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OAKLAND PARK HOSTS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FOR CITY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST

OAKLAND PARK, Fla....(February 1, 2011) – Oakland Park elected officials and City staff welcomed Broward County School Board members and representatives from the Oakland Park schools to the City’s Annual City/Schools Partnership Breakfast.

In addition to Broward School Board Members Robin Bartleman and Maureen Dinnen, Chief Operations Officer Donnie Carter attended, as well as Oakland Park Mayor Allegra Webb Murphy, City Commissioner Anne Sallee, City Manager John Stunson and members of the City’s School Advisory Board.

“Running a City is similar to running a school,” said Mayor Murphy in her remarks. “While a City may provide core services such as delivery of water and providing police and fire protection, a school provides cores services such as reading, writing and mathematics.”

Mayor Murphy, a longtime educator in Broward County, addressed several of the common issues facing the City and its schools.

“We are both tasked with dealing with similar challenges,” stated Mayor Murphy. “Among the biggest issues is the unstable economy and subsequent budget decisions and the ills of society such as violence and bigotry.”

“By partnering together we are better equipped to face challenges and controversies,” she said.

City Commissioner Anne Sallee shared her experiences raising and educating children while working and living abroad and credited the schools in Oakland Park for fulfilling their vital mission in the community.

Commissioner Sallee then introduced the Oakland Park-based Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir who performed a selection of songs during the program.

City Manager John Stunson introduced the City's Parks and Leisure Services Director Jenna LaFleur who praised school administrators for their cooperation in forming working partnerships to benefit local youth and their families.

LaFleur provided several examples, including the City's Performing Arts Program at the historic Oakland Park Elementary School Auditorium, a supervised open gym program weekday evenings at Rickards Middle School and the use of the Northeast High School athletic fields to accommodate the City's little league baseball and soccer programs.

Oakland Park also recognized the members of the City's School Advisory Board which advises the City Commission on all issues relating to educational matters impacting the quality of education for City residents, or which impact education facilities located within the City. The City's Board actively engages in the formulation of community partnerships to ensure that all community interests regarding education are identified.

Mayor Murphy closed the program by sharing some words of wisdom once spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the issue of education:

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education"

PHOTO: Oakland Park Mayor Allegra Webb Murphy (standing center) and Oakland Park City Commissioner Anne E. Sallee (standing right) with Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir.