



# FLORIDA YOUTH COMMISSION

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Elias Rosenfeld, Chair

Ella Biggins, Vice Chair

### MEETING MINUTES

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

7:30 P.M. -8:52 P.M.

**Vice-Chair:** The Governmental Affairs Florida Youth Commission was called to order January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:36 p.m. by the Committee Vice-Chair, Ella Biggins.

The vice-chair, Ella Biggins, did role call and noted that all committee members were present, except for Elias Rosenfeld who entered the call at 7:40 p.m.

Caitlin Camechis gave a leadership update. She discussed that two committee members (Maya and Katherine) resigned. She discussed that committee members will need to run by any plans to reach out to local officials to her before you do so. Also, she discussed doing research on the official before meeting with them and using this research when talking with them to be more professional. She discussed professional behavior when meeting with government officials. Make sure you stick to the talking points when meeting with officials so that we are all on the same page.

**Committee chair Elias Rosenfeld talked about the various GA Projects:**

**PowerPoint/Speech Pointers Document-** When meeting with the officials, we will use the speaking points when meeting with government officials. They will be sent out to the committee members by **1/26/15**.

**Town Hall Emails-** We will no longer be presenting to County Commissions due to the fact that our policy is related to education (discussed later in meeting).

**Website Speeches-** All of the speeches have been added to Google docs and compiled into one document for the review of committee members. The speeches will be edited by Caitlin because they need to become more neutral. Then, the speeches would need to be approved by Caitlin's leadership. Once this occurs then we will be able to post them to the website for student's use across Florida.

**Student Online Poll-** We will ask students across the state what they think about the educational system. Elias opened the floor for committee members to suggest how to format the poll. Adrianna Williams suggested that the questions on the poll could come from some of the speeches we already made. Also, she discussed that we should poll based on the legislation we are already following. Caitlin added that we should also list major topics that affect youth and have them answer based on their perspective of issues. Therefore, we would have this data to present to the Board. Adrianna added that there could be a comment box for students to add to their responses. Basically, there would be a "yes" or "no" answer and then have the option to add to their answer with comments. This would allow for more responses



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*We, the Youth Commissioners of Florida, desire to produce a cohesive and unified platform for the students of Florida to voice their concerns and provide feedback and suggestions to the leadership of Florida. We will serve as a liaison between the youth of Florida and the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet through inclusion and engagement of our peers to craft effective suggestions, legislation, and projects to aide in the progression of youth across Florida.*



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because students would be willing to spend the small time to complete the poll. The decision to implement the poll was unanimous.

We moved to discuss how to divide the work. We discussed that we would do 5 questions (yes or no) and then an additional 2 free response. Also, we could add “do you agree?” questions. **There will be 7 questions total. Each committee member will submit 2 yes or no questions and 1 free response question.** All committee members agreed. **The due date will be one week from the meeting date Monday 2/2/15 at 11:59 p.m. Then Elias will compile and sent out Tuesday 2/3/15 and committee members will need to send in their votes by Friday 2/6/15.** Caitlin added that we need to do questions on education, but also all issues that affect youth.

**Legislative Newsletter including HB 29-** The bills that each member is following will begin to be progressed through, so members will need to be paying attention. Members should be looking for new bills for the newsletter if theirs gets thrown out. Elias proposed that the summaries be submitted bi-weekly. Caitlin suggested that the updates be submitted every Sunday. **The updates will be submitted every Sunday by 11:59 p.m. This will start Sunday 2/8/15.** There is no length requirement for the update.

**School Board Speeches-** The speeches are ready; however, we will begin to seek information from officials, not just seeking their support. We want to gain their perspective on how we can succeed with our mission. We will begin speaking with elected representatives in February. Elias will post the speech **Thursday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m. and committee members will need to make corrections by Sunday, May 1 at 8:00 p.m.** and the speech will be sent to Caitlin for approval. There were no objections.

**Networking Representative Program-** We are once again shifting to establishing a partnership to seek information from elected officials. We will be using the speech pointers when we meet with the officials. There will be a two representative quota that will need to be met by committee members in February, preferably by the next committee meeting date. This quota does not include School Board member meetings. Samuel suggested that committee members use a print out of the email and the speech pointers when meeting with representatives.

### New Business

**Online Advocacy Tips-** The committee decided that we would table this idea because we have a lot going on right now. Elias will bring it up during the chair call to see if any other committees are interested and go from there.

**Increasing Social Media Use-** Committee members need to increase social media use. We need to share our agenda on social media so that people can be aware of our meetings. Caitlin will tag us so that we will be able to see and share it right away.



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**Creation of our own Resolution/Bill for Next Legislative Session-** Elias agreed with Caitlin that we would begin gathering ideas on useful legislation to students. We will just be gathering information to help the Cabinet for the upcoming session.

**All other members must present one new idea to the committee-** Committee members can submit ideas if they would like, but it is not necessary.

Elias Rosenfeld adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Ella Biggins

2014-2015 Vice-Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee, Florida Youth Commission, Palmetto



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