



MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2006 - 6:30 P.M.

Ft. Lauderdale City Hall

100 N. Andrews Avenue, 8th Floor

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Administrative Note: These Minutes Approved April 2006.

<u>MEMBERS</u>		Current Meeting	Cumulative Attendance		4/05 – 3/06 Meetings
			<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
<i>Current Membership: 15 Vacancies: 0</i>					
<i>Quorum: 8</i>					
1	Michael Bacigalupi	P	2	1	3
2	Pam Brown, Co-Chair	P	8	1	9
3	Brian Dassler, Co-Chair	P	8	1	9
4	Lu Deaner	P	9	0	9
5	Beth Gillon	A	6	3	9
6	Alice Hendrickson	A	5	4	9
7	Pearl Maloney	P	6	3	9
8	Frances Payne	A	3	6	9
9	Elaine Schulze	P	7	2	9
10	Betty Shelley	A	4	5	9
11	Dr. Niara Sudarkasa	P	4	5	9
12	Judy Zinn	P	2	1	3
Total Members Present					
	Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	P	9	0	8
	Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison	P	4	5	8
	Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison	A	8	1	8

Guests

Leona Miracola, Director of the Broward County Magnet Program

Dr. Earlean Smiley, Deputy Superintendent,

Curriculum & Instruction/Student Support, Broward County

Luwando Hines, Principal, Arthur Ashe Middle School

Jamillah Shakir, Reading Coach, Arthur Ashe Middle School

Annette Pickney, Curriculum Facilitator, Arthur Ashe Middle School

Ruthie Jones, PTSA President at Arthur Ashe Middle School

Kevin Sawyer, South Central Area Director, Broward County

Dr. Verda Farrow, South Central Area Superintendent

Deedara Hicks, Principal, Lauderdale Manors Elementary

EAB January 2006 Agenda

A. Opening - B. Dassler and P. Brown

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Announcements
- Approve December Minutes & January Agenda

B. New Business

1. Magnet Program/Arthur Ashe Middle –

Guest: Dr. Earlean Smiley, Deputy Superintendent,
Curriculum and Instruction/Student Support

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Reports/Updates from Chairs

- a. Partnering/Sunland Park Elementary
- b. Mentoring/Larkdale Elementary
- c. Project Update/Stranahan High School
- d. Project Update/Fort Lauderdale High

2. City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items

- a. Handout - BCPS 2006-07 Magnet Programs Brochure

3. Other Regular Updates

- a. Co-Chairs– Dassler/Brown
- b. Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
 - 1) EAB meeting schedule and locations
- c. Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster
- d. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays
- e. Special Assignments: None

4. Other Matters

- a. Handout “New Faces Renews an Old Debate” – Sudarkasa, Deaner

D. Next Meeting

- **Agenda Items:** TBD
- **Location:** TBD
- **Date:** Regular Meeting Date: February 16, 2006

E. Closing

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 by Co-Chair Dassler. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around. Board members and guests introduced themselves in turn.

Approve December 2005 Minutes and January 2006 Agenda

This item was deferred due to lack of a quorum.

New Business

Magnet Program/Arthur Ashe Middle School – Dr. Earlean Smiley

Co-Chair Dassler welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the Board's identification earlier in the year of three schools they had agreed to support. This evening, they hoped to discuss specific issues regarding one of those schools: Arthur Ashe Middle School.

Dr. Smiley commended the Board for advocating for the schools. She said Co-Chairs Dassler and Brown had asked her to initiate a Magnet School program at Arthur Ashe, to consider ways to encourage teacher retention, to find ways to provide students with a vision for their future career and education, and then to present the Board with the results of her efforts.

Dr. Smiley felt this must be a phased process. She noted that Ms. Hines had done an exceptional job stabilizing the environment at the school and noted some other recent accomplishments:

- Ms. Hines had hired quality teachers for Arthur Ashe
- The strongest teachers were moved to areas of need
- Class assignments were based on the strengths of the teachers' content area
- Ms. Hines had embedded teacher training within the school day
- Ms. Hines instituted "morning camp" classes before regular classes at Arthur Ashe

Dr. Smiley said they had identified "Tenets of Quality Teaching and Learning", and she was certain that they would "get to where they need to be at the three schools" if they stayed the course.

Dr. Farrow explained how teachers were assigned for the morning camp program and noted that she and Dr. Smiley had visited during the first week to identify how the program could be improved. Dr. Smiley noted that the morning camp classes included math, reading, and language arts, and the class size was kept to 15 children.

Dr. Smiley explained that the kids in the program were driven by a desire to learn. Ms. Hines agreed and added that kids knew the stigma attached to being an "F" school and had great motivation to change it.

Dr. Farrow noted the improvement that Ms. Hines had achieved at Arthur Ashe, Ms. Hicks had achieved at Lauderdale Manors, and Ms. Batie had achieved at Sunland. Ms. Jones said her own children were attending Lauderdale Manors and Arthur Ashe and she confirmed what Dr. Smiley and Dr. Farrow reported.

Dr. Farrow explained that during the C-Net team school visits, they first obtained an overview of the school from the principal and staff, then one part of the team reviewed data regarding the school's progress, and another part of the team visited classrooms to assess them. They then made recommendations to be confirmed on their next visit.

Dr. Smiley felt Broward County was ahead of the State's curve in terms of school reforms. They had worked to increase the rigor at the middle school level to deliver academically stronger students to the high schools. To accomplish this, they had incorporated a College Board level curriculum at all Title 1 schools and included parents in the process. Dr. Smiley was certain that the infrastructure changes they had made would "surely, surely impact achievement on a positive basis at the three schools that we are discussing tonight."

Dr. Smiley had provided a copy of the Magnet School policy for the Board to examine. Ms. Miracola had provided the Board with a planning document regarding the Magnet School program.

Co-chair Brown explained the Board's decision to become more practically involved in Fort Lauderdale schools and their objectives to make the Commissioners more aware, and get Board members more involved in the schools. She reported that several Board members had entered the Mentor Program and the Board would soon adopt Sunland and determine ways to provide help to that school.

Ms. Miracola explained the process for instituting Magnet programs. She described the difference between a School of Option and School of Change program and how the programs were instituted. She outlined the steps in the process:

- Feasibility study and review
- Examine the facilities
- Identify the theme program
- Communicate with the school and surrounding community

Ms. Miracola clarified for Ms. Carhart that a School of Option would accept children from out of the boundary and transportation was provided; a School of Change was for children only within the boundary. Co-Chair Brown asked if the Magnet School process had begun for Arthur Ashe yet; Dr. Smiley replied that it had not, and explained that the School Board or the Superintendent of Schools must make the request to start the process.

Co-Chair Dassler explained the Board's rationale for endorsing the Magnet Program at Arthur Ashe. All middle schools in Fort Lauderdale have a Magnet Program, and all are Schools of Option, providing transportation. These schools had not only an intellectual focus, but also a way to "compel the magnet piece." Co-Chair Dassler also felt that Arthur Ashe was now stable and "ready to soar." In his experience at Stranahan, Co-Chair Dassler had learned that a more rigorous curriculum encouraged greater achievement and that this could drive the entire school, including lower-achieving students. Co-Chair Dassler said they had also looked at where the top-achieving elementary school students were going. They had found that high-achieving students attending elementary schools that should feed into Arthur Ashe were going elsewhere because there was nothing to compel parents to send their children on to Arthur Ashe. Co-Chair Dassler felt the Magnet Program would help compel these students to Arthur Ashe.

Co-Chair Dassler asked Ms. Hines if she felt the school could build and support a Magnet Program. Ms. Hines felt that with the school's academic rigor and curriculum, her school did have the potential to support a Magnet Program.

Dr. Smiley recommended that she and Dr. Farrow share the EAB's feedback with Superintendent Till regarding Arthur Ashe's desire for a Magnet Program. She was certain that Dr. Till would then give clear direction to the School Board regarding this. Co-Chairs Brown and Dassler agreed and asked Dr. Smiley when they could anticipate a response. Dr. Smiley felt they could consult with Dr. Till in the near future and report back to the EAB at their February meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Bacigalupi, seconded by Ms. Maloney, to ask Dr. Smiley and Dr. Farrow to consult with Dr. Till and request that he initiate a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a

Magnet Program at Arthur Ashe and report back to the EAB on February 16, 2006. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zinn wanted to be sure Dr. Smiley and Dr. Farrow communicated the EAB's rationale to Dr. Till, including the fact that Arthur Ashe was the only middle school in Fort Lauderdale without a Magnet Program, and the Board's belief that success would breed success.

Ms. Hicks explained how Dr. Smiley had asked her to move to Lauderdale Manors and told the Board how rewarding the experience had been. She had called the teachers back July 11 and given intensive training regarding the Sunshine State standards and targets. Cafeteria personnel and custodians had been trained as well to "become specialists," and act as a team. She noted that they had progressed from 27% up to 60% of children making the reading criteria. She had provided 137 families with take-home computers and provided training to learn how to use them.

Ms. Hicks had asked Fort Lauderdale's City Manager to visit Lauderdale Manors, and she had described to him ways the City could help the school. Ms. Hicks said Christopher Pollock from the Chamber of Commerce had visited the school as well, and had since donated many supplies.

Ms. Hines said she had given her students their data and scores and asked them what they intended to do to prepare for the FCAT. She had promised them this would change by March and remarked that her students had "stepped up to the plate." Ms. Hines then described other incentives she had created. For example, when her students had achieved a 25% increase in benchmark performance, she had allowed them to have a dance. Another example mentioned was their having arranged for the teachers to get massages by the Atlantic Vocational students. She felt little things could go a long way toward keeping teachers and students motivated and inspired. Ms. Hines said the Ruden McClusky law firm had made several donations to her school, including sports tickets and 150 computers.

Co-Chair Dassler thanked the guests for attending and Dr. Smiley thanked the Board for the invitation.

Old/Ongoing Business

Reports and Updates from Chairs

Partnering at Sunland Elementary

Co-Chair Dassler said Ms. Batie sent her appreciation and expressed her willingness to be a partner with the EAB and to meet with them.

Mentoring at Larkdale Elementary

Co-Chair Brown said she had a message from Mr. Moderelli asking to meet with Co-Chairs Dassler and Brown next week regarding mentoring.

Project Update: Stranahan High School

Co-Chair Dassler distributed a copy of an invitation to a planning meeting this Saturday where they would decide on a Master Plan for Stranahan High School.

Project Update: Fort Lauderdale High School

Co-Chair Dassler reported that the students were still in an air conditioned, covered cafeteria, but it was announced recently that the South Central Area office would be moving, and the space across the street from Fort Lauderdale High School would be incorporated into the school.

Dr. Sudarkasa asked what EAB members could do to contribute to the three schools. Ms. Carhart suggested they could find some corporate-donated items to provide for incentives. Dr. Sudarkasa wondered if they should visit the schools themselves to get a better sense of how they could help. Co-Chair Dassler said he would contact the three principals and determine their preferences for a visit.

Ms. Carhart felt they should consider an event in conjunction with the Parks Department and the Public Information Office to celebrate and acknowledge everyone's educational efforts. Co-Chair Dassler felt they should continue developing this idea at their February meeting. Dr. Sudarkasa felt they should probably wait until March, as Dr. Smiley was due to report to the Board in February.

Commission/Manager Follow-up Items

Handout - BCPS 2006-07 Magnet Programs Brochure

Other/Regular Updates

Co-Chairs Report – Dassler and Brown - None

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Ms. Carhart informed the Board that they would need to change their meeting dates in the future. She distributed a list of possible dates.

Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster

Mr. Webster announced that the Education Advisory Board Coalition was forming a best practices steering committee to recognize municipalities for their student recognition activities. He explained that this event would occur in September or October. He distributed the list of ideas the group had already developed.

Mr. Webster informed the Board that the Coalition was conducting a workshop on Education Advisory Board development on January 25 at 2 p.m. at the K.C. Wright building.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays - None

Special Assignments: None

Next Meeting

Agenda Items:	TBA
Location:	TBA
Date:	February 16, 2006

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Handouts:

1. "New Faces Renews an Old Debate", by Dr. Sudarkasa, Sun Sentinel 12/5/05
2. Meeting notes from Education Advisory Boards - Best Practices Steering Committee, January 13, 2006
3. Handout - BCPS 2006-07 Magnet Programs Brochure