

## **MINUTES**

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

**June 15, 2021**

The S.T.A.R.S. Management Advisory Board of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Board Members present were, Ross Webb, Amanda Mingione, Shanell Harleston, Dr. Shadreka McIntosh, and Neale Montgomery. Advisory Board Members; Amber Ware and Jazzmen Williams. Board Liaisons Absent: Dr. Jesse Bryson, Wilbur Smith, and Ron Inge.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 04:02 P.M. by Neale Montgomery.

(04:03) Roll call was performed.

**NO. 1 MINUTES:** (04:03) Ross Webb moved and seconded by Michael Morris to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting. The motion carried.

**NO. 2 Public Input:** (04:03) There was no public input

**NO. 3 Monthly Report** (04:04) Amber Ware, Center Manager stated that we finished the month of May and first week of June strong, the first week of June was the last few days of school. In the month of May we had several events and activities to celebrate the end of the school year. Mrs. Ware stated that we have wrapped up our summer camp registration with the biggest enrollment that we have ever had, we have enrolled 300 students in our STARS Summer Camp that is being held at 3 locations, STARS Central, STARS East at Billy Bowlegs, and STARS West at City of Palms Park. Mrs. Ware stated that we have had so many obstacles come our way, starting with the bus breaking down, which is a big part of our transportation, the bus broke down on June 2<sup>nd</sup> right as we were getting ready for our end of the school year trip and we have had to hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party bus company to assist with transportation for this week, which has turned out to be very expensive, \$5,000 for one week of transportation. Mrs. Ware stated that we were worried that we would not meet fire code at City of Palms Park but the facilities department came right in and fixed everything and with the help of the Fire Marshall everything passed and everything was ready to go for Monday. Mrs. Ware stated that if we will continue to use City of Palms next year we will be able to increase our numbers, we are still receiving phone calls for parents that want to sign up for summer camp. Mrs. Ware stated that the Rising STARS wrapped up their month of May with a few different things, they were able to visit Mr. Webb at the Sailing Center, they also had an end of year Rising STARS ceremony for all of the participants that showed achievement in education, and community service, just for the students in the Rising STARS teen program. Mrs. Ware stated that we took on the task of hiring 22 teen works between the ages of 14-18. Mrs. Ware stated that we are having a huge issue with hiring staff, just like every other entity in the United States, this was a good way to get the next generation of workers acclimated with government and working, they are working a 32 hour week and they obtain a real paycheck, which they are very excited about, they also went through all of the same trainings that the adult staff had to go through, CPR training, water safety training, and recognizing child abuse. Mrs. Ware stated that some of the funding for this program came from the Rising STARS grant committee and we are hoping that we can keep this going for years to come because the 14-15 year old are too young to work however they feel that they are too old to be apart of a summer camp program, especially a full day program. Mrs. Ware stated that the more students that we are able to take in the better and if we are able to increase that number next year we will. Mrs. Ware stated that Basic Learning our educational Recreation Partner wrapped up their semester of Spring tutoring, they did increase their number of students utilizing the STARS central location, at STARS East they had about 20-25 students and we

## **MINUTES**

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

**June 15, 2021**

opened up some space for them in our portable classroom at STARS, and it worked out because this was during the time when we were having problems with hiring tutors, so we went to them and asked if they could assist with our tutoring program and they were able to. Mrs. Ware stated that they had their graduation ceremony in the beginning of June and their parents came out and attended that. Mrs. Ware stated that we have not entered all of the grades and we are hoping to have the report by the July meeting as long as we are able to keep our data entry staff. Mrs. Ware stated that we wrapped up all of our sports activities in May in order to get ready for summer camp, except for the girls softball team and the boys Major baseball team that will be going into Allstar tournament play, and this is the first time that STARS has had teams go into Allstar tournament play, which will start the first weekend in July. Mrs. Ware stated that depending on how they do in those games, they will have the opportunity to move on to states in the third week of July, and hopefully make it to the Little League championship. Mrs. Ware stated that we have 100% met our revenue goal for 2022 that means that anything that is made in addition can be recognized to offset our additional expenses, such as the \$5,000.00 bus fee that we just acquired.

**NO. 4. Summer Camp Update** (04:35) Mrs. Ware stated that we are in day 3 of summer camp with 300 students currently registered, we have not lost anyone and they are completely tired by the time that their parents pick them up in the afternoon. Mrs. Ware stated that next week will begin our field trips and specialized camps, such as the Edison Sailing Center, Hoops on Mission Basketball camp, STEM program, swimming, Tennis, Golf and Football lessons, parents specifically sign up for these electives at the mandatory parent meeting.

**NO. 5. 2022/23 Budget** (04:41) Mrs. Ware stated that there are weeks when are bus is stagnant and we are not using it, and then there are other times when it is constantly being used based on the activities that we have going on, we have had several times when we are getting ready to leave on the bus and the bus is not working, fleet gave a cost for a bus, there are two proposals, the cost of the bus is \$114,000.00 which is not in any of the budget proposals however, after discussion with the fleet manager, we are submitting this with the budget proposal, we are not increasing the revenues to accommodate this cost, so it would have to be funded by the general fund, and will have a discussion with Susan to hear her thoughts and then be able to report back, the bus is something that the STARS needs, the current bus is probably 15 years old, and is a 65 passenger bus. Mrs. Ware stated that it is her goal to have the bus functioning and in our parking lot by May 2023. Mrs. Ware stated that due to the number of break downs the bus that we have now is not going to last that long, and even after we get the new bus,, we will probably need a new bus if we keep on the current trend, we will probably have close to 400 students next year. Mrs. Ware stated the good thing about this is we do pay a percentage of repair and replacement to our fleet budget, however we are not sure what that number is to accommodate the total cost of the bus. Mrs. Montgomery wanted to know if there are reliable used buses that would be cheaper. Mrs. Ware stated that they have looked into the option to lease, and then also a used bus, so once we are able to get some numbers back from those, we will share that information.

**NO. 6. ADJOURN** (05:06) Dr. Shadreka McIntosh motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Shanell Harleston. Motion carried.