



**DRAFT MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL**  
**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2006 - 6:30 P.M.

Fort Lauderdale City Hall

100 North Andrews Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Eighth Floor Cafeteria

<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Cumulative Attendance</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1. Michael Bacigalupi	P	5	2
2. Aaron Bass, Co-Chair	A	3	3
3. Jacquelyn Bradley	P	5	0
4. Pam Brown, Co-Chair	P	6	1
5. Brian Dassler	P	5	2
6. Jacquie Gross	A	3	2
7. Paula Haliczzer	A	2	3
8. Elizabeth Hays	P	3	0
9. Pearl Maloney	P	5	2
10. Leola McCoy	A	3	2
11. Janice Olson	P	4	3
12. Elaine Schulze	A	4	3
13. Niara Sudarkasa	P	6	1
14. Judy Zinn	A	3	4
Total Members Present	8		
<i>Membership: 15 Quorum: 8</i>			
Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus	P		
Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	P		
Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison	P		
Betty Shelley, CFLCA Liaison	A		

## **EAB November 2006 Agenda**

### **Special Notice(s):**

Work groups of the EAB membership often meet at 5:30 pm in advance of the regular Board meeting. Such a meeting was scheduled to discuss the upcoming "Best Practices Summit" but did not take place. A separately "noticed" meeting was scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm in the Business Office of Pinecrest School.

#### **A. Opening - Pam Brown and Aaron Bass**

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Announcements
- Approve October minutes & November agenda
- Introduce guests

#### **B. New Business None**

#### **C. Old/Ongoing Business**

1. **Parental Involvement Discussions - Continuation & Follow-up to October**
2. **Fort Lauderdale Parent Association Initiative – Committee Report (11-14-06 meeting)**
3. **EAB Presentation for Best Practices Summit – Committee Report (11-16-06)**
4. **Follow-up regarding Truancy Data (Arthur Ashe) - Committee Report**
5. **Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**
  - a. EAB Letter regarding Arthur Ashe Magnet Program/Study
  - b. EAB Members Self Assessment
  - c. "Good to Great" discussion
  - d. EAB Social Activities
  - e. Follow-up/Invitation to Early Childhood Coalition ref. Parental Involvement
6. **Other Reports/Updates/Discussion -**
  - a. City Commission/Manager Follow-up: None
  - b. Liaison Reports & Updates:
    - 1) Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
    - 2) Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster
    - 3) Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Shelly

#### **D. Other Matters – (TBD) - For the Good of the Board**

- Holiday meeting schedule

#### **E. Next Meeting and Closing**

- Agenda Items: TBD
- Location and Date: City Hall, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006
- Motion to Adjourn

**Opening – Co-chairs Pam Brown & Aaron Bass** - Attendance and Sign-in

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brown at 6:30. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

**Announcements/Introduce Guests**

Board members and guests introduced themselves in turn.

Co-Chair Brown announced that Mr. Bass would not attend this evening and discussion of many of the agenda items must be postponed. She had also received an email from Ms. McCoy informing her that she and Ms. Schulze would represent the EAB at a Tough Love workshop this evening at Arthur Ashe. Co-Chair Brown had replied to Ms. McCoy, telling her that they had not been given the authority from the Board to do this, and that Co-Chair Brown and Ms. McCoy should not discuss this outside the confines of an EAB meeting. Co-Chair Brown reported that Ms. McCoy had left a phone message for her at home stating that they were the Board's appointed liaisons to Arthur Ashe, and that they "really needed to do this."

Co-Chair Brown felt the Board should come to some agreement regarding how to deal with Board members wishing to represent the Board at outside community meetings; she felt individual Board members could not be permitted to be out in the community stating they were representing the EAB when the Board did not know where the members were going or what they were saying. Ms. Carhart thought that Board members could attend meetings as individuals and observers, reporting back to the Board. Co-Chair Brown agreed to ask the City Clerk for clarification of the City's committee policy.

Mr. Dassler offered to draft discussion points the Board could use next month in preparation for a vote on this matter.

**Approve October 2006 Minutes, November 2006 Agenda**

This item was deferred due to lack of a quorum.

**New Business** - None

**Old/Ongoing Business**

**Parental Involvement Discussions - Continuation & Follow-up to October**

[This item was taken out of order]

Ms. Olson distributed an outline she had created titled, "2007 EAB Goals – Discussion Paper" that she had written after the EAB's October meeting regarding parental involvement. Dr. Sudarkasa felt that school attendance should be included under "goals." Ms. Deaner wanted communication incorporated as a goal of parental involvement.

Dr. Sudarkasa suggested a mission statement for the parental involvement goal: "To enhance... attendance, communications and overall education or academic performance." She felt it could

be left to the individual schools to determine how they wanted parents to participate. Mr. Bacigalupi suggested that the Board's continued commitment to the three specific schools be added to the goals section.

Co-Chair Brown suggested that Ms. Olson edit her document with the Board's comments and then redistribute it at the Board's next meeting to discuss it and decide whether to adopt it and how to "operationalize" some of these issues.

**Fort Lauderdale Parent Association Initiative – Committee Report (11-14-06 meeting)**

Mr. Bacigalupi reminded the Board of their idea to connect City PTAs to improve networking, share "Best Practices" and allow parents to take ownership of the education process. Mr. Bacigalupi and Mr. Bass had created a handout based on their discussion earlier in the week and Mr. Bacigalupi distributed this to the Board. He stated that their ultimate goal was to improve parental involvement and student achievement. Mr. Bacigalupi explained that they had come up with a list of "action steps" to discuss with the EAB. He felt that whatever the EAB approved should then be approved by the City Commission prior to implementing a city-wide project. He also wanted to request from the City Commission that the project be included on the City's website. The Board should also consult with the Broward County School Board and seek their support and approval to contact principals.

Mr. Bacigalupi continued that they should then compile a PTA database, and propose a meeting with PTA leaders in the Spring to discuss their specific needs. A "Summit Meeting" could then be scheduled for August, where PTAs would discuss successful strategies. Future meetings could include service project days and student presentations.

Ms. Olson felt their goals must be clearly defined, and thought they should begin by contacting principals to solicit their feedback. She was concerned that PTA members' time and energy would be taken away from their individual schools. Dr. Sudarkasa wondered if the goal was to create a new organization, or to get parents more involved with efforts to improve their own kids' performance. She felt there were fewer parents already involved in poorer schools, and agreed with Ms. Olson that another committee could reduce the amount of time they could afford to devote to their own schools. Mr. Bacigalupi pointed out that the larger group could work together to help individual schools achieve larger goals.

Co-Chair Brown felt that the city-wide PTA would help create a single identity for the City's schools. She felt they should move forward with the idea and address any concerns as they arose. Ms. Deaner stated that any parental involvement had a positive overall effect on kids' education. Dr. Sudarkasa asked if they should "help the parents in the respective places to know what the best practices are to get them involved with their particular schools." She felt that before they took additional steps, they could invite representatives to meet with the EAB to get their feedback as to whether this project would effectively target schools' needs.

Ms. Carhart felt the first part of the process was to pull people together to determine how the City could help promote parental involvement. She said the inviting the speakers to the meeting at Pine Crest was an example of this type of outreach. Co-Chair Brown said the type of advocacy practiced by the Council of Civic Associations was a model for supporting this process. She agreed they could start by getting a group of PTA members and a principal together to discuss whether they would support this idea and whether they felt it would help parental involvement. Mr. Bacigalupi said that his experience had been that this type of centralized program caused involvement and enthusiasm to become contagious and multiply. He noted that this was to be a resource only.

Mr. Dassler felt the Broward County Council PTA South Central Area Vice President and the South Central Area Advisory Chair for the District Advisory Council should be invited to the EAB's December meeting to contribute to this conversation. Ms. Deaner suggested that the PTA heads of Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe and Lauderdale Manors should be invited to attend as well. Dr. Sudarkasa felt that the handouts from Mr. Bacigalupi and Ms. Olson should be provided to the guests prior to the meeting so they had time to consider the information.

Ms. Deaner wanted to find ways to get more parents to attend a PTA meeting and remembered someone's suggestion of distributing vouchers to parents who attended a PTA meeting. She felt the City could help get local business people involved with the EAB and with the schools. Ms. Carhart felt they could use the City's website to encourage support of the schools, by creating links to the individual schools, to volunteer groups and to business partners.

#### **EAB Presentation for Best Practices Summit – Committee Report (11-16-06)**

The committee did not meet.

#### **Follow-up regarding Truancy Data (Arthur Ashe) - Committee Report**

Ms. Carhart stated she had found and distributed some data. Co-Chair Brown suggested they table this item until their next meeting.

#### **Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**

[These items were deferred due to Mr. Bass's absence]

EAB Letter regarding Arthur Ashe Magnet Program/Study

EAB Members Self Assessment

“Good to Great” discussion

EAB Social Activities

Follow-up/Invitation to Early Childhood Coalition regarding Parental Involvement

#### **Other Reports/Updates/Discussion -**

City Commission/Manager Follow-up: None

Liaison Reports & Updates: None

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Shelly

Dr. Hays announced that the Council's meeting this past week was one of their best attended ever.

### **Other Matters/For the Good of the Board**

The Board discussed options for their December meeting and agreed to cancel it.

Ms. Carhart suggested that the Best Practices Committee meet in December, as the summit was in January. Co-Chair Brown agreed to make the arrangements for the committee to meet.

Dr. Hays informed the Board that the former principal of Arthur Ashe and Mr. Di Sebastian, principal of Downtown Academy had recently received awards and she felt the Board should recognize this. Co-chair Brown suggested they ask the City Commission to issue a proclamation.

### **Next Meeting and Closing**

Co-Chair Brown stated they would invite those people Mr. Dassler had suggested to their January meeting.

- **Location:** City Hall 8<sup>th</sup> Floor cafeteria
- **Date:** January 18, 2007
- **Agenda Items:**
  - Continue to discuss and develop the City-wide PTA idea
  - Further define their goals
  - Preview Best Practices presentation
  - Determine how to operationalize some of their parental involvement ideas

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

### **Handouts:**

1. Handout of City of Fort Lauderdale Parent's Association created by Messrs. Bacigalupi and Bass.
2. Outline of ideas from the October EAB meeting by Ms. Olson