



DRAFT MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2005 - 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: 14 Vacancies: 1 Quorum: 8</i>			<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
1	Chris Carney	P	9	1	10
2	Brian Dassler, Co-Chair	P	8	2	10
3	Lu Deaner, Co-Chair	P	9	1	10
4	Beth Gillon	A	6	4	10
5	Alice Hendrickson	A	9	1	10
6	Pearl Maloney	P	7	3	10
7	Lincoln Pasteur	P	9	1	10
8	Frances Payne	P	6	2	8
9	Elaine Schulze	A	8	2	10
10	Betty Shelley	P	9	1	10
11	Dr. Niara Sudarkasa	P	4	3	7
12	Nancy Thomas	P	9	1	10
13	Olivia Vargas	P	3	3	6
14	Pam Brown	P	2	0	2
15					
Total Members Present		11			
	Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	P	10	0	10
	Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison	P	10	0	10
	Earlene Horne, BCPS Liaison	A	7	3	10

Recording

Jamie Opperlee

Guests

Catherine Powers, Broward County Schools
 Ernest Hamilton, Lauderdale Manors Elementary
 Assistant Chief Bob Moutagano, Ft. Lauderdale Police Department
 Chief Bruce Roberts, Ft. Lauderdale police Department

February 2005 Agenda

A. Opening - B. Dassler and L. Deaner

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Announcements
- Approve January Minutes & Current February Agenda

B. New Business (60 Minutes)

1. **Speaker: Chief Bruce Roberts**, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
Topic: School Safety, SRO's and Related

C. Old/Ongoing Business

2. **EAB Work Groups** - (30 Minutes)

- a. Work Group Reports and Board Discussion– (15-30 Minutes)

3. **City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items**

- a. Status on Items from December 21, 2004 Presentation

4. **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

5. **Other Matters** – (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern)

D. Next Meeting

- **Agenda:** Proposed:
- **Location:** Proposed: Dillard Elementary School
- **Date:** Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, March 17th

E. Closing

Opening B. Dassler and L. Deaner - Attendance and Sign-in

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 by Co-Chair Dassler. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

Announcements

Co-Chair Dassler acknowledged that the following people were in attendance: Catherine Powers, Broward County Schools, Ernest Hamilton, Lauderdale Manors Elementary, and Bob Moutagano, Ft. Lauderdale Police Department.

Approve January 2005 Minutes and February 2005 Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the minutes of the January 2005 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the agenda of the February 2005 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Speaker: Chief Bruce Roberts, Fort Lauderdale Police Department (taken out of order)

Topic: School Safety, SRO's and Related issues

Chief Roberts announced that the situation for SROs had not improved much; his goal was still to try to obtain funding for re-staffing the resource officers at their previous level. He felt this could not be accomplished within the current fiscal year but perhaps in eighteen months or so. Chief Roberts's staff had been meeting with school administrators to develop the critical incident response plans. The Police Department had been training in this regard for several years. Chief Roberts distributed copies of the Safe Schools Program flyer. He hoped to distribute these to schools within the next couple of weeks.

It had been suggested that police reservists might be employed as school resource officers; Chief Roberts was receptive to this idea, but no reservist had as yet expressed any interest in doing so. Chief Roberts clarified that in Florida, reserve officers were fully trained officers who work part time. Auxiliary officers were volunteers who had no arrest authority and could not carry weapons. Dr. Hays asked if the public safety aides could supplement the SRO program. She mentioned that someone in the county was trying to get the School Board instead of the municipalities to fund the SROs.

Chief Roberts noted that six SROs had been funded by a federal grant, but that grant money had gone away. With government cutbacks - as much as 90% - grant money available to police departments was significantly reduced. Fort Lauderdale had been a large recipient of grant money for Police Department projects in the past.

Chief Roberts felt that utilizing PSAs as SROs would not have the impact they were seeking. Dr. Hays felt their presence alone would give kids a positive police image and have an important impact. Assistant Chief Moutagano said that prior to the SRO program, the officer assigned to the location of a school would visit the school and interact with students. The PSAs were trained more for traffic matters, not for emergency response or liaison activities. Ms. Carhart felt they needed to consider new ways to establish a presence at the schools, i.e. not one defined by just the DARE program.

Mr. Pasteur felt the issue was money. He felt a portion of money from the new slot machine taxes or some other source could be earmarked for the SRO program. Co-Chair Deaner felt the most important function of the SRO was to interact with the kids and develop trust with them. She did not feel these qualities required complete police training. Chief Roberts felt the community must decide on the scope and intent of the SRO; they might desire a different approach from what they were used to. Ms. Shelley asked Chief Roberts if there was a specific job description for the

SROs. Chief Roberts replied that when the applicants were interviewed, the ability to teach, and willingness to put in extra time were factors considered. He acknowledged that it did take a special individual to perform the job well.

Co-Chair Dassler asked if a Board member would volunteer to speak to school principals about a new model for the SROs. Chief Roberts agreed that the principals should be consulted about what did and did not work in the past and what individual communities were looking for. Ms. Vargas and Mr. Carney volunteered to speak with school principals.

Dr. Hays felt they should seek different funding options that might be available until re-staffing was possible. Ms. Carhart felt the City Commission did support hiring at least one uniformed officer. She felt they should develop ideas for how one officer could be utilized in more than one school.

Mr. Hamilton noted that he had tried to obtain police expertise in designing his school's safety and security plans and had been unsuccessful so far. From his experience at Northside, kids at the school had learned that the SRO was someone they could talk to and who could help them, not someone who should be feared. He felt there was a great detriment to the kids who did not have that experience.

Chief Roberts agreed to correspond with the Board by May with some input from the Police Department and Co-Chair Dassler agreed to provide some information from the EAB in May. Co-Chair Dassler asked Assistant Chief Moutagano to make sure someone from the department got in touch with Mr. Hamilton to help with the school's safety plan.

Speaker: Catherine Powers, Broward County Schools

Topic: Universal Pre-K Program

Ms. Powers explained that the voluntary program would begin in August and was open to children at least 4 years old. Parents could choose between a regular school year program with a maximum of 540 hours, or the summer school program with a maximum of 300 hours. In March, a group was going to Tallahassee to try to create literacy standards for the Pre-K program.

Parents could pre-apply online and would be notified when the application process was available. None of the details about locations, dates and times was available yet. Once the class size reduction requirements were met and the individual Pre-K program could meet certain specifications, Dr. Till would then sign certification. After this was accomplished, the planning for individual providers could be implemented.

In the regular school year program, offered in a non-public school, a person with a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential may run the class. In a summer school program, in public or private school, a teacher certified in early childhood education or in elementary education with an add-on in early childhood education would run the class. In the school year program the ratio would be 2:18; in the summer program it would be 1:10. There were currently no standards in place for curriculum but every child in the program would have literacy testing in the year they entered kindergarten.

Funding was a huge issue. There was discussion that the program would spend \$2,500 per student. It currently costs approximately \$4,300 per child for school readiness or slightly more for Head Start. Ms. Powers stated that state governors were going to Washington on February 25 and would be talking about tax cuts. The Children's Defense Fund encouraged all advocates for children to call Governor Bush on February 23 and state their desire for full quality programs without putting the tax burden on the children and families.

Co-Chair Dassler recognized the presence of Mayor Naugle at the meeting.

Old/Ongoing Business

EAB Work Groups - (30 Minutes) (taken out of order)

Work Group Reports and Board Discussion– (15-30 Minutes)

Equity

Ms. Brown announced that Co-Chair Dassler had been appointed to the School Board's Diversity Committee; the EAB committee hoped to establish a partnership to support the School Board's committee and participate in some of the site visits. They intended to select a couple of issues from the School Board committee's reports they felt they could effectively advocate for and/or take part in.

Communications

Ms. Thomas reported for Ms. Gillon, that the Communications Committee had selected certain measurable items they felt important to communicate to the City Commission and general public. Ms. Thomas had concentrated on demographics, achievement and facilities. Ms. Gillon had concentrated on per capita spending, teacher issues and safety issues. Ms. Thomas distributed spreadsheets with the information she had compiled.

Ms. Thomas explained her demographic summary and compared it with her achievement summary and reading score data. She felt this information could help them focus on schools with the greatest and the largest percentage of residents. Co-Chair Dassler suggested that board members communicate their feedback to Ms. Thomas via email.

Readiness

Mr. Carney stated they had been looking at private child care providers to determine what they were doing to successfully get children ready for school. Ms. Powers had explained that she was involved in a program that allowed public teachers in Broward County to work with private providers on curriculum issues. The Readiness Committee was considering if this program could be used in some Fort Lauderdale schools.

Ms. Thomas asked Ms. Powers if there were estimates of how many kids were not ready for kindergarten. Ms. Powers stated that based on standardized tests, approximately 60% were not ready. Co-Chair Dassler confirmed with Ms. Powers that this information was available broken down by school.

Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Co-Chair Deaner, to extend the meeting time to eight forty-five. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items (taken out of order)

Status on Items from December 21, 2004 Presentation

Ms. Carhart explained that a memo was in progress.

Other/Regular Updates: (30 Minutes) (taken out of order)

Co-Chairs Report – Dassler/Deaner

Co-Chair Deaner stated she and Dr. Hays had attended the meeting of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations at which Maureen Dinnen and Robin Bartleman had both spoken.

Ms. Dinnen discussed:

- getting Broward's east side schools to the same state of repair as the newer west side schools,
- the "school within a school" concept, currently being implemented at the New River Middle School,
- the loss of funding in south Florida in the last legislative session due to the abandonment of the practice of adjusting funding in accordance with local costs of living.

Ms, Bartleman had discussed her belief that the “No Child Left Behind” voucher program would lead to privatization of education by draining monies from public education funding.

Dr. Hays had hoped to provide copies of the legislative issues to distribute but had not yet received them in the mail; Ms. Carhart had sent all members the link to the Districts web site where the legislative program could be found.

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Ms. Carhart distributed draft copies of the checklist for the orientation handbook for EAB members. She invited feedback and suggestions from the Board.

Broward County School District Reports –Horne

Ms. Horne was absent from the meeting.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays

Dr. Hays wanted to encourage the civic associations to write to their representatives and solicit their support for the School boards legislative issues.

Other Matters – (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern) (taken out of order)

Co-Chair Dassler congratulated Ms. Pasteur on his new job as Principal of Collins Elementary School in Dania.

Mr. Dassler reported that the meeting for March 17 had been confirmed for Dillard Elementary School. In April, the meeting would likely take place at City Hall with the Deputy Superintendent for Facilities Construction Management speaking about the Fort Lauderdale schools.

Co-Chair Dassler sent the Board’s congratulations to Ms. Horne, who had accepted a job with Broward County in the Civil Rights Division.

Next Meeting

Location: Dillard Elementary School
Date: Thursday, March 17th, 6:30 p.m.

Closing

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Handouts

1. Fort Lauderdale police Department Safe Schools Program flyer
2. Demographics, achievement, and SAT-9 reading scores spreadsheets from Ms. Thomas
3. Spreadsheet detailing residents student data
4. Information regarding the Pre-K program
5. EAB member handbook checklist