Doris Langon.

13
14 **Guests:**

15 None.

16
17 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

18
19 There were no members of the public present for Public Comment.

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21 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION MEETING –**
22 **JANUARY 9th, 2018 AND FEBRUARY 6th, 2018:**

23
24 **Motion by Commissioner Ransford, second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Minutes**
25 **from January 9th, 2018, as Presented.**

26 **Voice Vote: (All Ayes) Motion Carried.**

27
28 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Commissioner Ransford to Approve the Minutes**
29 **from February 6th, 2018, as Presented.**

30 **Voice Vote: (All Ayes) Motion Carried.**

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32 **MINI GRANT – REVIEW PROCESS:**

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34 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that everyone received a Packet. We asked that you review
35 them based on the Rubric and score each Proposal. Our charge is to identify outstanding
36 Proposals that are worthy of Olympia Fields Funds to fund their unique aggressive ideas for
37 students. We have \$10,000.00 to spend. We are not under any obligation to spend the full
38 \$10,000.00. Our word is not the final word. We are making a recommendation to the Board who
39 can accept it, reject all of it, or accept part of it.

40
41 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey inquired which Mini Grant Applications the Commissioners would
42 feel comfortable approving based upon their review of the information. He is going to list them
43 and we will look for commonality first.

44
45 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that of the eight Commissioners involved, six of the
46 Commissioners recommended Mary Gray and Jessica Chin. Five of the Commissioners
47 recommended Angela Foushi. Amanda Godin came up four times. Allan Zayer came up one

1 time. Paula Jennings came up one time. Vai came up one time. Jean McBride came up one time.
2 Michaels came up twice, and Rada came up one time.

3
4 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that the submissions were not very impressive overall. He
5 stated that Chin and Gray hit the things that we have been talking about. They were dealing with
6 careers and with STEM. Their submissions were good. He had Foushi in third. Commissioner
7 Ransford stated that he didn't see anything that pushed the bar.

8 **Motion by Commissioner Ransford, second by Commissioner Langon to accept the**
9 **recommendation of Mary Gray, Jessica Chin, and Angela Foushi to receive the Mini Grant**
10 **Awards.**

11 **Voice Vote:** (All Ayes) **Motion Carried.**

12
13 The Commissioners discussed having a Book Drive. Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that there
14 are a lot of things as a community we could do, and that "we" as the Educational Commission
15 can broaden the impact and it doesn't cost a dime.

16
17 **MISSION STATEMENT DISCUSSION:**

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19 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey provided a draft of what we have been working on for the past few
20 months of how we see the future of the Educational Commission. He will submit it to the
21 President and the Board of Trustees. He would like us to be done with this in March so we can
22 present it to the Board in April. There will still be time for us to sit down with the
23 Superintendents before the school year is over and talk with them about this. That would be the
24 goal. We would introduce our work in the following manner: "In an effort to ensure that the
25 future efforts of the Olympia Fields Educational Commission continue to be both purposeful and
26 relevant to the constituents we serve, the Educational Commission Commissioners has conducted
27 a "self-examination" of the Ordinance that created the Commission and the past activities. The
28 goal of this examination was to identify what the current and future residents of Olympia Fields
29 will expect of the Educational Commission and how our advocacy can best be delivered." He
30 stated that in the past we were not addressing a need of the citizens, we were doing something
31 that we thought was the right thing to do.

32
33 "This report encapsulates the results from the Educational Commission's "self-examination" and
34 captured within is a new, clearly defined mission statement of the Olympia Fields Educational
35 Commission. This new mission statement reflects the opinion that the future efforts of the
36 Educational Commission should be rooted in researching, communicating and inspiring "best
37 practices" within the public-school districts that serve the community, while providing the
38 students of the Village with access to resources and support at a level that will produce students
39 who excel at the highest level. This report will include the very specific objectives and strategies
40 that will support the new mission of the Olympia Fields Educational Commission." We talked
41 about the twofold Mission: "To advocate the interests of the citizens of Olympia Fields as they
42 pertain to education, and to assist the students of Olympia Fields in reaching their optimal level
43 of education and career building pursuits." We are going to deal with the School Districts and
44 how we can help the whole community. There has to be a value added for our citizens to like
45 what we are doing where it touches them in a more intimate or direct fashion and their children.
46 If we are going to market to people who are going to move to this community, and they see the
47 scores, they have to think that in this community we are not reflective of the scores.

1 Commissioner Ransford stated that we have a school that has three National Awards. We are
2 successful at the Kindergarten level. The foundation of education should be the lower grades.
3
4 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that we have to market ourselves to these future, young,
5 homeowners. If they know that their kids will be in a rich educational environment at home that
6 is something to sell.
7
8 Commissioner Langon stated that the other thing to sell is that it is rare that a Municipality gets
9 an opportunity to have a medical facility that is expanding. The top 10 jobs are health related. If
10 we had a model that demonstrated the extent to which there was a real partnership with the
11 hospital and our key schools, preschool level that is something people would take a look at.
12 Commissioner Langon and Commissioner Rutherford pushed the Economic Development
13 Commission to work with them and to work with the hospital.
14
15 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that the hospital could be the source of the funds that we put
16 this program on with. We can start with the younger kids. We have to do something to make this
17 community unique and have it recognized for education in some form or fashion.
18
19 Commissioner Langon stated they could have a Health Fair to boost awareness. We have a senior
20 population. We could be a community that puts health first and provide a range of education,
21 apprentices, and a partnership with the hospital.
22
23 Commissioner Ransford stated that when they have Career Day at the school, they bring in the
24 doctor and the dentist and they talk to the kids. They had a banker and a veterinarian.
25
26 Commissioner Langon stated we could have a Book Drive. Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated
27 that we have to sell Olympia Fields focus and desire to be educational and career-oriented with
28 the career having an asterisk on health careers.
29
30 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that after the Mission Statement these are the objectives that
31 support the Mission Statement. “Develop and sustain academic and career resources.” We want
32 to make available on the Village Website, and on our page of the Village Website, resources for
33 any parent to go to. He stated anything that is academic and career we want it on the site so
34 people can find it. “Collect data on current student Pre-K college population.” This will define
35 our kids in the school. We don’t know how many there are or where they are. “Develop and
36 sustain an Olympia Fields Community/Business/Higher Education resources network.” That is
37 going back to talking about careers. We have the St. James footprint and things of that nature.
38 We have to make sure every part of the Village connects to the business community and higher
39 education within the community. “Develop and foster relationships at District and school levels
40 to foster a connection and information sharing.” This is where we stop doing it for them and
41 inspire them and encourage them to do it themselves. We meet with Superintendents and share
42 information.
43
44 From this point on we have to complete the things that we are going to do. They are next steps.
45 How do we make these things happen? That is what we will do between now and the next
46 meeting, and at the next meeting. “Collect and post-performance data, both District wide and
47 State wide, and Olympia Fields specific.” This goes back to the site Trustee Oliver found for us

1 at the site in Texas. We have to talk about education in our community and you have to give
2 people a way to measure how we are doing. We are going to try to narrow it down to how our
3 students are doing no matter where they are. That's the goal. Next are the objectives and the
4 measurements that we worked through that are ways to meet the objective. We just need a step
5 by step way of how we will do those things. We will share the mission, the objectives, and some
6 of the things we envision doing with the Board.

7
8 Commissioner Langon stated that the library should have more programs for Pre-K kids.
9 Chairman Pro Tem Veazey stated that he will schedule a meeting to finish this off. You have the
10 draft. Review it and if there are any changes we will discuss it. The objectives are supported by
11 measurable acts. We have to develop how does that happen. The Pre-K item is critical to the
12 Educational System. Where do the Pre-K kids get services in the Village? We need to develop
13 something to bring these families in. There are kids in Kindergarten and they don't know how to
14 read.

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16 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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18 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Commissioner Langon to adjourn at 7:40 P.M.**

19 **Voice Vote: (All Ayes) Motion Carried.**

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21 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

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