

EAB July 2006 Agenda

A. Opening

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Announcements
- Approve Minutes (Apr-May) & Agenda (July)
- Introduce New Members:
 - Leola McCoy, Jacquelyn Bradley, Jackie Gross, Paula Haliczer

B. New Business

1. Dropouts & Truancy

Broward Public Schools Representatives, Peggy Thurston and Laurel Thompson,
Fort Lauderdale Police Sergeant, Harvey Jacques,

2. Parks and Recreation After-School Programming

Marie Rock, Barbara Barber, Recreation Programs Coordinators

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Discussion of EAB Activities/Initiatives for the Upcoming School Year
2. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion -

D. City Commission/Manager Follow-up Items: -

E. Regular Reports & Updates:

1. Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
2. Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster
3. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Hays

F. Other Matters – (TBD) - For the Good of the Board

G. Next Meeting and Closing

- **Agenda Items:**
- **Location and Date:**
 - **Proposed/To Confirm:** Breakthrough Fort Lauderdale @ Pinecrest, 1501 NE 62 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334, (954) 776-2171, at the Invitation of Member Aaron Bass

Opening – Co-chair Brown - Attendance and Sign-in

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

Approve April and May 2006 Minutes, July 2006 Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Bacigalupi, seconded by Ms. Gross, to approve the minutes of the April and May 2006 meetings, and the agenda of the July 2006 meeting. Board unanimously approved.

Introduce New Members: Leola McCoy, Jacquelyn Bradley, Jackie Gross, Paula Haliczner
Ms. McCoy said she had lived in Fort Lauderdale for fifty years and was on the Board because she was concerned about many education issues. Ms. Bradley said she worked with the children in the literacy program needing the most help. Ms. Gross said she had been a substitute teacher in Broward for eight years. Ms. Haliczner said she had a son in High School in Fort Lauderdale.

Co-chair Brown announced that the Board had received an award and a trophy from Sunland Park Elementary in appreciation for their “adoption” of the school last year.

New Business

Dropouts & Truancy

Broward Public Schools Representative Laurel Thompson,
Fort Lauderdale Police Sergeant, Harvey Jacques

Ms. Thompson informed the Board that Peggy Thurston had been unable to accompany her this evening. Ms. Thompson distributed a chart describing three Fort Lauderdale schools' graduation and dropout rates, based on the Florida Schools Indicator Report. All three schools: Dillard, Fort Lauderdale and Stranahan, had lower than district average graduation rates. Dillard and Stranahan had higher than district average dropout rates; Fort Lauderdale had a lower dropout rate. Ms. Schulz noted that the numbers in the chart did not total 100%. Ms. Thompson noted that students might take longer to graduate, or move on to another school; this was why the numbers did not add up.

Ms. Thompson said the Department of Education had recently ordered them to perform exit interviews with all students who left school prior to graduation. This would enable them to collect better demographic information, and to find out where the students were going, so follow-up could be done. She remarked that New York City had an excellent system for tracking students who left their schools.

Dr. Sudarkasa felt the statistics were not at all accurate. Ms. Thompson noted that Ms. Thurston could provide much more detailed information. Co-chair Brown asked Ms. Thompson to let Ms. Thurston know that the Board would like her to attend at a later date to discuss the statistics with them.

Ms. Thompson said truancy was a very large problem. She stated that average daily attendance for the district was 87.56%; Fort Lauderdale High's average was 87.45; Dillard was 89.63%; Stranahan was 88.58%. Ms. Thompson informed the Board that they had just revised the attendance policy; she invited the Board to view it in its entirety on the district's website. The new policy included the requirement for students to be present 40 out of 45 days per marking period. The absent days were totaled by adding excused and unexcused absences

plus minutes lost to tardiness and early sign-outs. Ms. Thompson said they were trying to cultivate a “culture of attendance.”

Sergeant Jacques explained to Ms. Schulze that attendance was called in at 10 a.m. Using the Pinnacle system, parents were able to use their computers to check to see if their kids were in school. Ms. Thompson said that some schools took attendance at the end of each class period, and parents could see which individual classes their kids attended.

Sergeant Jacques said there was a problem with parents believing that if they signed their kids out of school, they were not truant. Sergeant Jacques read from the state statute, which stated children absent from school must be in the company of their parents or guardians, not out on their own. Sergeant Jacques described the increasing problem of “skip days.” Sergeant Jacques remarked that this was not a problem at the elementary and middle school levels because there, if a child was absent for five days, the parents were held accountable.

Sergeant Jacques said Northeast High School had the best attendance in the County: 99% every day because of their program. If a child missed five days, the parent was called before their board to explain.

Sergeant Jacques explained that Fort Lauderdale had the Gang Resistance Education and Training [GREAT] Program in the summer. This was a federal program, started by the Phoenix Police Department and the ATF. The program averaged 100 kids per year for six weeks and included lunch and an educational component.

Parks and Recreation After-School Programming

Marie Rock, Barbara Barber, Recreation Programs Coordinators

Ms. Rock explained that the programs at the parks operated with a reciprocal agreement with the schools. Ms. Barber gave a presentation on the after school programs:

- Fort Lauderdale After School Hour - F.L.A.S.H. Program
 - ❖ Croissant Park Community Center/Croissant Park Elementary
 - ❖ Licensed, monitored by Broward County
 - ❖ Includes snacks and computer instruction
- Supervised Neighborhood After-School Program - S.N.A.P.
 - ❖ Bass Park, Lauderdale Manors Park and Warfield Park
 - ❖ Lauderdale Manors and Warfield
 - Lauderdale Manors students
 - Homework assistance, sports and fitness, arts and crafts
 - ❖ Bass Park
 - Includes neighborhood kids as well as Rock Island Elementary and William Dandy Middle Schools
- First Serve at Carter Park
 - ❖ Partnership with First Serve Broward
 - Provide Life Skills, Tennis instruction
- After-School Intramurals & Arts - A.S.I.A. Program
 - ❖ Middle and high school kids
 - ❖ Ft. Lauderdale High, New River Middle, Sunrise Middle, William Dandy Middle Schools
 - ❖ Teachers from the schools provide: homework instruction, sports and fitness, computer instruction, cultural arts and tutoring
- Enrollment:

- ❖ F.L.A.S.H. – 80
- ❖ S.N.A.P. – 240
- ❖ First Serve – 74
- ❖ A.S.I.A. – 282
- ❖ Club Carter – 51
- Club Carter College Prep
 - ❖ Monthly visits to various colleges
 - ❖ Sports & Fitness - fighting the epidemic of childhood obesity
 - ❖ Swimming – all sites with pools have swim programs
 - ❖ Computers - Carter Park
- Arts & Crafts
- Community Service
 - ❖ Several programs require students to perform one community service project per month
- Trips and outings
- Club Carter
 - ❖ Funded by a grant from Children’s services Council
 - ❖ Includes academics, sports and fitness, cultural arts, community service, life skills
 - ❖ 4-H participation, Junior Achievement curriculum
- Michael Ervin Academic and Recreational Academy
 - ❖ Provides additional resources for extra programs
 - Russell Reading Program
 - Urban Dance Academy
 - Laptop computers

Ms. Rock noted the benefits of after-school programs:

- Improve college competency
- Better work habits
- Better interpersonal skills
- Reduced drop out rate
- Improved grades

Ms. Barber informed the Board that the SNAP Program was only \$52 for the entire year, with a \$13 reduced rate for kids on free or reduced lunch. They also offered the Park Assistance for Reaching Kids scholarship.

Ms. McCoy remarked on a problem with some parents who took advantage of these programs. Some parents did not take enough responsibility for their own children, instead expecting these programs to perform parenting duties. She felt they must include a component to draw these absentee parents into the programs as well. Ms. Barber acknowledged this issue, and said they had hired a case manager at Carter Park who performed intake meetings with parents prior to their children’s enrollment in the program to let the parents know what was expected of them and of the child.

Old/Ongoing Business

Discussion of EAB Activities/Initiatives for the Upcoming School Year

This item was deferred until the member who requested the discussion was not present.

Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

Commission/Manager Follow-up Items

Regular Reports and Updates

Staff Liaison Report – Ms. Carhart

Ms. Carhart distributed a packet containing:

- ❖ Fort Lauderdale Public School Enrollment spreadsheet;
- ❖ EAB objectives from Fall 2005;
- ❖ Fort Lauderdale Neighborhood Association and Schools Map;
- ❖ EAB orientation and reference materials for EAB members;
- ❖ Schools data she had collected and collated titled “Public Facilities of Interest”;
- ❖ EAB Source and Reference Data;
- ❖ USF Report: Florida’s Children at a Glance, 2005

Co-chair Brown thanked Ms. Carhart for developing the database and display program for the school data.

Broward County School District Reports – Mr. Webster

Mr. Webster was absent. Dr. Hays reported that Mr. Webster had undergone surgery recently.

Dr. Hays reported that she and Mr. Webster had been seeking support for a table at the Neighborhoods Conference. Ms. Carhart informed her that Mr. Webster had stated the School Board had declined to support this. Dr. Hays said she would write to Dr. Till regarding this.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Dr. Hays

Dr. Hays distributed an article from a Parks and Recreation magazine, describing the effect of Parks and Recreation agencies on school wellness policies. She also distributed an email regarding the “I” grade given to Lauderdale Manors.

Other Matters

Co-chair Brown explained that Dr. Hays had attended the recent Community forum at Sunland Park. Dr. Hays reported that four EAB members had attended: Dr. Sudarkasa, Ms. Deaner, Ms. Olsen and herself. Dr. Hays stated, “It was good to hear the commitment from the School Board and the school administration regarding Sunland Park and turning that school around.” Dr. Hays was also pleased at the number of community members who attended and agreed to partner with the school. Dr. Hays felt the new principal, Mr. Dawkins, was very dynamic and energetic, and was very receptive to the volunteers.

The Board discussed their schedule and meeting places for the next few months. The Board agreed they should meet in August, and make it a planning meeting for the coming year. At that meeting, they would discuss their September meeting.

Next Meeting

- **Agenda Items:** TBD
- **Location:** Breakthrough Fort Lauderdale @ Pinecrest, 1501 NE 62 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334, (954) 776-2171, at the Invitation of Member Aaron Bass
- **Date:** Regular Meeting Date: August 18th 2006

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Handouts:

- 1. Fort Lauderdale Graduation/Dropout Rate chart**
- 2. Dropout prevention pamphlet**
- 3. EAB orientation packet**
- 4. Article on the effects of Parks and Rec programs on school wellness**
- 5. Email regarding the “I” grade given to Lauderdale Manors**