

MINUTES

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

September 20, 2023

The S.T.A.R.S. Management Advisory Board of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Board Members present were, Michael Morris, Dr. Shadreka McIntosh, Ross Webb, Ron Inge, Shanell Harleston and Neal Montgomery.. Advisory Board Members; Amber Ware and Jazzmen Williams. Board Liaisons Absent: Chauncy Solinger

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 04:05 P.M. by Neale Montgomery.

(04:05) Roll call was performed.

NO. 1 MINUTES: (04:05) Michael Morris moved and seconded by Ross Webb to approve the minutes of the June 21,2023 meeting. The motion carried.

NO. 2 Public Input: (04:06) No public input.

NO. 3 Back to School (04:06) Braxton Hobbs, Education Coordinator, stated that we have started up with the Dance Program and Full Steam Ahead, and trying to incorporate a lot of new activities. Mr. Hobbs stated that we are still trying to focus on the language arts and math heavily. Mr. Hobbs stated that we have received the results of the FAST test and the majority of the students are levels 1-2 and we have been discussing ways to help the students improve their test scores. Mr. Hobbs stated that starting next week he has planned to sit down with a couple of administrators at different schools to make a plan and find out what the school is doing, and how we can help each other. Mr. Hobbs stated that our rotation schedule consists of when they arrive from the bus, they have an option to get a snack, once they have snack they have 30 minutes to an hour of homework and it is required, if they do not have homework then they can get a book to read, and they will have to write a summary of the book, once they are done with homework, then they have a recreational activity, going to the park, or the field or gym to play a game, then they will have a classroom activity relates to the theme of the month or of the week. Mr. Hobbs stated that usually around the time that they are done with their classroom activity it is time for dismissal. Mrs. Ware stated that two weeks before school started we were notified that the school district would be taking away our bus stop, after we were assured that it would not be an issue. Mrs. Ware stated that we were able to come up with a bus route for our students at schools in our proximity to be transported to our afterschool program. Mrs. Ware stated that our numbers are slightly lower that we usually have but is not going to complain because we are short staffed and the staff that we have is just enough to handle the amount of students that we have. Dr. McIntosh asked if the School District was looking to revisit implementing a bus stop at the STARS. Mrs. Ware stated that she had a discussion with Transportation Director of the South Zone, Roger Lloyd, who stated that he will put the bus stop back however, he can not guarantee a space on the bus for our students, and this would only be in effect for one year. Mrs. Ware stated that next year, they are supposed to change the dismissal time and bussing for the middle school students. Mrs. Ware stated that our Rising STARS Teen program, had a great time this summer, with 22 teens employed, and we have been able to hire on two of them as regular employees. Mrs. Ware stated that they have jumped into their regular program and have a college tour scheduled to the University of Central Florida, and a few of them attended college night at Florida Southwestern, and have a plan to take a tour of all of the city departments to learn about what the city does and how does it function. Mrs. Ware stated that we had three Rising Stars that become full time employees with the City. Mrs. Ware stated that we have started football season, the football program had

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around 225 participants, our tumbling classes have started back, and we will be starting our Lil' hoopsters basketball program that begins in November.

NO. 4. Budget Update (4:48) Mrs. Ware stated that she received the budget prep document from the Finance department and will email it out, it outlines what our adopted budget will be. Mrs. Ware stated that we did not receive any of the positions that we requested, we did receive an increase in our dues and subscriptions for some of our classes and seminars that the staff take, and software that we will be purchasing. Mrs. Ware stated that is really all that we received this year. Mrs. Ware stated that our 2024 revenue goal is \$207,600, which we will meet that goal, for 2023 we are already at \$280,000, with a \$50,000 donation from Indelible gives, so even without the donation we can meet the goal. Mr. Morris asked how much cushion do we have with staff. Mrs. Ware stated that we are fine as long as everyone comes to work, if one person calls out then it gets hard. Mrs. Ware stated that she has been working with the Community Foundation of Cape Coral on how we are going to be making our own 501C3, it is not that hard, but it will be like a STARS education or athletic non profit. Mrs. Ware stated that the Fort Myers Track club is a non profit, and the River Run has been designated as a STARS event, the proceeds go towards helping fund our athletic programs, and you can donate by purchasing a ticket.

NO. 5. Adjourn (05:02) Shanell Harleston motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Dr. Shadreka McIntosh. Motion carried.