

# School Board's Barbieri to speak at COBWRA meeting tonight

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Palm Beach County School Board member Frank Barbieri steered clear of discussing the new controversial academic plan tonight at a meeting for The Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations.

"I'm not here to talk about the curriculum and all the other things going on," he said.

At a Nov. 17 school board meeting, which drew a crowd of about 1,000 people, Barbieri was the only board member to suggest ousting Chief Academic Officer Jeffrey Hernandez, the plan's architect.

At tonight's meeting, which had about 40 attendees, he went through an hour-long PowerPoint presentation that included an organizational chart of the school district, statistics about student performance and budget information.

He then took questions from the audience. Only COBWRA delegates, not visitors, are allowed to speak or ask questions at COBWRA meetings.

Some attendees came to the meeting specifically to hear Barbieri speak, such as Canyon Isles resident Debbie Krost. She showed up with two neighbors, all of whom have children at Sunset Palms Elementary School.

"I never even knew these meetings existed," she said.

The night meeting, held at the West Boynton Library, was a first for COBWRA, which normally holds its meetings at 9:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month.

Ken Lassiter, president of COBWRA, said that he plans to hold more night meetings in order to draw a new, younger crowd, including working people and families.

One such person was Anne Marie Edmonds, a COBWRA delegate for Sun Valley, who can't normally make it to the morning meetings because they conflict with her work hours.

"I was able to get home from work, feed my family and go to the meeting," Edmonds said. "I could not be more pleased."