



DRAFT MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2004 - 6:30 P.M.
 Ft. Lauderdale City Hall
 100 N. Andrews Avenue, 8th Floor
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

<u>MEMBERS</u>		Current Meeting	Cumulative Attendance		Y-T-D Meetings
<i>Current Membership: 13 Vacancies: 2 Quorum: 8</i>			<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
1	Chris Carney	P	7	1	8
2	Brian Dassler, Co-Chair	P	7	1	8
3	Lu Deaner, Co-Chair	P	8	0	8
4	Beth Gillon	P	6	2	8
5	Alice Hendrickson	P	8	0	8
6	Pearl Maloney	P	5	3	8
7	Lincoln Pasteur	P	7	1	8
8	Frances Payne	P	5	1	6
9	Elaine Schulze	P	7	1	8
10	Betty Shelley	P	7	1	8
11	Dr. Niara Sudarkasa	A	2	3	5
12	Nancy Thomas	P	7	1	8
13	Olivia Vargas	P	2	2	4
14					
15					
Total Members Present		12			
	Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison		8	0	8
	Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison	P	8	0	8
	Earlene Horne, BCPS Liaison	P	7	1	8

NOTE: The City Clerks Office directed that the EAB be administered on a March-April calendar for appointment terms and attendance. The attendance record has been adjusted accordingly to reflect this schedule. As a result, the cumulative attendance record is out-of-sync with what had been recorded in previous meeting minutes.

Recording

Leslie G. Carhart, Staff
 Brian Dassler, Co-Chair

Guests - None

DECEMBER 2004 AGENDA

Note Additional EAB Work Group Meetings: 5:30-6:30pm

The EAB Communications, Equity and Readiness Work Groups meet in advance of convening the full Board meeting. These work group meetings are held at the above location between 5:30 and 6:30 pm.

Planned December 2004 Agenda

(May Be Subject to Minor Revision-Update for Distribution at the Meeting)

A. Opening (Co-Chairs: L. Deaner, B. Dassler) Attendance and Sign-in

- Announcements
- Approve (Nov) Minutes & Current (Dec) Agenda
- Introduce New Members

B. New Business – None

1. **BCPS Education Summit Report** – Dassler/Deaner (Handout)
2. **Commission Presentation** – December 21 Commission Conference Meeting: (30 Minutes)
 - a. Purpose, Content and Format – Dassler/Deaner
 - b. Materials/Handouts – Carhart
3. **Discussion: Issues/Questions Associated with City Charter School(s)**

C. Old/Ongoing Business

4. **EAB Work Group Reports** (60 Minutes)
 - a. Full Board Discussion-Consensus-Motions
5. **City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items** – NONE
6. **Other/Regular Updates:** (30 Minutes)
 - a. Co-Chairs Report – Dassler/Deaner
 - b. Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
 - c. Broward County School District Reports –Horne
 - d. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays
7. **Other Discussions** – (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern)
8. **Next Meeting**
 - **Agenda** Items, Follow-up Activities/Assignments
 - **Location** – Proposed for Dillard Elementary, To Be Confirmed
 - **Date:** Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, January 20th
9. **Closing**

Prior to the full board meeting the School Readiness and Communications work groups met. There was no Equity work group meeting this month. The notes from the discussions are incorporated into these meeting minutes under Old/Ongoing Business item "4. EAB Work Group Reports."

Opening (Co-Chairs: L. Deaner, B. Dassler) - Attendance and Sign-in

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:45 by Chair Brian Dassler. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

Announcements – A call to order and greeting were offered with no other pending announcements.

Approve (Nov) Minutes & Current (Dec) Agenda

The previous month's minutes and current meeting agenda were approved and accepted by voice acclamation.

Introduce New Members - There were no new members to introduce at this meeting.

New Business

BCPS Education Summit Report – Dassler/Deaner (Handout)

Mr. Dassler acknowledged those who had attended the recent Advisory Boards Summit conducted by the School District – himself, Ms. Deaner, Dr. Hays, Ms. Carhart. He particularly was pleased to hear about the number of things being done by other Cities. He expressed concern about how to sustain our own Commission's interest in and attention to education.

Ms. Horne thanked the Board for their support. She hoped the Summit would aid cities in identifying best practices – what works or doesn't – and stimulated interest in doing more. She reported that about 12-13 other cities have advisory boards or education committees similar to Fort Lauderdale and that many of them were represented at the Summit. She said that minutes/notes from the discussion would be mailed to everyone, along with a related article dealing with advisory boards, and she noted that Mayors and Commissioners were also being copied on the report.

Ms. Schulze asked about the extent to which municipal officials have any power or influence with the school district. In the discussion that followed it was agreed that elected officials have some degree of positional power and the ability to call public attention to issues. The Interlocal Agreement was also mentioned as a potential mechanism or tool for influencing the District.

Ms. Thomas asked about there being any cities who could serve as "models" for how to best make a difference. Mr. Dassler, referencing his notes from the Summit (to follow) mentioned a number of initiatives undertaken by other cities, indicating that all had merit and perhaps could only be judged in the context of their own communities, schools, and issues. In essence, what "works best" is simply whatever works for you.

Mr. Dassler cited examples of what other cities are doing including:

- giving forfeiture money to schools for their discretionary use,
- coordinating a teacher of the year luncheon,
- giving every child a book at birth and every year thereafter in a 'born to read' program,
- producing a brochure about education in the City,
- organizing a principal/city official mixer every year,
- displaying student artwork in City Hall,
- sponsoring Innovation Zone science fair,
- encouraging City officials to serve on school advisory councils,
- recognizing students/staff at City Commission meetings,
- including a student on their Board.
- providing release time for employees to be reading buddies/mentors, and
- coordinating a school volunteer appreciation dinner.

There were two brief departures from the agenda. Mr. Dassler introduced one of his students – Wanda Olcima – who is a student at Stranahan High School and a participant in the UTAP (Urban Teacher Academy Program). Wanda spoke briefly to introduce herself, describe UTAP and expressed her appreciation for being in the program and being able to attend this evening’s meeting. Ms. Carhart introduced Ms. Kathleen Gunn who is the new Assistant City Manager. She was invited to attend a future EAB meeting.

City Commission Presentation – December 21 Commission Conference Meeting: (30 Minutes)

A copy of the agenda memo for the upcoming December 21st City Commission Conference Meeting was distributed. Mr. Dassler and Ms. Deaner will address the Commission to provide a brief update of EAB activities over the past year. Their presentation is the first item on the conference agenda.

They indicated their intentions to cover the following at that time:

- To introduce newly elected District 3 School Board Member Maureen Dinnen
- To provide highlighted school data
- To acknowledge the EABs evolved focus and work groups – equity, readiness and communications.
- To provide an MLE update and to specifically note plans for the Community Forum in the spring quarter.
- To talk about the role and ongoing interests for the Board
- To mention issue of charter schools.

Ms. Thomas noted the importance of impressing upon the Commission the differences between perceptions of and realities about the public schools. She also felt it important for them to be informed in a “big picture” way and to understand that improved achievement is possible and some of the things that can be done to promote it. There was further Board discussion in keeping with these comments.

Charter Schools Discussion: Issues/Questions Associated with City Charter School(s)

Mr. Dassler introduced this item by recalling that the Board had at various times discussed matters related to Charter Schools, noting that he, Ms. Deaner and Ms. Carhart had also toured the Pembroke Pines campus as well. He expressed concern that anyone – board members, elected officials, citizens – would be talking about the prospects of any more charter schools without having thoughtfully considered all the pro’s and con’s. He emphasized that the purpose of the evening’s discussion was not to decide on a position or proposed recommendation, but rather to identify the questions the Board would want to explore and answer toward developing its position.

To that end, Mr. Dassler facilitated the brainstorming of the following questions:

- How does/did the issue or interest in Charter Schools arise?
- What drives the interests/advocates for Charter Schools?
- How would the school be funded?
- Why would a City Charter School be needed?
- Do Charter schools have all the resources they need available?
- How would the Charter School be unique?
- Are Charter Schools intended to relieve overcrowding?
- Are Charter School facilities adequate, appropriate?
- Is there data on Charter School performance?
- Is Charter School performance data widely available and reported?
- Are Charter School curriculums or methods different?
- What “best practices” are being used in Charter Schools?
- Are there models or standards for Charter Schools?

Mr. Dassler congratulated the Board on having taken the important first step toward formulating a thoughtful and informed position of the issue of Charter Schools.

Old/Ongoing Business

EAB Work Group Reports (60 Minutes) - Full Board Discussion-Consensus-Motions

It was acknowledged that all of the work groups are still in the “fact finding” and pre/planning stages of their work. As specific plans or recommendations are developed Board action would be needed to authorize implementation.

Readiness – Mr. Carney reported for the group.

- Have decided to draft a letter or questionnaire that might be sent to the elementary schools for the purpose of obtaining their input, experience related to “readiness”. Want to know what they consider the base indicators, skills, competencies for children being ready and prepared to succeed in kindergarten or first grade. Dr. Hays noted it would be good to know the developmentally appropriate, core competencies associated with readiness and later school success.
- Would like to have a speaker address the group or full Board on the issue of readiness.
- Are discussing the possibility of doing site visits to the public pre-k programs. Ms. Thomas asked about the purpose of such visits and Mr. Carney indicated it would be for the purpose of observing and contrasting the various programs (public versus private) and to promote more linkage and coordination between service providers. Ms. Horne noted that the state legislators had visited the public school based programs in preparation for the Universal Pre-K Session.
- Mr. Pasteur felt strongly that there was a need for clear pre-k standards among all service providers. He acknowledged that presently more children were in private than public programs but that this situation will evolve and could change. Board discussion followed on the need for their better understanding the competencies and standards that might best serve the interests of children and academic achievement.
- Ms. Horne said she would research and provide the Board with information/materials on this subject.

Communications - Ms. Gillon reported for the group.

- Group is collecting information about our schools – Financial, Achievement/Performance, Student Demographics, Teacher Preparation, Facilities/Capital Projects. Most of this has been distributed to the Board or is available on line.
- They may also want to contact other school-based groups for their input as well - SAC, SAF, PTA, etc. – and might want to incorporate some of the outcomes of the MLE.
- Ms. Gillon asked the other two work groups to be sure to let them know as they need help getting information about the schools.
- Ms. Carhart will work with the group to pass along information/materials already developed and new data as well.

Equity – No report until January

Other – N/A

City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items – NONE

Other/Regular Updates: (30 Minutes)

Co-Chairs Report – Dassler/Deaner

Southside school – Ms. Deaner

Ms. Deaner reminded the Board that she was a member of the Southside Programs Committee. That Committee is continuing its efforts to explore options related to possible Culinary (teaching kitchen), Agricultural (horticultural) and Theater/Film programs. They have met with people at the Culinary Institute, South Plantation High School and the Fort Lauderdale Film Festival accordingly.

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

There was no liaison report this month.

Broward County School District Reports –Horne

Ms. Horne again thanked the Board for their support of the recent Summit. A total of 50 municipal representatives were in attendance. She said that they would be expanding this effort to conduct a series of District programs- one for each School Board Member District, very similar to what the City had previously tried to do under the MLE – culminating in a county-wide session. The District I meeting will be held in February. Our schools are predominantly in Districts 3 and 5, so we will want to be sure to participate in those when they are held. Ms. Horne also encouraged the work groups to contact her as they found themselves in need of referrals or information.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays

Dr. Hays indicated that Maureen Dinnen would be speaking to the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations at their February meeting (2nd Tuesday, 8th floor, 7:30 pm.) and invited the Board to attend for that presentation. She distributed a handout titled "Schools Become Year-round Community Centers" for Board review and perhaps discussion at a future date.

Other Discussions – (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern)

Mr. Pasteur made reference to an article in the Miami Herald that indicated the legislature would be looking at the possibility of pursuing a constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be allocated or awarded to religious institutions. This prospect is of great concern to him given the negative implications for public education, i.e. the majority of our youth, as has been discussed by this Board in the past. He felt this emphasized the extreme importance of the Board staying informed about developments having to do with or affecting education.

Ms. Thomas reported that Fort Lauderdale High would be holding their open house on January 11th. She talked briefly, with expansion provided by Ms. Horne, about the Classical Studies program established there. There was further Board discussion about the move to have all the high schools become "Learning Academies." Ms. Horne said she could provide further information at a future meeting.

At the close of the meeting, our guest Ms. Olcima, spoke at greater length about the UTAP and what a worthwhile experience it provides students/prospective teachers in terms of academic and community support and service. Mr. Dassler also acknowledged that student participants are further aided by the scholarships/full tuition they are afforded in exchange for returning to South Florida to teach for 4 years in an urban setting.

Next Meeting

Agenda: TBD
Location: TBD
Date: Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, January 20th

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with well wishes expressed to all for a safe and enjoyable holiday.