



**MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL  
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2007 - 6:30 P.M.  
Fort Lauderdale City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Eighth Floor Cafeteria

**2007 Cumulative  
Attendance**

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

**IMPORTANT NOTE/REFERENCE August 16, 2007 Draft Minutes**

**B.** Approve Minutes of April 2007, May, 2007 and June 2007.  
**Motion** made by Ms. Hays, seconded by Mr. Bacigalupi, to approve the minutes of the April, May and June 2007 meetings, *pending final corrections to be made by Ms. McCoy and Ms. Brown.* Motion passed unanimously.

***Final corrections, as noted in August minutes, were not provided.***

## **Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board Meeting**

### **Agenda**

Thursday, April 19, 2007

#### **A. Opening - P. Brown and A. Bass**

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Approve Minutes (Mar) & Agenda (Apr)
- Announcements
  - - Better Meetings Academy II, May 29, 2007, 5:45 PM, City Hall  
8th Floor
- Introduce New Members: Gil Borrero
- Guest Introductions

#### **B. New Business – none**

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

1. **Arthur Ashe** - Committee Report - (Truancy Issue`)
2. **Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**
  - a. EAB Members Self Assessment
  - b. Parent Association Update
  - c. Sunland Park Elementary Update
  - d. Lauderdale Manors Elementary Update
3. **Other Reports/Updates/Discussion**
  - a. City Commission/Manager Follow-up: None
  - b. Liaison Reports & Updates:
    - 1) Staff Liaison Report
    - 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, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brown at 6:35. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

**Approve Minutes of March 2007**

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Dr. Bacigalupi, to approve the minutes of the March 2007 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Agenda of April 2007**

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Dr. Sudarkasa, to approve the April 2007 agenda. Board unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

Ms. Carhart announced the Better Meetings Academy II would be held on May 29, 2007, at 5:45 PM, City Hall 8th Floor, and encouraged Board members to attend.

**Introduce New Members**

Board members introduced themselves in turn. Mr. Borrero stated he was a former member and chair of the EAB.

**New Business** - None

**Old/Ongoing Business**

[This item was taken out of order]

**Arthur Ashe** - Committee Report - (Truancy Issue`)

Dr. McCoy said the team was working to create the environmental habitat at Arthur Ashe. They intended to use the 7 acres southwest of the school to get the kids engaged in their environment. Dr. McCoy said the principal, Ben Williams, and others were all on board for the project. Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation director, the forester and an architect were involved as well. They planned to meet around April 27<sup>th</sup> to begin discussion of the project.

Dr. McCoy said she had been in contact with Sheryl Noland at Arthur Ashe to consider incorporating the environmental component into the curriculum of the magnet program at Arthur Ashe. She had also discussed this with Principal Luciani and Leona Miracola.

Dr. McCoy said the goal of the program was to give the children something they could produce themselves and of which they could be proud. She agreed to keep the Board apprised of the situation as it progressed.

Ms. Deaner asked if agricultural plantings would be part of the program. Dr. McCoy said this was supposed to be a hands-on environmental lab and they had collected information on state-wide superfund sites and the Water Management District. The kids would participate in development of the program; the team did not intend to design the entire program for them.

Mr. Bass hoped this could be incorporated into Arthur Ashe's magnet program, since it had not been fully developed as yet.

Ms. Deaner noted the success some schools had with a horticulture program, and felt this could be considered as a future component of the program. She felt there were great educational tie-ins with this sort of program.

Dr. McCoy remarked that she was operating "outside the box" and did not want to duplicate existing programs.

**Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**  
**EAB Members Self Assessment**

Co-Chair Bass said he had only received three assessments.

**Parent Association Update – A. Bass**

Co-Chair Bass said Dr. Bacigalupi would take over this initiative, because Co-Chair Bass was moving to Philadelphia to take a new position.

The Board discussed getting this item onto the City Commission's conference agenda.

Ms. Carhart explained that there was procedure for items to be put on the Commission's agenda, there were also ways for residents to request agenda items and for Commissioners to create reports that resulted in an item's being added to the agenda. Ms. Carhart reminded the Board that the Education Advisory Board was under the Economic Development Department, but that she is now assigned to the Business Enterprise Department. Ms. Carhart suggested she could work with the Chairs to draft the memo and then submit it through Ron Hicks, Economic Development director, for processing.

Co-Chair Brown offered to email City Manager Gretsas to ask how this item could be put on the Commission's agenda. Co-Chair Brown said she would try to get an "afternoon discussion" of the issue. Dr. Bacigalupi agreed to speak to Commissioner Teel about it.

Dr. Bacigalupi suggested they start out by creating a web page to share information among PTAs.

Mr. Borrero remembered that when he was previously on the EAB, Board members would report to the Board on individual schools. Ms. Deaner said this idea had never moved forward; she noted that many of the principals did not have time to meet.

Co-Chair Bass stated that this was intended to give the PTAs the resources to build synergy among themselves.

Sunland Park Elementary Update – A. Bass

[This item was taken out of order]

Dr. McCoy reminded the Board of her contacting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding the site assessment of the Dry Cleaning shop near Sunland Park Elementary. The FDEP had provided her the old report, and she spoke with Bill Burns and Doug Jones regarding a new assessment. Mr. Burns had assembled a team to send down to Colony Cleaners.

Dr. McCoy said her first recommendation to the team was to shut down the pumps for the irrigation system and this was done on March 21 and the testing process begun. She said the test results showed that the “old dry cleaning plant is putting in the solvents.”

Dr. McCoy had engaged the County Department of Environmental Protection, as well as an assessment team for the school’s interior environment regarding mold and issues with the air conditioning system.

Dr. McCoy reported that the sprinkler system wells in the parking lot had been tested and contamination found from the dry cleaner. She explained that the dry cleaner had left tanks of solvent in the ground, and the School Board had been aware of this when the old school was there, and when the new school was built, and had “failed to react in a responsible way.”

Dr. McCoy said the teams from the County and state would be “on the ground” as of the following morning. Dr. McCoy reported that Nick Conte from the County, Mr. Hines, facilities environmental person, the environmental engineer and the contractor had all met with her at the site the previous week to determine what would be done. Dr. McCoy said they would provide her with a work plan.

Dr. McCoy said they must determine if there was a plume from the plant reaching into the schoolyard. She reported that Sunland Park had “tested clean” but she was “not too sure about that” and had asked the team to take another look because the City had lied about some things when they were laying new pipes.

Dr. McCoy noted that the school’s air intake was located on the east side, where the chemical threat was. She said they had investigated the air conditioning units and found out that the entire system must be replaced and was not working. Dr. McCoy

said she had contacted Nova Southeastern and someone at the Health Department to collaborate on an assessment of the students' health.

Co-Chair Brown thought the air conditioner had been fixed, and Dr. McCoy said they claimed it was, but she maintained that this was the wrong type of unit, and the fresh air intakes were bad because they pulled air in from outside. She feared car exhaust was entering the air conditioning system. Dr. McCoy said the risk manager had determined they needed a hepa filter unit, but this could not be retro fit for this air conditioning system, so they now needed another type of monitoring device. The County intended to install ambient detectors. They were now going to buy new monitoring equipment.

Dr. McCoy said she had also spoken with Major Frank Adderly, who agreed to an aggressive police initiative in the rear of the school.

Dr. McCoy said the recommendation was to move the students away from the school at the end of this term, and informed the Board they were developing a plan for this. She had the support of the deputy superintendent, who agreed to help her coordinate all the agencies involved.

Dr. Hays asked if the chemicals were entering the aquifer and being dispersed with the irrigation system. Dr. McCoy said they did not know how far the chemical plume extended under ground. Dr. McCoy referred Dr. Hays to the report created by Genesis Environmental Services, and explained that the water was contaminated.

Dr. McCoy assured Dr. Hays that the school district agreed to closing the school until remediation was complete. Mr. Borrero said the proposal was to send the students to Marshall and/or Walker, which were both currently under-enrolled.

Dr. McCoy informed the Board that she had not encountered any "push-back" regarding any of her recommendations. She had also recommended that they look at the surroundings of all schools, and bring them all into compliance.

Dr. McCoy said she had met with the Sunland Park PTA on March 29<sup>th</sup> to inform them of the environmental issues and activities.

#### Lauderdale Manors Elementary Update – A. Bass

Co-Chair Bass said the previous principal had asked him to watch for the next test scores.

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

City Commission/Manager Follow-up

Liaison Reports & Updates:

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster

Mr. Webster reported that the State Secretary of Juvenile Justice would be in town on May 9, with a meeting at the African American Research Library at 2:30. Co-chair Brown said this department dealt with delinquency and other systems that became involved when children were in trouble.

Mr. Webster reported that on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, there would be a joint planning meeting with Ben Williams and Maureen Dinnen at Fort Lauderdale High School at 6:00. Co-chair Brown said this was the forum they had worked to set up for months, and wanted all Board members to attend.

Mr. Webster informed Ms. Deaner that meetings regarding the Superintendent would be determined prior to the School Board meeting on Tuesday. Ms. Deaner explained there would be a series of five public input meetings.

Mr. Webster announced that on May 10 at Piper High School, there would be a networking meeting at 6:00, followed by a District 6 meeting with Phyllis Hope concerning school security. Mr. Webster said someone for the Special Investigative Unit would attend, as well as some first responders. They wanted to open dialog with parents and the community. At the same time, a kids' workshop would be held to get their input. The kids workshop group would then report the results of their discussions, so they would understand what the kids confronted.

Mr. Webster reported that at the last Coalition of Education Advisory Boards meeting, they had determined the need to engage children in civics programs, and implement some other things that had been discussed at the Best Practices summit. They wanted to implement a summer program for each EAB to have a student member.

Ms. Carhart felt they could use the advisory boards to expand the participant base for Youth Leadership Broward.

Ms. Carhart also suggested discussing an initiative for School Resource Officers when they met with the first responders. She reminded the Board that the SRO program had originally been funded with grant monies with the intent that once the programs were established they would transition to local funding. This has proven difficult and it is important to identify new ways to fund the programs.

Dr. McCoy was concerned about the schools' awareness of child predators, and whether they were effectively keeping parents notified about predators. Ms. Olsen explained that at the school she worked, notices were posted in a prominent area notifying parents of local predators, and parents and kids sometimes were able to provide updates to the sheriff on predators' whereabouts.

Ms. Carhart wondered where the line should be drawn for the schools' responsibility. She stated, "You can secure your school, but the schools can't secure the community." Mr. Webster said he hoped this topic would be discussed at the May 10 event. He said

there was pending legislation regarding hazardous walking conditions, including these definitions.

Ms. Carhart asked Mr. Webster if Intergovernmental Affairs was formulating “what if” scenarios for property tax reform, and what they imagined the impact would be on school funding. Mr. Webster said Ms. Dinnen and Ms. Sobel were in Tallahassee trying to ensure that the schools did not suffer too much from the changes. Mr. Webster noted that all states except Alaska funded schools through property taxes.

#### Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Shelly

Dr. Hays announced that at the Council’s May 8 meeting, Bogdanoff, Sieler and Thurston would provide legislative updates.

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

Co-chair Bass reminded the Board they would need to nominate a new Co-chair when he left. The Board decided to wait for the May meeting.

Mr. Borrero explained that his ex-wife’s car had been burgled in a school parking lot by people who parked in the lot unnoticed. He felt this could have been prevented by better surveillance of the school parking area. Co-chair Brown described the parent patrol program at Floranada, and Dr. Hays described the security process at New River. Co-chair Brown felt neighborhood associations could set up a school patrol.

Mr. Borrero said he was involved with the Broward County YMCA, and offered information to Board members on the YMCA’s programs.

Ms. Deaner informed the Board that Frances Payne, a former Board member, was being celebrated at an upcoming affair, and asked for donations to Jack and Jill School in Ms. Payne’s name.

Co-Chair Brown asked if any Board members wanted to be part of an FCAT evaluation committee. Ms. Olsen pointed out that one positive effect of the FCAT had been that kids who were under-performing were being identified and attended to.

The Board wished Co-chair Bass well in his new position.

#### **Next Meeting and Closing**

- **Location:** City Hall 8<sup>th</sup> Floor cafeteria
- **Date:** May 17<sup>th</sup> 2007

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.