CITY OF WESTLAKE

MINUTES

Education Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM

4001 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd.,
Westlake, FL 33470

Board Members:

Dr. Anita Kaplan, Chair
Krystal Lexima, Vice Chair
Jennifer Christian-Upia, Board Member
Chad Lovitt, Board Member
Shelly Murray, Board Member
Dr. Diana Riviera, Alternate Board Member

City Staff:

Greg Langowski, Councilmember Liaison
Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Ms. Kaplan called the Westlake Education Advisory Board meeting Thursday, September 17, 2026, to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

Chair Dr. Kaplan
Board Member Christian-Upia
Vice Chair Lexima
Board Member Lovitt
Board Member Murray
Alternate Board Member Dr. Riviera

Also present:

Greg Langowski, Vice Mayor
Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Kaplan led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kaplan requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Board Member Lovitt to approve the agenda seconded by Board Member Murray.

UPON ROLL CALL:

Board Member Christian-Upia	YES
Vice Chair Lexima	YES
Board Member Lovitt	YES
Board Member Murray	YES
Chair Kaplan	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes_Education Advisory Board Meeting - 06.18.2026 - DRAFT

Chair Kaplan requested a motion to approve the minutes from June 18, 2026.

Motion by Board Member Christian-Upia to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2026, Education Advisory Board Meeting, seconded by Board Member Lexima.

UPON ROLL CALL:

Vice Chair Lexima	YES
Board Member Murray	YES
Board Member Lovitt	YES
Chair Kaplan	YES
Board Member Christian-Upia	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Introduction of New Education Advisory Board Members – Shelley Murray and Dr. Diana Riviera.

Chair Kaplan introduced Shelly Murray as a new regular member and Dr. Diana Riviera as a new alternate member and welcomed both.

B. July 4th Community Outreach – Summary and Outcomes

Chair Kaplan and Board Member Jennifer provided an overview of the July 4th community outreach event, noting positive resident engagement and strong interest in the new school. They discussed challenges with the table location and resident forms, as well as opportunities to improve future outreach. Members agreed to further evaluate the benefits of participating in future events. No action was taken.

C. Darline Winewski – Regular Meeting Participation Update

Chair Kaplan noted that Ms. Winewski planned to attend meetings regularly. Ms. Winewski emphasized the importance of community involvement through official district processes and encouraged residents to share their priorities. She acknowledged board members' participation on district committees and expressed support for local public schools. Chair Kaplan thanked her and moved the school naming discussion to New Business.

D. Westlake School Liaison Updates and Activities – Golden Grove Elementary School, Western Pines Middle School, New Westlake Elementary School, and Seminole Ridge Community High School

Chair Kaplan revisited school liaison assignments following recent board changes. Board Member Christian-Upia retained the new elementary school assignment, Chair Kaplan assumed Golden Grove Elementary, and the Western Pines Middle School assignment remained unchanged. The Seminole Ridge Community High School assignment required further clarification. Members discussed establishing communication with school administration.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding the Naming of the New Westlake Elementary School

Chair Kaplan introduced the new school naming discussion. Ms. Winewski outlined the district's naming process, explaining that the committee would consider community input and recommend three names to the School Board for final approval. Members discussed potential school names, mascot options, and the importance of selecting an inclusive name. Residents were encouraged to participate through official meetings. No action was taken.

B. Education Advisory Board Strategic Planning – Review and Discussion

Chair Kaplan encouraged members to review the draft strategic plan before the next meeting. Members discussed opportunities for school-business partnerships, including Marco's Pizza, to support school events and student activities. Chair Kaplan emphasized liaison participation in PTA/PTO or School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings. Dr. Long offered to provide meeting schedules for each school to assist with coordination. No action was taken.

C. Additional Community Outreach Activities – Discussion and Planning

Chair Kaplan provided an update on her participation in the Advisory Boundary Committee, noting that she had completed the appointment process and was awaiting confirmation of the first meeting date. She also distributed copies of the committee's process flowchart.

D. Palm Beach County School District – Advisory Boundary Committee (ABC) Update – Chair Kaplan

Members discussed the Advisory Boundary Committee (ABC) process, public participation, and upcoming school rezoning considerations. Ms. Andrews confirmed that the process for the new elementary school was expected to begin in October and encouraged community involvement. Discussion also addressed Western Pines Middle School zoning concerns, including capacity limitations and enrollment challenges. Dr. Long confirmed that residents could submit comments through the district for committee consideration.

E. Westlake Planning and Zoning Committee – Update and Discussion

Chair Kaplan inquired about the role of the City's Planning and Zoning Board in school matters. The Vice Mayor clarified that the School District operates independently of the City, but coordination would occur regarding road improvements, school zones, and crossing guards. Ms. Andrews expressed confidence in the coordination process based on previous school openings.

F. Marcia Andrews - Council Meeting

Ms. Andrews reflected on her 16 years of service on the School Board and introduced Mr. McGovern as her successor. Chair Kaplan and the Vice Mayor expressed interest in recognizing her service at an upcoming City Council meeting. Chair Kaplan also acknowledged Linda Edgecomb's contributions to the Board and Read for the Record initiative.

G. Meeting with New PBSC Dean, Andreas Alexander, Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor - Regarding potential collaboration with Palm Beach State College and update regarding Dual Enrollment students.

Chair Kaplan provided an update on discussions with Dr. Andreas Alexander of Palm Beach State College regarding potential collaboration and changes to dual enrollment classes. Members discussed dual enrollment options, and Chair Kaplan expressed interest in inviting Dr. Alexander to a future meeting to provide additional information. Dr. Long offered assistance in coordinating the presentation.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES

Members discussed school zoning priorities, bicycle and scooter parking safety, and support for military families. The Vice Mayor provided updates on planned bicycle racks and existing community programs. Board Member Murray and Dr. Riviera shared their professional backgrounds, and the Board welcomed incoming School Board Member Mr. McGovern. By consensus, the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2026.

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.

Chair Kaplan opened the floor for public comment.

Iris Gonzalez inquired about educational programs at the new elementary school, including dual language, STEM, gifted, and ESE services. District representatives explained that programming would be determined based on school boundaries, student needs, and available funding.

Kelsey Lenihan expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety near Sky Cove and asked about plans for additional sidewalks and crosswalks. The Vice Mayor stated he would follow up on the proposed improvements.

Janet Meyer requested consideration of a larger venue for future meetings due to increased public attendance. The Vice Mayor discussed potential locations and associated costs.

Lauren Lesko asked how students currently attending schools outside Westlake, particularly those receiving gifted or speech services, would be accounted for when determining enrollment at the new school. District representatives clarified that students would be identified based on established school boundaries.

Jemima Michelle inquired about ESE programs for children on the autism spectrum. Ms. Winewski confirmed that the District's ESE Director was aware of the community's needs and involved in planning.

Resident of The Groves raised concerns regarding before- and after-school care, fourth and fifth-grade enrollment, and traffic congestion near the school. Ms. Winewski discussed anticipated childcare programs and planned traffic improvements.

Alicia Torres shared information about the Westlake Wanderer blog and asked how residents could communicate zoning concerns to Chair Kaplan. Chair Kaplan encouraged participation at public meetings, and the Vice Mayor provided an update on the City's website improvements.

District representatives and Board members addressed additional questions regarding school zoning, community involvement, and future meeting arrangements.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kaplan moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:32 PM.

Odet Izquierdo, Deputy City Clerk

Dr. Anita Kaplan, Board Chair