



EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes for August 18, 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		4/05 – 3/06 Meetings
			<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
* <i>Current Membership: 14 Vacancies: 1 Quorum: 8</i>					
1	Pam Brown	P	4	0	4
2	Brian Dassler, Co-Chair	P	3	1	4
3	Lu Deaner, Co-Chair	P	4	0	4
4	Beth Gillon	P	3	1	4
5	Raphael Garcia	A	2	2	4
6	Alice Hendrickson	A	3	1	4
7	Pearl Maloney	P	2	2	4
8	Lincoln Pasteur	A	1	3	4
9	Frances Payne	P	1	3	4
10	Elaine Schulze	P	4	0	4
11	Betty Shelley	A	2	2	4
12	Dr. Niara Sudarkasa	P	1	3	4
13	Nancy Thomas	A	3	1	4
14	Olivia Vargas	A	2	2	4
Total Members Present					
	Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	P	4	0	4
	Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison	A	0	4	4
	Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison	P	4	0	4
	Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary				

*Reflects Resignation of EAB Member Chris Carney

EAB August 2005 Agenda

A. Opening - B. Dassler and L. Deaner

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Announcements
- Approve (June) Minutes & Current (Aug) Agenda
- Introduce New Members – NA

B. New Business - None

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. **EAB Work Groups** - (45 Minutes)
 - a. Work Group Reports and Board Discussion– (30 Minutes)
2. **City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items:** None
3. **Other/Regular Updates:** (15 Minutes)
 - a. Co-Chairs Report – Dassler/Deaner
 1. CoChair Elections
 2. EAB Member Survey (Distributed by B. Dassler under separate cover.)
 - b. Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
 1. General Update/Status
 - c. Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster
 - d. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays
 - e. MLE Report – Carhart/Committee - None
 - f. Special Assignments:
 1. Sunland Elementary School – Brown
4. **Other Matters** (Administration, Announcements and Matters-of-Concern)
 - a. Planning for 2005-06

D. Next Meeting

- **Agenda:**
- **Location:** Proposed: City Hall
- **Date:** Regular Meeting Date: September 15th, 2005

E. Closing

Opening – Co-chairs Deaner and Dassler - Attendance and Sign-in

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 by Co-Chair Dassler. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

Approve June 2005 Minutes and August 2005 Agenda

Dr. Hays noted that on page 3, Ms. Dinnen's name was misspelled twice. On page 4, Jack Seiler's name was misspelled. Co-Chair Dassler noted that Ellyn Bogdanoff's name was misspelled as well.

Motion made by Co-Chair Deaner, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the minutes of the June 2005 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hays asked if Ms. Carhart had included results from Co-Chair Dassler's questionnaire in the Board's packet; Co-Chair Dassler said that survey would be distributed this evening and collected later.

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

New Business - None

Old/Ongoing Business

EAB Work Groups - Work Group Reports and Board Discussion

Readiness

Ms. Schulze played a video of a CNN report about a Yale University study concerning school readiness. In the report, Mr. Walter Gilliam, assistant professor at the Yale Child Study Center, explained that when teachers interviewed were asked if they had barred a child from their program due to a behavioral problem, the responses showed that preschoolers were barred far more often than older children. He admitted that programs in the study included private Pre-K that was contracted by the state, so the level of oversight might be very different than in the higher grades. Mr. Gilliam also noted that the older children were required by law to be in school, while the pre-schoolers were not.

Mr. Gilliam said the data were collected during a national pre-kindergarten study and questions about the specific behavioral issues were not asked. They hoped to look into the specifics in depth at a later time. Mr. Gilliam pointed out that in the end, what they were talking about was not the behavioral problems of the children, but the decisions made by schools and teachers regarding what to do about the behavioral issues.

Mr. Gilliam noted that parents felt that the school readiness the children should be learning in pre-k was ABCs and 123s, shapes, colors, etc., but kindergarten teachers felt the children should also be learning about behavior. Mr. Gilliam felt that helping kids with behavioral readiness should be considered part of the mission of the pre-k programs. He noted that pre-k teachers typically had no college degree and were poorly paid. Mr. Gilliam stressed that when the pre-k teachers had access to a behavioral consultant who would work with the children, the expulsion rates were cut in half.

Ms. Schulze agreed there was a difference between what parents and teachers felt school readiness was. Ms. Schulze felt they should collect feedback from the kindergartens about which pre-k programs were working.

Co-Chair Deaner said that when she taught nursery school, a behavioral consultant was available to observe the child and discuss the behavioral problems with the teachers and make suggestions. Co-Chair Deaner felt that if a child's needs were met, most behavioral problems could be eliminated. She further noted that children should not be pushed or expected to have mastered certain social skills until they were ready; this could lead to further behavioral problems.

Dr. Sudarkasa pointed out that the video was not specific about the behavior problems the teachers were citing as reasons for expulsion. She agreed with Mr. Gilliam's assessment that the issue may be more

about the pre-k teachers' judgment and handling of typical pre-schooler behavior than the behavior itself. Dr. Sudarkasa also noted that the culture in which each child grew up, not just his or her age, had an affect on behavior. She felt parents must be made aware of what readiness meant.

Ms. Brown noted that the problem of readiness was vast because children faced so many different issues at home. She wanted the Board to find a way to be helpful on this issue. Regarding local issues, Dr. Hays pointed out that what parents had thought the pre-k program would be had not materialized and she blamed the Legislature for this. She was also concerned about the lack of oversight in the pre-k programs to which the state was contributing. Dr. Hays felt they must also be interested in the percentages of minority kids removed from pre-k programs given the demographics of students in the Fort Lauderdale schools. She agreed that parents should be educated about what readiness was. She felt the EAB could develop a list of concerns for readiness that could be given to City officials to consider implementing.

Ms. Carhart suggested they consult the website for the National Association for the Education of Young Children for readiness indicators or measures. Ms. Schultz said she could forward the links for the full Yale study report. Co-Chair Dassler agreed that the EAB could help make parents aware of what the criteria for readiness were. Dr. Sudarkasa agreed that they should consult the NAEYC website for criteria.

Motion made by Dr. Sudarkasa, seconded by Co-Chair Deaner and Ms. Gillon, to ask the readiness committee to return to the Board with the criteria cited by the NAEYC as defining school readiness. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Commission/Manager Follow-up Items: None

Other/Regular Updates

Co-Chairs Report – Deaner - Ms. Schulze distributed a letter of resignation from Mr. Carney. The Board discussed the possibility of recruiting another school principal to replace Mr. Carney.

Co Chair elections

Ms. Deaner nominated Mr. Dassler as Co-Chair, seconded by Ms. Schulze. Board unanimously approved. Ms. Gillon nominated Ms. Brown as Co-Chair, seconded by Ms. Maloney. Board unanimously approved. Co-Chair Dassler thanked Ms. Deaner for her service as Co-Chair.

EAB member survey

Co-Chair Dassler said this was an opportunity for members to provide anonymous feedback to help in their planning for 2005 – 2006. He asked to have the questionnaires mailed out with pre-addressed return envelopes. Ms. Carhart will accept receipt and forward them to Mr. Dassler.

Co-Chair Dassler announced that the School Board was convening representatives from education advisory boards from all over the county. He asked Ms. Deaner and Co-Chair Brown to attend.

School Board of Broward County Diversity Committee

Co-Chair Brown stated that some time ago, the committee had viewed and decided against showing the "We are Family" video in the schools. During the course of their discussions, Ms. Brown said some Diversity Committee members had made some "extremely homophobic, unpleasant comments about the gay community." Ms. Brown noted that this type of behavior was generally "incredibly inappropriate", but its occurrence within a committee that was created to ensure equity and access for all was "shameful for all of us."

The School Board had suggested suspending the Diversity Committee; Ms. Brown defended and wanted to preserve its existence, as it was one of the few venues the County had for addressing inequity for children. She asked the EAB's support for encouraging the continuation of the Diversity committee. Ms. Deaner suggested the EAB send a letter to the Board of Education reminding them that the Diversity Committee was a watchdog group appointed by law and the EAB did not wish it to be dissolved.

Motion made by Ms. Deaner, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to send a letter to the Broward County School Board recommending that the Diversity Committee be maintained. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart - None

General Update/Status

Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster - Mr. Webster was absent.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays - Dr. Hays stated the Council was on summer hiatus.

MLE Report – Carhart/Committee - None

Special Assignments:

Sunland Elementary School – Brown

Ms. Brown said she had gotten Sunland on the Diversity Committee's site visit list. She also planned to get in touch with a group that was concerned with environmental issues at schools.

Other Matters

Planning for 2005-06

Co-Chair Dassler explained the planned rebuilding at Stranahan. He felt the Diversity committee's site report was a "very significant piece in Stranahan's effort to draw attention to a very, very neglected school facility."

Dr. Hays explained a program at Winn Dixie whereby donations were made to particular schools based on a percentage of an individual's shopping purchases. Dr. Hays felt they should campaign with local civic associations to encourage enrollment.

Ms. Schulze felt they should speak up and suggest that schools should provide students with basic supplies at least through the third grade. Co-Chair Dassler stated that the School Board's attorney had advised them that it was against state law to supply anything but the basics of paper, pencils and pens. Ms. Schulze was concerned about the inequity in supplies in the classrooms and how this problem was dealt with by the schools. Co-Chair Dassler encouraged her to note which schools were not addressing the problem properly and the EAB could notify the Superintendent about those schools, or the EAB could send a letter to the Superintendent explaining that this was a county-wide problem.

Next Meeting

Location: Proposed: City Hall Date: September 15, 2005

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Handouts

1. Life After High School, prepared by Public Agenda
2. A copy of the CCC settlement agreement
3. Organizational chart for the Broward County School Board