

**CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE, FLORIDA
SCHOOL SUPPORT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF MEETING**

**Thursday, August 6, 2009
Conference Room – City Hall
9:00 a.m.**

The Temple Terrace School Support Committee met on Thursday, August 6, 2009, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Chairman Cynthia Mohler, and School Support Members Joseph A. Affronti Jr., Gwen S. Mora, Abdelelah Mostafa, and Jennifer Penoyer. **ABSENT WERE:** School Support Members Susan Grzybowski and Inglis Wiley.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Council Liaison Alison Fernandez, and Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc.

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chairman Mohler.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of School Support Member Mora, seconded by School Support Member Penoyer, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the June 22, 2009, meeting was **APPROVED**.

A. Persons Wishing to be Heard:

None.

B. Unfinished Business:

1. School Improvement Grant Guidelines:

Chairman Mohler stated the City Council unanimously approved their proposed changes to the guidelines. She reviewed the grant applications now require the principal's signature and include the method of evaluation.

C. New Business:

1. School Improvement Grant Program:

Chairman Mohler stated she met with City Manager Leinbach on July 27th; he is very happy with the changes the Committee is making and City Council seems pleased with what they are trying to do. She asked the City Manager the possibility of changing to a single-cycle grant application and he thought that would be a positive change, to which City Council may be open.

The City Manager suggested the School Support Committee do a presentation to City Council explaining the reasons they are proposing a single grant cycle, including the benefits for the schools, staff, and committee in doing so.

School Support Member Mora stated one of the problems they encounter with two cycles is that the first cycle comes very quickly; the teachers are overwhelmed with the beginning of school and the last thing on their minds is writing a grant. She continued the second cycle presents the same problem; teachers are returning from winter break and although they seem to be submitting many applications, they are encountering implementation problems. She explained the Committee is finding out with the evaluations that the grants are being postponed until the following school year; therefore, the grants are not being used for the students for whom they were intended.

Being a former teacher, School Support Member Penoyer agreed it would be very demanding on her trying to get back into the classroom and quickly start thinking of a grant, or in the spring, trying to implement one while doing all the FCAT testing. She continued it might be easier and more beneficial to collect all the grant applications at one time.

Chairman Mohler stated, in her meeting with the City Manager, they also discussed the idea of having a minimum score; they were concerned about award grants just because the money was there, even though the application may not be of high quality. School Support Member Mora agreed that controlling the quality of the grants is a good point.

The Committee briefly discussed how they grade the applications. School Support Member Mora added she provides the teachers with a sheet that shows the different components on which the grants will be rated.

School Support Member Mora suggested they determine what it is they look for in a grant in order to recommend a minimum score. School Support Member Mostafa suggested they look at the previous data, the range of the scores, and then decide.

The Committee discussed several dates for grant application deadlines. They agreed a deadline of October 1st would give the teachers a full month of school to get to know the children and determine their needs. School Support Member Mora added by the time the applications are processed and forwarded to City Council for approval, the schools would probably have the money sometime in November; they would have time to use the funds for that school year.

In response to a question by the Committee, Council Liaison Fernandez responded the Committee would have to bring the deadline date change to the City Council for approval, because it is a change in procedure. She added that coming before the City Council is also a good time to inform everyone, who is watching the Council meeting, about the Committee, its members, and what they are doing. The Committee discussed the possibility of getting on the August 18th City Council agenda.

Upon **MOTION** of School Support Member Mora, seconded by Chairman Mohler, the Committee voted to propose to City Council that the grant application cycle be changed from two cycles to a single cycle, with a submittal deadline date of October 1st. Vote on the motion: Chairman Mohler and School Support Members Affronti, Mora, Mostafa and Penoyer voted "aye", no "nay." School Support Members Grzybowski and Wiley were **ABSENT** and did not vote.

The Committee Members discussed their availability for attendance at the August 18th City Council meeting. School Support Member Mora added the more members in attendance the better.

D. Reports:

1. July 27 Meeting with City Manager:

Topic was discussed under C-1.

E. Announcements:

1. School Contacts:

Chairman Mohler stated she wanted to make sure that all Members had contact information for their respective school principal. The Committee responded affirmatively.

School Support Member Affronti recommended the Committee think about adding Brooks DeBartolo School to their grant program. He explained that a lot of Temple Terrace children attend that school and it is no different in regard to location than Tampa Bay Tech. School Support Member Mora explained the problem is that they have so many schools around the vicinity of Temple Terrace and they tried to look at only the schools serving an overwhelming percentage of Temple Terrace students. School Support Member Affronti named a few of the organizations that have included Brooks DeBartolo in their support programs.

School Support Member Mora stated former Committee Members had to draw the line somewhere, because there is only so much money, and too many schools, and they opted to include only the schools assigned to serve Temple Terrace students. Chairman Mohler added she likes including them also, but agrees they need to focus on Temple Terrace schools. School Support Member Mora interjected that once they break out of the “mold”, they have to be equitable and there are a huge number of schools they would have to consider.

School Support Member Mostafa recommended the Committee add another event like Terrace Reads, but for math, for all students in Temple Terrace to participate. School Support Member Mora informed the Committee there is a group of teachers at Temple Terrace Elementary School that are promoting sponsorship of a math event; therefore, there may be some interest. She expressed concern about the amount of time and involvement required to get something going.

School Support Member Mostafa insisted they could try to promote this idea or do a math contest in which anyone within the Temple Terrace schools could participate.

School Support Member Penoyer questioned whether the \$15,000 is only for school grants, to which others responded affirmatively. School Support Member Mostafa stated he knows there is no money this year, but they could consider it for the future. School Support Member Affronti stated he would bring this idea up to his Kiwanis Club meeting; it may be something they might get involved in like they did with the Battle of the Books event.

The Committee cancelled their regularly scheduled meeting of August 24th; they will meet again on Monday, September 28th at 5:00 p.m., where they will discuss the Temple Terrace Reads event.

Chairman Mohler reported there will be a “Terrace Reads” meeting on Wednesday, September 9th at 3:30 p.m. at Temple Terrace Elementary School. School Support Member Mora added that everything discussed at this meeting will be brought back to their regularly scheduled meeting of August 24th.

School Support Member Mora stated they will have to meet on October 26th at 5:00 p.m., also, in order to discuss and grade the grant applications.

F. Adjournment:

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary