



EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes for April 21, 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: 15 Vacancies: 0 Quorum: 8</i>					<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
1	Chris Carney			A	9	3	12
2	Brian Dassler, Co-Chair			P	10	2	12
3	Lu Deaner, Co-Chair			P	11	1	12
4	Beth Gillon			P	8	4	12
5	Alice Hendrickson			P	11	1	12
6	Pearl Maloney			P	9	3	12
7	Lincoln Pasteur			P	11	1	12
8	Frances Payne			A	7	3	10
9	Elaine Schulze			P	10	2	12
10	Betty Shelley			A	10	2	12
11	Dr. Niara Sudarkasa			A	5	4	9
12	Nancy Thomas			P	11	1	12
13	Olivia Vargas			A	3	5	8
14	Pam Brown			P	4	0	4
15	Raphael Garcia			P	1	0	1
Total Members Present				10			
Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison				P	12	0	12
Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison				P	11	1	12

Recording

Jamie Opperlee

EAB April, 2005 Agenda

A. Opening - B. Dassler and L. Deaner

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Announcements
- Approve (March) Minutes & Current (April) Agenda

B. New Business (15 Minutes)

1. **Community Meeting on Facilities – Dassler/Deaner**

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. **EAB Work Groups - (60 Minutes)**
 - a. **Work Group Reports and Board Discussion– (30 Minutes)**
2. **City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items**
3. **Other/Regular Updates: (15 Minutes)**
 - a. **Co-Chairs Report – Dassler/Deaner**
 - b. **Staff Liaison Report –Carhart**
 - c. **Broward County School District Reports –NA**
 - d. **Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays**
 - e. **MLE Report - Committee**
4. **Other Matters – (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern)**
 - a. **Summer Schedule**
 - b. **Planning for 2005-06**

D. Next Meeting

- **Agenda:** MLE Community Forum
- **Location:** City Hall
- **Date:** Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, May 19, 2005

E. Closing

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 by Co-Chair Dassler. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

Introduce New Members

Mr. Raphael Garcia, new EAB member, introduced himself and explained that he worked at the Office of the Attorney General in Fort Lauderdale.

The other members of the EAB introduced themselves in turn.

Approve March 2005 Minutes and April 2005 Agenda

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

Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the agenda of the April 2005 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Community Meeting on Facilities

Co-Chair Dassler distributed a draft agenda for the Forum on Fort Lauderdale School Facilities planned for Wednesday, April 27, 2005 and stated that Board members had been invited to attend via email the previous week. He noted that Mr. Garretson had pointed out during his visit at the last meeting that residents needed to make their voices heard to help get their facilities needs addressed.

Co-Chair Dassler explained that after Mr. Garretson's visit, he and Ms. Carhart had contacted School Board members Benjamin Williams and Maureen Dinnen, and then Mr. Garretson to determine a date when they would all be available to attend, and then scheduled the event.

Ms. Brown stated that she was unhappy that the entire EAB had not been involved in the decision to put this together. Ms. Thomas noted that they had all been notified by email but apparently Ms. Brown had not received this email. Ms. Carhart noted that the EAB had been discussing this type of event for some time. Co-Chair Dassler admitted that the entire Board should have been included in the decision to host the forum and suggested that if this situation came up again, members would be contacted by email prior to making any decision. Ms. Schulze suggested that in future, a response to the email should be requested to be sure all members received proper notice ahead of time.

Co-Chair Dassler explained the format the forum would take and explained that he hoped this would open up a dialogue between the School Board, the City Commission and the community about specific needs at individual schools. He said he had not yet received any RSVPs from any members of the City Commission. Ms. Schulze suggested that EAB members contact individual schools to be sure they received notice, encourage their participation, and help them prepare, if necessary.

Mr. Pasteur felt this was one of the EAB's best outreach efforts yet and felt this was one of the purposes they should be serving. The anniversary of the CCC lawsuit was approaching and he felt this was an opportunity for schools to talk about how they were complying with the requirements of the suit.

In response to Ms. Brown's question, Co-Chair Dassler told her that the information obtained at the forum would be given to Mr. Garretson.

Old/Ongoing Business

EAB Work Groups

Individual work groups met for approximately 30 minutes.

Work Group Reports and Board Discussion

Readiness

Ms. Schulze stated that their main objective was to “provide recognition to preschools that are getting kids ready for school.” Each subcommittee member intended to contact two kindergarten teachers and ask them which kids were ready for school and ask them to identify which schools the better prepared kids came from. Ms. Thomas clarified that each subcommittee member would talk with a total of two teachers, not two from each school. Co-Chair Dassler stated that right now, their purpose was to gather information; they would decide later on how to act upon this information.

Equity

Ms. Brown stated that they had originally planned to visit schools involved in the CCC lawsuit but they had reconsidered and decided to become advocates for the most troubled schools. As an example, Ms. Brown mentioned the Sunland Park School / dry cleaner situation and said that she would gladly contact the School Board representative who said he would look into the situation. Ms. Brown felt that they should sit down with district commissioners to share the information they collected and encourage the commissioners to get involved.

For the forum next week, they intended to identify and contact the heads of advisory committees instead of school principals. Ms. Hendrickson said they were avoiding contacting the principals directly because that entailed some critical political structures and chain of command issues. Co-Chair Dassler volunteered to send the names and phone numbers of PTA presidents to EAB members. Ms. Carhart agreed to re-fax the information out to schools on Monday.

Co-Chair Dassler explained in response to Ms. Gillon’s question that the County Diversity Committee had a list of schools to be visited and a list of visitation dates. The dates were not assigned to particular schools until 48 hours prior to the visits to prevent the schools’ being “too prepared” for their visits.

Communications

Ms. Gillon distributed copies of the information the subcommittee had gathered so far. Ms. Thomas stated that this was a summary of information they felt was key for the City Commissioners to see and understand. She felt the Commission should focus on the schools’ characteristics such as achievement and also on facilities issues. She asked all members of the EAB to email their comments on the information to her. Ms. Thomas noted that there were several under-achieving schools and schools with a fairly high poverty rate in Fort Lauderdale and noted that these tended to be non-white.

Ms. Gillon stated that they were going to refine their goals and objectives. They eventually wanted to have reports to give to the City Commission on a regular basis. Ms. Brown suggested they sort the data by district commissioner. Ms. Thomas felt their first duty was to make the commissioners aware of the situations at the schools and give them information upon which to act.

Ms. Hendrickson noted that the goals of the Diversity and Communications subcommittees overlapped and suggested they coordinate their efforts for joint communication.

City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items - None

Other/Regular Updates:

Co-Chairs Report – Dassler/Deaner

Co-Chair Deaner informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Department and the City were applying for a cultural facilities grant for Southside School. She requested the support of the Board

to draft a letter of support to the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs. The request was for \$500,000 each year for three years. Co-Chair Deaner would draft this letter herself.

Motion made by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the letter of support for the grant application on behalf of the Southside School. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Co-Chair Deaner, seconded by Ms. Hendrickson, to continue the meeting for an additional 15 minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Ms. Carhart distributed copies of the memo sent through the City Manager's office as a follow-up to the December 21, 2004 presentation made by Co-Chairs Deaner and Dassler to the City Commission.

Ms. Carhart informed the Board that she had talked with Harvey Jacques of the Police Department to get the SRO discussion on the agenda in June or July.

Ms. Carhart stated that parents of students at Virginia Schumann Young, Bayview and Harbordale schools had signed letters in support of the reinstatement of the funding for SROs at elementary schools. Ms. Carhart had accepted these on behalf of the EAB and the City, and she would summarize them and create a list of parents who had signed the letters. She would send the summary to the City Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, the EAB and the Chief of Police.

Broward County School District Reports - None

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report

Dr. Hays stated that she had arranged for the principal of Northside Elementary to receive a commendation at the last City Commission meeting. Dr. Hays also announced that the next Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations meeting was on May 10, 2005. This would be "Neighborhood Services Night", with representatives from various City departments, and would coincide with the City Commission meeting.

MLE Report

Ms. Carhart stated that they were going forward with the MLE for the next Board meeting date on May 19, 2005. Steve Sampier, a CCB representative on the original steering committee had agreed to facilitate. A condensed report would be presented with information gleaned from the study circles. She had set a deadline of May 11 for RSVPs. Ms. Carhart felt that refreshments were less important than pre-meeting preparation. She hoped they would find a way to fund the refreshments.

Other Matters – (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern) None

- Future Topics: Summer Schedule and Planning for 2005 -2006
- Next Meeting:
 - • Agenda: MLE Community Forum:
 - • Location: City Hall, 8th Floor
 - • Date: Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, May 19, 2005

Closing - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Handouts

1. Draft agenda for April 27, 2005 Forum on Fort Lauderdale School Facilities
2. Memo regarding the December presentation to the City commission
3. Report from the Communications subgroup.