

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING, S.T.A.R.S MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**May 17, 2023**

The S.T.A.R.S. Management Advisory Board of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Board Members present were, Michael Morris, Dr. Shadreka McIntosh, Ross Webb, Shanell Harleston and Ron Inge. Advisory Board Members; Amber Ware and Jazzmen Williams. Board Liaisons Absent: Chauncy Solinger, and Neale Montgomery.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 04:15 P.M. by Shanell Harleston.

(04:15) Roll call was performed.

**NO. 1 MINUTES:** (04:15) Ross Webb moved and seconded by Ron Inge to approve the minutes of the April 19,2023 meeting. The motion carried.

**NO. 2 Public Input:** (04:16) No public input.

**NO. 3 Monthly Report** (04:16) Amber Ware the Center Manager, stated that other than our Easter Festival for Easter and a few other minor things, we are wrapping up the last quarter of school, and all of our efforts are being used to get ready for summer camp. Mrs. Ware stated that the grade report is broken down by grades. Mrs. Ware stated that going into second semester there was a decline in the grades for all of the students, but ending the third quarter there was a slight increase in all of the elementary school grades, but with middle school the trend is still slightly down. Mrs. Ware stated that we are down to one tutor at the moment, and also down staff, we have hired two new counselors, but we are losing three counselors next week, they are obtaining full time employment. Mrs. Ware stated that the City of Fort Myers has approved a new wage increase across the board, which will hopefully help with the hiring process and make us more competitive and get quality hires. Mrs. Ware stated that 3-5 of the counselors that we may be losing, three of them were hired on as Step it up to Work students, and all three of them have obtained full time employment, two of them with the City of Fort Myers, they have graduated from Fort Myers Technical College (FMTC) and they are both going to work with the Utilities department, and one is going to work as a Carpenter with Lee County. Mrs. Ware stated that the other two students are going off to college, one will be attending Bethune Cookman University and the other one will be attending Saint Thomas University.

**NO. 4. Preliminary Budget 2024** (04:34) Mrs. Ware stated that in the budget memo she has captured the importance of STARS and the things that we have accomplished over the year and the things that we need. Mrs. Ware stated that she will always mention that we need those two positions, it is easy to get part time and contractual positions but it is very hard to get full time positions. Mrs. Ware stated that on the budget detail sheet, the City manager has requested that instead of everything being captured into one big account for the CASP funds, he would like for everything to be itemized to where it should be, so everything that was funded with that money now has an asterisk were it should go. Mrs. Ware stated that we need to be prepared for the expansion to come, it has to come, the building is falling apart, the City needs to be prepared, we have already expanded out to Billy Bowlegs, and now we are being asked to have an afterschool program out at the Skatium, because the need is there. Mrs. Ware stated that she has sat down with Elgin, and discussed the organizational chart, and compared, it with other departments. Mrs. Ware stated that Lee County has already implemented the proximity plan, and at this time we do not know how everything is going to play out, we are suppose to have a new bus coming that may help out but still we do not know how everything will play out, and we are waiting to hear back from the District, because of what we heard the first time which would not work, only four schools

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING, S.T.A.R.S MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**May 17, 2023**

would be able to be bussed to STARS, and we currently have twelve schools, which is not going to work, due to the Proximity. Ron Inge wanted to know what is the total amount of CASP funds that we would receive. Mrs. Ware stated that the total amount of CASP funds that we would receive is \$274,500.

**NO. 5. Update of STARS expansion** (04:53) Ron Inge motioned to move this item to the June meeting seconded by Ross Webb. The motion carried. Mrs. Ware stated that our State Representative Jenna Persons announced at Mondays council meeting that the Billy Bowlegs Community Center, STARS East, has been awarded 1.5 million in the budget which will provide classroom space at Billy Bowlegs instead of the four portables that we are currently in, which are in desperate repair. Mrs. Ware stated that we are very excited about that, we have kept our numbers there small, because we have not been able to accommodate more, and there are three schools that are in close proximity but we are unable to accommodate the numbers. Mrs. Ware stated that the plan is going to be similar to what Franklin Park is doing, once the expansion starts, we will have to have a place to put the kids, but we are glad that it is coming, it will be an 8,000 square foot facility with 5 classrooms and a multipurpose room, this will also alleviate \$80,000 out of our budget from the trailer rentals.

**NO. 6. Adjourn** (05:01) Ross Webb motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Michael Morris. Motion carried.