

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

Education Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Westlake City Hall
4001 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd.
Westlake, Florida 33470

Live Broadcasting:

<https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com>

Meeting ID: 2866 791 4471 | Password:hello
or United States Toll: 1-650-479-3208

Board Members:

Dr. Anita Kaplan, Chair
Lisa Barron, Vice Chair
Colleen Forlizzi, Board Member
Krystal Lexima, Board Member
Jennifer Christian-Upia, Board Member
Dr. Christopher A. Tompkins Sr, Alternate Board Member

City Staff:

Greg Langowski, Councilmember Liaison
Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, City Clerk
Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

A meeting of the Education Advisory Board of the City of Westlake was held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM., at Westlake City Hall, 4001 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road. Members of the public also live streamed the meeting through electronic means and accessed as follows:

1. Webex Meeting: <https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com/>

Meeting ID: 2866 791 4471

Password: hello

2. By Phone:

United States Toll: +1-650-479-3208

Meeting ID: 2866 791 4471

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Anita Kaplan called the Westlake Education Advisory Board meeting of Thursday, June 12, 2025, to order at 6:12 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

Board Member Colleen Forlizzi

Board Chair Anita Kaplan

Board Member Jennifer Christian – Upia

Alternate Board Member – Dr. Christopher A. Tompkins Sr.

Also present:

Zoie Burgess, CMC, City Clerk

Greg Langowski, Vice Mayor

Absent:

Board Vice Chair Lisa Barron

Board Member Lexima

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Kaplan led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Chair Kaplan called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Board Member Forlizzi to approve the agenda for June 12, 2025, seconded by Board Member Tompkins.

UPON ROLL CALL:

Board Member Christian-Upia	YES
Board Member Forlizzi	YES
Board Chair Kaplan	YES
Board Member Tompkins	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (4-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes_Education Advisory Board Meeting - 04.10.2025 - DRAFT

Board Chair Kaplan identified the approval of minutes and called for a motion to approve.

Motion by Board Member Tompkins to approve the minutes of April 10, 2025, seconded by Board Member Christian-Upia.

UPON ROLL CALL:

Board Member Forlizzi	YES
Board Chair Kaplan	YES
Board Member Christian-Upia	YES
Board Member Tompkins	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (4-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. School Board Meeting Updates by Board Chair Kaplan

Board Chair Kaplan shared how she attended a school board meeting to gather information.

B. May 6th Council Meeting Presentation Re: School Zoning Letter

Board Chair Kaplan reported that she presented the school zoning letter that had been drafted by the Education Advisory Board at the last Council meeting. The Council was receptive to addressing the zoning issue but had questions about who should sign the letter. Chair Kaplan noted that she would bring up the letter again at the next Council meeting and would need to discuss the next steps with the Education Advisory Board.

Board Chair Kaplan mentioned her plan to meet with Marcia Andrews, the School Board representative for the district, to get background information on the zoning issue. She also indicated the need to identify and speak with other key individuals involved in school zoning decisions.

C. Update on Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium Westlake Night date and Fundraising initiative

Board Chair Kaplan reported that the general manager of Roger Dean Stadium, who lives in Westlake, reached out to both her and the mayor about organizing a special night at the stadium for Westlake schools.

The event would provide a percentage of the ticket sales to benefit schools. Board Chair Kaplan noted she needed Council approval before proceeding with information-gathering.

The Board discussed timing for such an event, as well as how funds would be allocated to schools, considering whether they should focus on specific school needs.

Board Member Tompkins suggested incorporating activities like car washes to further engage students in fundraising efforts. Board Member, Lexima recommended asking schools to provide a list of funding needs, and discussed options for fairly distributing funds, such as a lottery system or spreading a percentage across all schools.

Board Chair Kaplan also provided an update on restaurant fundraising plans, noting that various board members had been assigned to approach different restaurants for potential fundraising nights where a percentage of proceeds would go to schools.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of new EAB member - Jennifer Christian-Upia

Ms. Christian-Upia introduced herself to the board and gave a quick overview of her background in the school system and well as her interest on joining this committee.

B. Introduction of new Alternate EAB member - Dr. Christopher A. Tompkins, Sr.

Dr. Tompkins Sr. also introduced himself and shared his background in the education field as well as his interest in joining the board.

C. Trade Show Preliminary Planning

The Board discussed the need to promote awareness of trade school options among Westlake students and parents. Dr. Tompkins emphasized the importance of understanding what information about trade programs are currently being shared in schools, who is presenting this information, and how local trade schools are connected with high schools. He highlighted that trade education can provide immediate employment opportunities compared to traditional college paths.

Board Chair Kaplan suggested organizing an evening event for parents to learn more about trade education options. The Board discussed the possibility of presenting information at PTA meetings and identifying what trade programs are currently available at local schools, including Seminole Ridge High School. There was also discussion about transportation challenges for students interested in attending the trade high school located near Belle Glade.

D. EAB Representative to the Planning Committee Meeting for the New Elementary School

Board Chair Kaplan noted that the planning committee for the new elementary school was seeking a representative, possibly from the Education Advisory Board. New board member Ms. Jennifer Christian-Upia volunteered to be the representative for the new Elementary School.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES

Board Chair Kaplan asked members for updates from their assigned schools. She mentioned the need to identify school needs as they move forward with fundraising initiatives through Roger Dean Stadium and

restaurant nights. She reminded members that the school zoning issue was moving forward and that two fundraising initiatives were planned for the fall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section of the agenda allows for comments from the public to address the Board. Each speaker will be given a total of three (3) minutes to comment. Please address Board from podium, and prior to addressing the Board, state your name and address for the record.

Board Chair Kaplan called for public comments.

Public Comment – Ms. Alicia Torres – 5847 Whippoorwill Circle - Ms. Torres comments on the lack of extracurricular activities available for the kids during summer break and would like to utilize Westlake facilities to support the kids. Ms. Torres suggested establishing activities like basketball teams, flag football, and volleyball during summer months to keep students engaged, noting that structured sports programs create commitments through practices and games.

Ms. Torres also recommended exploring options for community engagement, such as utilizing the experience of Westlake residents to provide educational opportunities for youth at community facilities. For the Roger Dean Stadium event, she recommended focusing on Seminole Ridge High School since older students could easily attend the distant venue.

Ms. Torres also thanked the board members for volunteering their time to support Westlake students.

Ms. Torres also suggested all fundraising initiatives to be set before the new school year begins to give the board a clear timeline.

Lastly Ms. Torres mentioned how she would like to see more gifted/IV programs offered at all the schools throughout the city.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board Chair Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM

Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

Anita Kaplan, Board Chair