

Saint Lucie County Republican Executive Committee
Minutes of the Executive Board
May 12, 2022

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nail at 6:05

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Nail followed by the invocation by Barry Mucklow.

Executive Board members present: Kenny Nail, Chad Miller, Butch Post. Members absent, Russell Ansley, Anthony Bonna, Mary Ann Russell.

Guest: Barry Mucklow, Debbie Mucklow, Ana Gomez Mallada, Jan Copeland, Judy Glass, Vickie Wolf, Mike Decker, Amy Decker, Eddie Evens.

1. Chairmans Comments: Kenny is working on budget for the 2022 campaign. We need to get our candidates in front of voters. To do so we will need 15,000 door hangers and at least two mail drops. The first on July 21st to corresponds with Vote By Mail ballots sent from SOE. Second mailing will probably be just before early voting. We will focus on early voting and VBM voters having a low interest in midterm elections. These voters may be called Gov-by-no-shows because they historically do not vote in election years for governor. Kenny expects the budget to be \$20,000.
2. Chairman Nail appointed and Ad Hoc committee to design door hangers and other campaign literature. K. Nail, C. Miller, B. Mucklow.
3. Kenny introduced an new candidate for School Board, Donnita Graben. (See attached) Donnita is very qualified and meets the standards for the position. She will be introduced to the REC at the meeting on May 17th.
4. Treasurer Report. Kim Dabe filled in for Russ Ansley who is out of town. The April bank statement had an opening balance of \$25,737 and a closing balance of \$53,487. This increase is due to the efforts of Butch Post and her team raising sponsors and advertisers for the Treasure Coast Freedom Night (Rubio dinner).
5. the Treasure Coast Freedom Night: Butch post gave a summary of the event and thanked her team. Final cost and income are not in but she anticipates that we should see \$25K net.
6. Merchandise: Judy Glass described what was going on in the office and event merchandising. She made her case to spend up to \$3,500 through June. This was put to a motion where by the executive board will recommend to the REC to approve this expenditure. Motion by Kenny Nail, seconded by Butch Post, motion carried.

7. Voter integrity: Barry Mucklow, chair of VI now has 35 members of his committee. They meet regularly and will have a real presence at the next election.
8. Events: Vicky Wolf reported on this committee activities. Multiple training sessions are scheduled and are listed on the website calendar. Canvassing is up and running almost every weekend.
9. Good of the order: Tea party next meeting on April 5th.
10. Members moved to Draft House and had last comments and vote.
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Minutes submitted by Kim Dabe, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

Report from June Lamson

Kids First Team Update May 2022 THERE ARE SO MANY EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING! Last Thursday, Kenny discovered that Donnita Graben had filed to run for School Board District 3. We've connected Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and today to help expedite her last minute decision. She's more than qualified for the job, is a long time Republican, lives in her district, taught reading and was a librarian in the SLC school system. Donnita knows how so many kids graduate without being prepared with life skills. Those of us who have met and vetted her are confident that she'll be a great candidate to successfully run against Donna Mills. KFT is scheduled to help with Sam Sorbo's homeschooling event June 24-25th. Sam's focus is on helping parents understand the options regarding homeschooling, providing connections to organizations who specialize in curricula, and encouraging them to home educate. This fits well with the change in direction of KFT. We hope to promote the event and encourage many local parents and concerned citizens to attend. School Board meetings and workshops have produced little change in direction except for whatever has passed in new laws from the desk of Gov. DeSantis, and only because they have no choice but to comply. June Lamson had the opportunity to write a 750 word piece for 4 local newspapers' Editorial pages two Sundays ago. She was asked for an explanation of the Parental Rights in Education bill (HB 1557). It was a good springboard for the introduction of KFT to those who asked questions as a result of the opportunity. If you haven't seen it yet, please Google HB 1557 June Lamson to read it for yourself. On June 17th, KFT will be co-sponsoring the School Board Candidate Forum at Grace Emmanuel Church from 6-8:30pm. Other sponsors include Florida Citizens Alliance, Heritage Foundation and FreedomWorks. It will be hosted by our Treasure Coast Community Impact Team (a project of Family Research Council). We will need volunteers to help serve light refreshments in the Fellowship hall. We've issued an invitation to the 6 SB candidates and have had positive responses from 4 so far. KFT is working to get our Republican School Board Candidates elected!

Information and press release for Donnita Graben

Donnita Graben
School Board district 3
Candidate
Press Release

By Donnita Graben
May 13, 2022

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
graben.donnita@gmail.com



PRESS RELEASE

Donnita Grabhorn Graben, a retired teacher/media specialist with over three decades of experience in leadership, education and management, has filed to run for St. Lucie County School Board district 3.

"This race is about academics, safety, and accountability. St. Lucie County must address these issues to overcome challenges to student progress resulting from the recent global pandemic," said Graben.

Graben prioritizes availing every student the opportunity to strive for and reach each individual student's highest academic attainment, preserving and improving school safety and holding the school board accountable for implementing policies to keep our children safe in a challenging academic environment.

Graben was a Reading teacher at Dan McCarty Middle School when named 1995 Saint Lucie County Teacher of the Year. Graben's annual Anne Frank weeks demonstrated even middle-school age students have the ability to teach and write in a manner to effect positive change in local communities and the world. Graben wrote a grant to fund an after-school

program at Dan McCarty Middle School to provide after-school academic tutoring, athletics and mentoring to students. As Port St. Lucie High School media specialist (librarian), Graben created a robotics program sponsored in part by Pratt Whitney, Florida Power & Light and sponsored the Friends of the Library and Kindness clubs on the Port St. Lucie campus. Graben said her experience at Saint Lucie elementary, middle school and high schools provides her with a unique and complete understanding of challenges faced by teachers and students at all school levels.

"My first priority will be to expand transparency within the school board. Every person in St. Lucie County has a vested interest in our school system. They have the right to be respectfully heard." Accountability from our school board should be expected and given to every person in St. Lucie County.

"One way is to use federal, state and local resources to regain and surpass pre-pandemic academic levels by matching individual students to their greatest academic needs," Graben added.

Another priority for Graben is school safety.

"Everyone on a Saint Lucie County school campus has the right to be safe. As a school board member I will guarantee a review of all school safety reports and support the relationship between school officials and local law enforcement staffing to facilitate safe campuses," said Graben.

"Every parent desires the very best for their own children. Our citizens desire the very best for our communities' children," said Graben, whose goal is to enable all students graduate county schools with the preparation necessary to enter nationally top-rated Indian River State College or any of our nation's best state universities or private institutions of higher education.

Graben has been a resident of St. Lucie County since third-grade when her family moved to Port St. Lucie. She is a graduate of Fort Pierce Central High School, Indian River State College and Florida Atlantic University. Graben's community involvement includes service as a board member of

both the Friends of the Saint Lucie County Library Association and the Port St. Lucie Athletic Association.

Donnita has been married for twenty-six years to Niles Graben. Niles and Donnita are the proud parents of Noah Graben, 25, a 2019 and 2021 graduate of the University of Florida and current director of bands at F.W. Buchholtz High School, Gainesville, Florida; and Courtney Lauren Graben, 21, a recent graduate of Indian River State College and a graphic designer.

"St. Lucie County enjoys some of our nations' most beautiful beaches, the cleanest air, and a city with the lowest crime rate of its size in Florida or the nation. Indian River State College has been named the nations' top college by the Aspen Institute. U.S. News has ranked Florida #1 in the nation for access to and quality of state college and universities. "We have become accustomed to excellence and every Saint Lucie County student should be fully prepared to enjoy every opportunity to contribute to the educational and economic success of our growing county, state and great nation," Graben said.