

Diana Riviera, PhD

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Application for Regular Member — City of Westlake Education Advisory Board

EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND QUALIFICATIONS

I have been a Westlake resident since 2023, and the parent of two children currently enrolled in Palm Beach County Public Schools. I hold a doctorate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and have approximately 20 years of experience in higher education administration, faculty instruction, and doctoral mentorship. I am a Research Faculty member in the Department of Psychology at Capella University, where I teach research methods and chair doctoral dissertation committees, and an Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medical Education at Nova Southeastern University's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, where I teach medical professionals research skills that support the development of a teaching practice complementing their clinical work. I am also the Founder and Principal Consultant of Riviera Consulting Group LLC, a research and consulting practice.

My professional background equips me to contribute meaningfully to the board's liaison, communication, and awareness functions. I bring expertise in program evaluation, community research, and translating complex institutional information for public audiences. I am an active Associate Member of the American Psychological Association and have sustained involvement in academic governance and committee work.

As a military spouse with a husband currently on active duty deployment, I bring firsthand knowledge of the challenges military-connected families face in navigating school systems, managing transitions, and accessing support during periods of parental absence. My research confirms that Palm Beach County schools currently lack the structured military family support infrastructure present in other Florida districts. I am prepared to serve as a bridge between Westlake's military families and the school district to help identify needs, surface available resources, and advocate for more intentional support systems for military-connected students.