



## MINUTES BOARD APPROVED – July 20, 2006

### EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

**Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2006 - 6:30 P.M.**

Ft. Lauderdale City Hall

100 N. Andrews Avenue,

8<sup>th</sup> Floor Break Area

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

<u>MEMBERS</u>		Current Meeting	Cumulative Attendance		4/06 – 3/07 Meetings
<i>Current Membership: 11   Vacancies: 4 Quorum: 6</i>			<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
1	Michael Bacigalupi	P	1	0	1
2	Pam Brown, Co-Chair	P	1	0	1
3	Brian Dassler, Co-Chair	A	0	1	1
4	Lu Deaner	P	1	0	1
5	Alice Hendrickson	A	0	1	1
6	Pearl Maloney	P	1	0	1
7	Janice Olson	P	1	0	1
8	Frances Payne	A	0	1	1
9	Elaine Schulze	P	1	0	1
10	Dr. Niara Sudarkasa	P	1	0	1
11	Judy Zinn	P	1	0	1
Total Members Present		8			
Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison		P	1	0	1
Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison		P	1	0	1
Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison		P	1	0	1

### EAB April 2006 Agenda

**A. Opening** - Brian Dassler and Pam Brown

1. Attendance and Sign-in
2. Announcements
3. Approve December 2005, January, February, March 2006 Minutes & April 2006 Agenda
4. Acknowledge new member Janice Olson

**B. New Business**

**C. Old/Ongoing Business**

1. Update on Arthur Ashe Middle Magnet Program
2. Other Discussions
  - a. Reminder: EAB Meeting Schedule Change – 3rd Thursday of each Month
3. New Reports/Updates/Discussions
  - a. Partnering/Sunland Park Elementary
  - b. Mentoring/Larkdale Elementary
  - c. Project Update/Stranahan High School
  - d. Project Update/Fort Lauderdale High

**D. City Commission/Manager follow-up Items - None**

**E. Other Regular Updates**

1. Co-Chairs– Dassler/Brown
2. Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
3. Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster
4. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays

**F. Other Matters - TBD**

**G. Next Meeting**

- Agenda Items: TBD
- Location: City Hall 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Break Area
- Date: Regular Meeting Date: May 18, 2006

**H. Closing**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 by Co-Chair Brown. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

**Introduce new member: Janice Olsen**

Ms. Olson explained that she had been an executive in the automotive industry for twenty-six years and retired six years ago. She was serving as an arbitrator for the state Lemon Law and was also a substitute teacher at Pompano Beach Middle School.

**Approve October, November, December 2005, January and February, March 2006 Minutes and April 2006 Agenda**

Ms. Zinn noted that in the March minutes, on page 4, paragraph 3, it was stated that one could become a representative on a School Improvement Committee simply by volunteering. She informed the Board that the proper name was School Advisory Council, and all positions were elected.

**Motion made by Ms. Deaner, seconded by Dr. Sudarkasa, to approve the minutes of the October, November, December 2005, January, February and March 2006 meetings as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion made by Ms. Zinn, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the April 2006 agenda. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**New Business**

[This item was taken out of order]

Ms. Zinn announced that the Communities in Schools Board was having a fund-raiser on Derby Day at Ms. Zinn's home.

Co-Chair Brown reminded the Board of the reason the Diversity Committee was created: to monitor issues of equity within the Broward County School system. The Committee members had recently experienced serious disagreements on certain issues and the suggestion had been made to change the Committee's name to more accurately reflect its role and to determine if the Committee was structured properly. A subcommittee had created a set of recommendations for the full Committee's vote, but the vote was postponed to consider the Committee's bylaws. The Subcommittee was upset at not being given time to make their presentation and some had left the meeting. Co-Chair Brown wanted the Diversity Committee to devote an entire meeting to discussion of the name and structure changes.

A few days ago, Co-Chair Brown received an email informing her that the Diversity Committee's issues would be considered in a School Board workshop, not by the Diversity Committee. Co-Chair Brown felt this would only further disempower the people on the subcommittee who had created the recommendations.

Dr. Sudarkasa felt the Diversity Committee must grapple with its own issues. She felt the EAB was losing their focus and should not try to monitor the Diversity Committee, but should concentrate on their schools as they had agreed to do at the start of the school year. Dr. Hays felt the CCC settlement still needed monitoring by the community.

Ms. Carhart reminded the Board that the majority of school-aged youth in Fort Lauderdale were minority, and the EAB's direct involvement in schools was working toward equity and diversity.

Co-Chair Brown noted that it was nearing the end of the school year and the Board should decide if they wanted to continue their activities into next year. Ms. Deaner felt this was their greatest hope for making a real impact.

Ms. Schulze wanted to make the School Board and City Commission aware of the dropout crisis. Ms. Deaner agreed to work with Ms. Carhart to compile dropout data.

### **Old/Ongoing Business**

#### **Magnet Program at Arthur Ashe – Update**

Co-chair Brown said she had no update as yet on the status of the Magnet Program at Arthur Ashe. She had spoken with Dr. Farrow briefly, who told her that the process was going forward. Dr. Sudarkasa wondered how long the process might take; Mr. Webster said they were scheduled for a report to the School Board in May; he agreed to find out what the possible timetable was.

### **Other Discussions**

#### **Reminder: EAB Meeting Schedule Change – 3rd Thursday of each Month**

Ms. Brown reminded Board members that they had resumed their original schedule for the third Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor break room.

### **New Reports/Updates and Discussions**

#### **Partnering at Sunland Elementary**

Co-Chair Brown said she had attended a community forum [which was scheduled to cease] at Sunland last night. None of the original applicants had been deemed appropriate and the principal job had been offered to Mr. Dukes, the Assistant Principal, who turned it down. They had created a compromise in which a new Assistant Principal, Mr. Griffin, would work with Mr. Dukes. Dr. Farrow would appoint one of the original applicants for Principal, who would probably start in the fall. Co-chair Brown had already spoken with Mr. Dukes and asked him to sit down with the EAB and Mr. Griffin to discuss ways the EAB could help the school.

Co-Chair Brown stated she had asked Mr. Moderelli what could be done about the dry cleaner and auto shop next to the school and he had promised to pursue Code Enforcement cases against the properties. Commissioner Moore informed Co-Chairs Brown and Dassler that they had "been down that road" already and it had not worked. Commissioner Moore was in the process of gathering a group of parents to try to get the issues addressed at Sunland.

Ms. Zinn remembered that Ms. Batie wanted to start a garden at Sunland. Ms. Zinn had spoken to Roy Rogers and Mickey Pope at Northside, and Mickey agreed to speak with the new principal at Sunland. Ms. Schulze said she had contacted Mr. Capp at Plantation High about Ms. Batie's desire for a garden at Sunland, and she suggested students do community service hours working on Sunland's garden. Ms. Schulze wanted to determine who ran the after school program at the school, as they were overseeing the garden. Ms. Zinn advised her to contact the Before and After School Care Office at the district. Dr. Hays agreed to ask Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent, if the Parks and Recreation Department was involved in the after school program there.

Dr. Hays stated that she had been able to get the Jason Taylor Foundation to pay for 45 Sunland students and 5 chaperones to attend the King Tut exhibit. She collected additional funds to pay for the bus driver for the school incentive program.

Dr. Hays announced that Ms. Batie had provided an email address for the Sunland mentoring contact, Farah Barrat and asked for volunteers for their May 18 and 19 Field Day. Ms. Batie was also concerned about never seeing a police officer at the school and Dr. Hays had mentioned this to Major Kiley, who agreed to have officers stop by the school periodically.

Dr. Hays was anxious for the mentoring program to get under way and wanted to renew the EAB's commitment to helping Sunland.

Dr. Hays informed the Board about the Children's Aid Club, which could help fund small projects.

### Mentoring Program

Co-Chair Brown informed the Board that the last she heard from Mr. Moderelli, he would get back to work on the mentoring program after the FCATs were over. The FCATs had been over for three weeks now, and Co-Chair Brown said she would contact Mr. Moderelli.

Project Update: Stranahan High School - None

Project Update: Fort Lauderdale High School - None

### **Commission/Manager Follow-up Items - None**

### **Other/Regular Updates**

**Co-Chairs Report – Dassler and Brown - None**

**Staff Liaison Report –Carhart - None**

**Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster**

Mr. Webster made the following event announcements:

- ❖ The EAB Coalition would meet on May 9 at 3:00p.m. at the Broward County Extension Education Division
- ❖ Experience Broward would be open only to those eligible for a Florida Education Certificate
- ❖ An Affordable housing seminar would be held on May 13 at Piper High
- ❖ The Larkdale Community Health Fair would take place on April 22
- ❖ A student at Stranahan had received a National Merit Scholarship of \$2,500

Mr. Webster distributed copies of an article from the Sun Sentinel written by a Stranahan student.

### **Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – None**

Dr. Hays read questions from members of the Council:

- ❖ If a school continues to be on the low performing list with a D or F grade, and the parents and students have options available to them, under the "No Child Left Behind" Act, whose responsibility is it to notify the parents of their options?
- ❖ How will the parents be notified of these options in a timely manner?

Ms. Zinn pointed out that the FCAT grades are not received until mid-June. She explained that there was a committee working on this and there was a process they followed for notification. She advised Dr. Hays that Frank Vodolo would have the specific information.

Regarding Lauderdale Manors, Dr. Hays felt there was a disconnect between the school and the community and felt communication must be improved. Ms. Maloney said this problem had occurred in the last nine years.

Co-Chair Brown said this was the subject of her dissertation: the relationship between neighborhood associations and schools. After completing her research, Co-Chair Brown hoped to be able to provide the Board with some answers as to what caused this disconnect.

Ms. Zinn pointed out that 70-80% of residents of Broward County had no connection to the public schools; they either sent their children to private school or had no school-aged children. Co-Chair Brown felt the situation was different in Fort Lauderdale.

### **Other Matters**

Ms. Schulze distributed copies of several articles regarding the dropout epidemic. Ms. Zinn remarked that one problem was that high schools were too big. Ms. Olson felt there were other issues, such as the dependence on visual stimuli and the belief among kids that it was “cool not to learn.” Dr. Sudarkasa felt they must face the fact that books were being used less and less for learning, and they must find ways to engage students “where they were” and not where they wanted them to be.

Ms. Deaner announced that the Southside picnic had gone very well and they had gleaned a lot of information on the alumni groups.

Co-Chair Brown encouraged Board members to attend the May 18 event at Sunland. She also asked Ms. Carhart to add a discussion item to their May agenda: a joint CVC/EAB school year opening event for next year.

### **Next Meeting**

Agenda Items:	TBA
Location:	City Hall 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor Break Area
Date:	Monday May 18, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

#### Handouts:

1. 2006 Pan African Bookfest flyer
2. Sun Sentinel article by a Stranahan High graduating senior
3. Copy of an open letter to the American people from Bill Gates regarding the dropout issue
4. Copy of article from the US Department of Education website regarding the dropout issue
5. Copy of Time magazine article regarding the dropout issue