



**Town of Southwest Ranches  
Advisory Board  
Meeting Agenda**

Monday  
September 9, 2024  
7:00 pm

Town Hall  
13400 Griffin Road  
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

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**Board Members**

Jennifer Montgomery  
Debbie Green  
Christina Brownlow

Priscilla Prado-Stroze  
Elizabeth Eskenazi  
Selena Hodgers

Francesca Case

**Council Liaison**

Mayor Breitkreuz

**Staff Liaison**

Debra Ruesga

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**A. ROLL CALL**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS**

- a. **Approval of Minutes - March 11, 2024 & August 12, 2024**
- b. **Treasurer’s Report**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **New Board Member Introduction – Elizabeth Eskenazi**
- b. **Prime Volunteer App**
- c. **Discussion of Board Calendar to include Fundraising Events**

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**F. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**H. STAFF COMMENTS**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS BOARD OR COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.

**Town of Southwest Ranches**  
**School Education Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday Rolling Oaks Barn  
March 11th, 2024 13400 Griffin Road  
7:00 PM Southwest Ranches, FL 33330-2628


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**Board Members Present:**

Kathy Sullivan  
Jennifer Montgomery  
Debbie Green  
Selena Montgomery

**Staff Present:**

Debra Ruesga

**Council Present:** 

Steve Breitreuz  
Gary Jablonski  
David Kuczenski  
Bob Hartmann  
Jim Allbritton

Call to order at 7:05pm. A quorum was established.

Selena Hodgers motioned to accept the minutes of February 12, 2924. Debbie Green seconded, and the motion passed.

Discussion Items:

- Debbie gave the treasurer’s report. \$28,463.00 raised so far. The total in the account, to date, is \$33,045.75.
- The Board discussed the following relating to the Barn Dance:
  - There were more tickets sold than available seats, 103 seats sold.
  - Volunteers will bring extra chairs.
  - Outback Steakhouse confirmed they can fulfill food for 103 people.
  - Outback will need a volunteer to come pick up the food.
  - The student volunteers will be fed separately (not Outback).
  - Line dance lessons will be the Wednesday prior to the Barn Dance.
  - There will be subs ordered from Publix.
  - Debbie Green ordered compostable plates, cups and other items.
  - Set-up – Bar in the table closet, Auctions in the same area as last year.
  - There will be 5 tables outside and 7 tables inside.
  - At the next SEAB meeting, the Board will conduct an after action discussion.

- Other ideas for fundraisers: Secret Garden Event
- Items for next meeting:
  - Barn Dance After Action
  - Setting meeting schedule for remainder of year.
- The next meeting will be on March April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall.

The meeting concluded at 7:37pm.

**Town of Southwest Ranches**  
**School Education Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday Town Hall  
August 12th, 2024 13400 Griffin Road  
7:00 PM Southwest Ranches, FL 33330-2628

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**Board Members Present:**

Kathy Sullivan  
Christina Brownlow  
Jennifer Montgomery  
Debbie Green  
Selena Hodgers  
Priscilla Prado-Stroze  
Francesca Case

**Staff Present:**

Debra Ruesga

**Council Present:**

Steve Breitreuz  
Gary Jablonski  
David Kuczenski  
Jim Allbritton

**Guests Present:**

Armando Arana  
Torey Alston  
Rebecca Thompson

Call to order at 7:00pm. A quorum was established. Debbie Green reported 24 students received \$2,000 in scholarships. We welcomed Armando Arana from Broward Schools Governmental Affairs as well as candidates for school board race, district 2, incumbent Torey Alston and challenger, Rebecca Thompson (see notes below). We will prepare the year's calendar at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kathy is stepping down due to health concerns.

Discussion Items:

- Torey Alston: Incumbent for school board seat, District 2; provided resume and discussed his qualifications, job duties, track record, personal life, etc.; he believes in SROs as his father as the first in the county (his father was also on the show COPS); agreed the metal detectors did not go well on day one of schools but believes in their use as these have worked well in other large school districts; yes, all of the kids standing and waiting in lines presented a safety issue; there are several detectors sitting in facilities such as the airport and seaport

which he feels we could utilize; law enforcement was involved in the decision-making process for using detectors; any questions we may have will be sent via our liaison, Debra Ruesga.

- Rebecca Thompson: Challenger for District 2; She is a former social worker and current mental health professional; She has three children, two of whom are enrolled in public school; she serves now as a school board assistant; Rebecca feels District 2 is not represented well and has told leaders of changes occurring within schools, i.e., the suicide rate within middle schools has risen, yet the Board does not have an advocate; there are fiscal difficulties, yes, but she feels there needs to be a reprioritization of funding; Rebecca worked as a social worker then as a school board member's assistant for one year focusing on policy as it pertained to the new laws, parental rights bill, and code of ethics; as far as any official offices, if elected, this would be her first; Her thoughts on school security: she believes in the use of the detectors although today did not go smoothly, school policies need reinforcing, parents definitely want SROs over armed guardians; bullet-proof windows should be installed, and more social workers need to be hired; when she was a social worker, she was assigned four schools...there is no way to bound with students in this scenario...she feels the max should be two per worker; Rebecca is endorsed by BTU, Firefighters, IUPA, Tom Good, Lauren Book, Robin Bartleman, and two local mayors; her passion is mental health; workshops are where the work gets done with the school board...she sees a disconnect between the district and schools; Ms. Thompson asked how often we meet and our level of involvement within the schools (Kathy discussed the redistricting issue, our scholarship, and our kids have no school within the town's boundaries; Rebecca wants to end district office hours and change them to on-site school hours which is more convenient; the cell phone ban during school hours had no implementation guidance...phones can be useful and helpful; the metal detectors had no implementation guidance either; Debbie mentioned a partnership with a board member and the incinerator issue; Debra has Ms. Thompson's email.
- Armando Arana: BCPS Governmental Affairs; he is sending Debra bi-weekly school updates...yes, we are receiving; a lot of government reps were at the schools today...Broward is an "A" rate school district; Kathy questioned why an "A" rated principal was transferred from WBSH and a "B" put in place; BCPS will be using FOCUS (like M-DCPS)...parents will have training webinars; phone regulations were passed at the state level and districts are implementing...policies exist for headphones, earbuds, and iwatches...personal computers are ok; 32 high schools received metal detectors (different amounts per school based on size); August 26<sup>th</sup> will roll-out the cell phone policy; 41 school facilities are ready to serve as storm shelters; five schools are still under redefinition; 93 schools will serve as polling locations; voter registration drives at high schools has netted 8,464 new voters!

The meeting concluded at 8:20pm.