



**MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2007 - 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> | 2007 Cumulative Attendance | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
| 1. Michael Bacigalupi | A | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Aaron Bass, Co-Chair | P | 3 | 0 |
| 3. Pam Brown, Co-Chair | P | 3 | 0 |
| 4. Gilbert Borrero | A | 0 | 1 |
| 5. Brian Dassler | P | 1 | 2 |
| 6. Jacquie Gross | P | 2 | 1 |
| 7. Paula Haliczzer | A | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Elizabeth Hays | A | 2 | 1 |
| 9. Pearl Maloney | A | 2 | 1 |
| 10. Leola McCoy | P | 2 | 1 |
| 11. Janice Olson | P | 2 | 1 |
| 12. Shannon Prohaszka | P | 1 | 0 |
| 13. Elaine Schulze | P | 3 | 0 |
| 14. Niara Sudarkasa | P | 2 | 1 |
| 15. | | | |
| Total Members Present | 9 | | |
| <i>Current Membership: 15 Quorum: 8</i> | | | |
| Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus | A | | |
| Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison | P | | |
| Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison | A | | |
| Betty Shelly, CFLCA Liaison | P | | |

NOTE:
Attendance Records Reset to Jan-Dec Calendar Year at Direction of City Clerks Office.

EAB March 2007 Agenda

A. Opening - P. Brown and A. Bass

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Approve February Minutes & March Agenda
- Announcements
- Introduce New Members: Shannon Prohaszka, Myrna Potostsky, Gil Borrerro
- Guest Introductions

B. New Business

1. **Policy/Practice – Member Community Meetings** (Deferred from last meeting)
 - a. City Policy – P. Brown
 - b. Draft Discussion Points – B. Dassler

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. **Proposed “Forum” – (Dinnen/Williams) – P. Brown & B. Dassler**
2. **Arthur Ashe** - Committee Report - (Truancy Issue`)
3. **Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**
 - a. EAB Members Self Assessment
 - b. Parent Association Update – A. Bass
 - c. Sunland Park Elementary Update – A. Bass
 - d. Lauderdale Manors Elementary Update – A. Bass
4. **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 - For the Good of the Board - TBD

E. Next Meeting and Closing

- Agenda Items: TBD
- Location and Date: City Hall, April 19th, 2007

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

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brown at 6:40. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

Approve Minutes of February 2007

Motion made by Mr. Dassler, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the minutes of the February 2007 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda of March 2007

Motion made by Ms. Olsen, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the March 2007 agenda. Board unanimously approved.

Announcements

None

Introduce New Members

Ms. Shannon Prohaszka introduced herself and informed the Board that she was the program director at Jack and Jill Children's Center.

New Business

Policy/Practice – Member Participation/Representing Board at Community Meeting

Removed from agenda

Old/Ongoing Business

Proposed "Forum" – (Dinnen/Williams) – P. Brown & B. Dassler

Ms. Carhart reported that a secretary had informed her that Ms. Dinnen and Mr. Williams had a scheduling conflict and could not attend tonight's meeting. Co-Chair Brown recommended that Ms. Dinnen and Mr. Williams should not be put on the agenda unless they confirmed beforehand.

Arthur Ashe - Committee Report - (Truancy Issue`)

Ms. McCoy reported that she had been working for some time to create an environmental habitat at Arthur Ashe and Rock Island Elementary, and had assembled a team to pursue this. An idea to use this land for faculty housing had postponed Ms. McCoy's project, but they were now rededicated to creating the habitat.

Ms. McCoy reported that Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Department Director, had been assigned to this project by the City Manager's office. Ms. McCoy stated that this project was critical to involve parents, students, teachers, and community. Ms. McCoy hoped to obtain corporate donations to provide stipends, and to televise work at the project.

Dr. Sudarkasa felt this project could be a very promising project at Arthur Ashe, and noted the tie in to the environmental concerns at the school. She believed this could help get students excited about coming to school and staying there after classes.

Ms. Schulze felt this would allow kids to help physically create a more beautiful school for themselves, increasing their personal involvement with the school as more than a building they used during school hours and then left. Ms. Schulze said it was also an opportunity for the students to become acquainted with and to be appreciated by community leaders.

Co-Chair Bass felt this was a wonderful initiative, and asked Ms. McCoy to keep the EAB aware of their activities.

Mr. Dassler felt it might be time to ask the director of magnet programs to give the EAB an update on the magnet program at Arthur Ashe. Co-Chair Bass recommended that if their inquiries determined that nothing was happening, they should invite the director; if things were progressing there was no need. Dr. Sudarkasa thought the environmental science focus would be an excellent draw for parents, who had witnessed decades of activism regarding this issue, led by Ms. McCoy. She thought the School Board would see this as a natural. Dr. Sudarkasa wanted to invite the director to discuss their idea for an environmental science-themed magnet at Arthur Ashe.

Co-Chair Brown agreed to determine the progress of the magnet program, and whether they could suggest the environmental studies focus, and report back to the Board.

Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass

EAB Members Self Assessment

Co-Chair Bass agreed to email the assessment form to Board members.

Parent Association Update – A. Bass

Co-Chair Bass stated they were still progressing. He had discovered that they must get this item on the City Commission agenda, and agreed to advise the Board when this had been accomplished. He asked EAB members to attend a meeting prior to the City Commission meeting to discuss his presentation.

Mr. Dassler advised Co-Chair Bass to contact individual commissioners regarding this item before the Commission meeting.

Ms. McCoy felt a city-wide PTA was not the way to address their problems, and thought a project was the best way to engage parents. Co-Chair Bass said they had intended to use the city-wide PTA as a way to engage parents, and they were still in the strategy phase.

Sunland Park Elementary Update – A. Bass

Co-Chair Brown said he had met with Mr. Dawkins on March 6. Mr. Dawkins believed that the FCAT score would reveal that his students had made gains. Sunland had been through several audits, which had taxed Mr. Dawkins' time, but he agreed this was a "necessary evil" to prove their fiscal responsibility.

Co-Chair Bass reported that there would be a March 21 meeting with the SAC Chair and Ben Williams to discuss physical improvements needed at Sunland. There were issues with the air conditioning and Mr. Dawkins had requested a wrought iron fence around the school for security. They would also address the issue of the dry cleaning shop next door. Co-Chair Brown said she had complained to the City about the dry cleaner, and Code Enforcement had cited the business for the condition of its parking lot.

Co-Chair Brown had asked the City Manager the status of the City mentoring program for Lauderdale Manors, and Mr. Gretsas claimed that the staff at Lauderdale Manors, not he, had put the program on hold. Co-Chair Brown wanted to transfer the program to Sunland Park, but was having difficulty tracking down the City employee responsible for initiating the program.

Co-Chair Bass had informed Mr. Dawkins of the EAB's commitment to help Sunland Park, and Mr. Dawkins had requested donations of Easter baskets from anyone in the community. Co-Chair Bass asked Board members to include notes in baskets they donated indicating they were from the EAB, so Mr. Dawkins would know that Co-Chair Bass's offer from the EAB had been acted upon.

Co-Chair Bass said Mr. Dawkins screened volunteers to determine their skills and where they could best be utilized at the school. He specifically needed volunteers to help with math and reading.

Co-Chair Bass said Mr. Dawkins was working on a grant to send his students to Wannado City as an FCAT performance reward. Co-Chair Bass had told Mr. Dawkins that Junior Achievement had a program to bring visitors to schools for business training. Co-Chair Bass informed the Board that in 2008, Junior Achievement would open a Wannado City-style site in coconut Creek.

Co-Chair Bass wanted the Board to meet at Sunland Park for their April meeting, and said he would ask Mr. Dawkins.

Ms. McCoy reported that she was pursuing the environmental issues at Sunland, and a State team would visit within the next two weeks to take soil borings to determine chemical contamination. Co-Chair Bass asked Ms. McCoy to report back to the Board on this item.

Mr. Dassler said he had heard many similar requests from the Sunland Park principal in September when they had met with Mr. Williams. Mr. Dassler was frustrated and appalled that the fence had still not been provided. He felt this was an example of something that proved "the rules are different based on where you are." Mr. Dassler noted that this was a reason why good principals, teachers and parents gave up, because "things that are easy to do in one place are not being done in another." Mr. Dassler said he was disappointed with the School District that "whatever is not happening that needs to in order to respond to those really simple requests."

Co-Chair Brown said she had tried to find a breakdown of teachers' aides' assignments and had learned that this was not available. Mr. Dassler explained that funds were allocated to schools first based on enrollment, with additional funds provided for special needs students. Mr. Dassler noted that "when people are watching, [the additional special needs funding] gets spent on that", but that these funds could be directed elsewhere at the principal's discretion.

The Board agreed to draft a letter to interim School Board Superintendent Jim Notter regarding the issues at Sunland. Mr. Dassler suggested that Ms. McCoy phone Mr. Notter and send a letter pursuant to their conversation. Mr. Dassler believed Mr. Notter would return her call within 48 hours.

Motion made by Ms. Schulze, seconded by Ms. Olson, for Ms. McCoy to phone Mr. Notter regarding issues at Sunland, and to send a follow-up letter pursuant to that conversation. Board approved unanimously.

Ms. McCoy stated she would contact Austin Henry at Risk Management regarding the air conditioner problem and possible mold issues.

Lauderdale Manors Elementary Update – A. Bass

Co-Chair Bass reported he had met with Dr. Hicks regarding the "I" rating the school had received last year. Ms. Hicks had asked Co-Chair Bass and the EAB to keep an eye on the school this year, and to make sure the school did not receive another "I" grade. Co-Chair Bass explained that the test scores were those of an "A" school, but there were concerns about how the school could have progressed from an "F" to an "A" in one year.

Mr. Dassler wanted to contact Glen Gilzean, the Commissioner of Education's representative in South Florida, expressing their concern that Lauderdale Manors had never received its grade. Mr. Dassler pointed out that if the school had been given the "A" grade, all of the teachers would have been given \$2,000 to \$3,000 bonuses. Mr. Dassler noted that teachers at Lauderdale Manors had "worked their butts off; they came out on Saturdays, they stayed until 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., they did an extra month in the summer." Mr. Dassler stated he would email Mr. Gilzean immediately.

Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

City Commission/Manager Follow-up: None

Liaison Reports & Updates:

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Ms. Carhart said she and David Miller from Parks and Recreation had attended a panel discussion last Friday at FAU and given a short presentation. The panel discussion was related to the cooperative use and collocation of schools and other public facilities.

Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster

Mr. Webster was not present.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Shelly

Ms. Shelly agreed to send an email to Council members regarding the Easter basket donations at Sunland.

Ms. Shelly said a group had been working on code issues, and had prepared a document to submit to City Commissioners. The issues this group concentrated on were redevelopment density and neighborhood compatibility.

Ms. Shelly advised that there would be a CVC meeting on March 24th at 8 p.m. at the Birch/Las Olas parking lot to work on the wave wall. Ms. Shelly suggested that the CVC could work with the environmental program at Sunland.

Other Matters/For the Good of the Board

None

Next Meeting and Closing

- **Location:** City Hall 8th Floor cafeteria
- **Date:** April 19th, 2007

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Handouts: None