

**MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL  
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

June 21, 2007; 6:30 P.M.

City Hall; 100 N. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, 8th Flr.

**A. Opening**

**A1) Attendance and Sign-in**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1. Michael Bacigalupi	P	4	2
2. Pam Brown, Co-Chair	P	6	0
3. Gilbert Borrero	A	1	3
4. Elizabeth Hays	P	5	1
5. Pearl Maloney	A	2	4
6. Leola McCoy	A	4	2
7. Harriet McMichen	P	2	0
8. Janice Olson	A	3	3
9. Shannon Prohaszka	P	2	2
10. Elaine Schulze	A	4	2
11. Niara Sudarkasa	P	3	3
<b>Total Members Present</b>	<b>6</b>		
Current Membership:	<b>11</b> (out of 15)		
Quorum	<b>No</b> (must have 8)		
<b>OTHER STAFF:</b>			
Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus	<b>A</b>		
Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	<b>P</b>		
Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison	<b>A</b>		
Betty Shelly, CFLCA Liaison <i>(arrived 6:45)</i>	<b>P</b>		
Deborah Balshem, Prototype			

**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.***

## **A2) Approval of Minutes (April & May) and Agenda (June)**

Minutes could not be approved since a quorum was not achieved. However, Mr. Bacigalupi did note a mistake on the bottom of Page 4 of the May 17, 2007 minutes: Mr. Littman should be spelled Mr. Lippman.

## **A3) Announcements:**

None

## **A4) Introduction of New Member(s):**

Deborah Balshem, recording clerk, Prototype.

## **A5) Guest Introductions**

No guests were present.

## **B. Current Business**

### **B1) Co-Chair Elections**

A co-chair could not be elected since a quorum was not present.

### **B2) Follow-up: Better Meetings Academy – Ms. McMichen**

Ms. McMichen gave an overview of the Better Meetings Academy she recently attended, which was created to share better practices among City boards. She noted it was a good meeting that consisted of training on policies and procedures. She also noted Assistant City Attorney Sharon Miller and City Clerk Jonda Joseph helped conduct the training.

Ms. McMichen said she received handbooks with informative checklists and “how-tos” on conducting proper meetings (i.e., how to ask for the floor officially). Ms. McMichen also said the information contained good role playing scenarios, complete with scripting for each role.

Co-Chair Brown pointed out that the Educational Advisory Board was not actually a quasi-judicial board, but much of the information was still applicable and would help the Board be more organized. Co-Chair Brown asked Staff Liaison Carhart to have City Clerk Joseph give each Board member a copy of the Better Meetings Academy handbook.

**C. Old/Ongoing Business**

**C1) Sunland Park Update – Ms. Hayes**

Dr. Hays said at the last Parks and Recreation Meeting, Assistant Park Manager Terry Rynard confirmed that “the park wells were tested when the City learned of high readings at the school and both of the City’s internal test and third party tests came back clean.” Dr. Hays also noted for the record that both Ms. McCoy and Mr. Burns previously said they would “leave no stone unturned and assess Carter Park as well.” These statements were confirmed in prior minutes, which were not officially approved yet.

Co-Chair Brown asked where the State was at this point, since six weeks ago, she met with several state officials who were very serious about moving forward with Carter Park. Co-Chair Brown added that these officials even talked about a plan for moving the children to another school if necessary. At that time, the State said it would take action within three weeks, but an additional three weeks had gone by with no progress.

Ms. Hayes responded she too did not know where the State was at in regards to Carter Park, and that was a big concern for her as well as the rest of the Board, especially given the approach of a new school year. The Board discussed contacting several people that were involved in the process to obtain an update on their progress with Carter Park.

**C2) Parent Association Update – Dr. Bacigalupi**

Dr. Bacigalupi said he had made much progress with the initiative, which was to have the Education Advisory Board act as a facilitator for all Fort Lauderdale school PTAs, to help them communicate with each other and share best practices, mainly through the development of an online community.

Dr. Bacigalupi said he spoke to Commissioner Teel about the plan and that she was in full support and wanted to move forward with the initiative. Mr. Lawson, of the City’s public information department, also said he was willing to help the Board promote and advertise the website. Dr. Bacigalupi said he recently spoke with Board Member Webster (absent), who said he would talk to his contacts at the City and School Board as well.

Dr. Bacigalupi explained the newest focus was figuring out which entity had enough space on their website to host the initiative, or if the Board would have to use an outside site, which would be linked to the City and School Board website. The Board discussed several ideas for possible host sites.

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Ms. Carhart suggested the site or link could come under the City's Economic Development Department website, but Dr. Bacigalupi said he had looked into it and the City does not currently have enough space to support an additional the site, so he was now seriously looking at using an outside source. Dr. Bacigalupi noted that the School Board said it would organize and design the site and then link it directly to its own site.

Ms. McMichen mentioned that she works with the Academy of Information Technology Group (AOIT), a group of student interns involved in the technology field. She stated these students might be able to create and design the website, even possibly get it started before the school year since they intern throughout the summer.

Ms. Hayes noted this was a good time to meet with the City Commission and ask for its full support in this endeavor. Since it will take a couple of months to get together with different PTAs to discuss the issue and gain their support, Ms. Hayes asked that the Board try to get on the City Commission's September agenda.

Co-Chair Brown asked Ms. Carhart to ask either Jeff Modarelli or George Gretsas to put the issue on the Commission's September meeting agenda. In anticipation of appearing, Co-Chair Brown said she would draft a few paragraphs that summarized the initiative and its implementation. This exhibit would include the "back up letters between Mike and Aaron," which Dr. Bacigalupi said he had copies of, as well as of previous minutes of meetings where the issue was discussed.

Ms. Hayes asked that the Board be provided with a report at the August Board meeting of any progress made that was made on this initiative so the Board could discuss it at more length and be well-prepared for their appearance before the City Commission the following month.

Co-Chair Brown then mentioned to Ms. Carhart that the board hadn't been invited to the last several Steering Committee meetings. She believed it was likely due to a simple paperwork error, and that the Board was somehow dropped off the communications list. Co-Chair Brown asked Ms. Carhart to contact "Charles" to find out what happened, and to get the Board back on the list so they would be able to attend upcoming meetings.

Similarly, Co-Chair Brown noted that the Board also stopped receiving notices for upcoming meetings of the Consortium (for city advisory boards). She asked Ms. Carhart to contact "Maggie" to see what happened and to get back on the communications list.

### **C3) Chair Reports/Discussion Items**

#### **Pam Brown - May 21, 2007 Fort Lauderdale School Forum Report**

Co-Chair Brown explained that the forum was put together, with the help of the Board, by School Board Members Ben Williams and Maureen Dinnen. The forum was designed to bring people together from the Fort Lauderdale education industry to discuss general issues.

The forum was supposed to break up attendees into smaller groups based on particular issues; however, Co-Chair Brown noted that this format was abandoned. Instead, Co-Chair Brown stated that the School Board basically gave a presentation to all of the roughly 120 attendees.

Co-Chair Brown noted her desire to hold another forum, this time ensuring the group format was followed. She mentioned a meeting she had that day with Ms. Dinnen about starting the process over again – and recruiting people from the Steering Committee, DCF, the faith community, politicians and “anyone and everyone that touches children’s lives” to be part of a dialogue that discusses the most pressing issues, such as safety, community relations, etc.

Co-Chair Brown added she would be working and coordinating with Rev. Larry Thompson, Chap Moss, Fran Klauber and Dr. Farrow, and that a meeting was set up for September 6, 2007 to discuss subcommittees. Co-Chair Brown said she remains optimistic about having another forum and that it is a good thing for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Prohaszka mentioned attending a Children’s Summit last October in Orlando that looked at statewide children’s systems from child care through high school, including health, literacy, teen workforce, etc. Broward County followed up with its own similar Summit. At the Summit, Ms. Prohaszka received a report that identified the major areas of non-communication. She said she would share this report with the board.

Ms. Prohaszka, who also is the newest member of the Board, then asked the Board for an overview of what the Board’s main issues and goals were at the present time. Co-Chair Brown responded that one of the priorities was finding ways to encourage more parent involvement. Co-Chair Brown also pointed out that the Board had “adopted” three schools about two years ago, and had been working with them on and off. One of the schools, Arthur Ashe, became a Magnet School with the Board’s help. Co-Chair Brown also said the Board had recently been busy with the Sunland Park and other environmental issues.

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Co-Chair Brown then stressed that top priority for the Board was filling the empty Board seats, and that four appointments were needed. Ms. Carhart stated that Ms. Maloney's seat had just been filled. Co-Chair Brown added that she believed the Commission also had another appointment pending.

### **C4) Summer Meeting Schedule – Confirm July Meeting Cancellation**

There will be no meeting in July.

### **4. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion**

#### **4A) City Commission/Manager Follow-up:**

None.

#### **4B) Liaison Reports & Updates:**

##### **1) Staff Liaison Report - L. Carhart**

Ms. Carhart reported she had been a co-presenter with Audrey Hutchison of the National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Families and Education for the NLC Women in Municipal Government Conference. Her part was to present a case study of the city's Municipal Leadership in Education Project. Ms. Carhart offered to distribute copies of the presentation to board members.

Co-Chair Brown suggested this PowerPoint might be shown at the September meeting to outline some of the issues addressed and initiatives completed by the Board as a way to introduce new members to the activities of the Board in recent years.

Ms. McMichen then detailed a discussion she had recently with a local resident about at-risk inner city kids – specifically kids at risk for dying prematurely, some before they are teens. The resident put Ms. McMichen in touch with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, and she is working with the Department to implement a program for inner-city kids, including role-playing, tips on how to respond to certain situations and ride-alongs.

Ms. McMichen had the opportunity to go on her own "ride-along" with some officers one night. She asked to be taken to a real inner-city scene, since she was dealing with real inner-city children. She was taken to the scene of a violent crime – a shooting and riot.

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[At this point, Ms. McMichen detailed the account of that scene on the night of her ride-along.]

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

Mr. Webster was not present.

**3) Council of Ft. Lauderdale Civic Assocs. Report – B. Shelly**

Ms. Shelly explained to the newer council members that the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations is an ad hoc committee that deals mostly with code issues. The Council is currently looking at the issue of “McMansions” popping up throughout the City’s neighborhoods. Other issues include police officers requesting 10 percent raises and raising the hourly amount they charge when working off duty. The Council also is involved in trying to block some of the larger Bell South utility boxes and poles from going up around the City.

**D. New/Future Business**

Dr. Hays noted there is a major shortage of math and science teachers, and that by Feb 15, there will be approximately 280,000 math and science teachers needed throughout the country. She suggested the Board consider ways to encourage young people to consider teaching math and science as a career.

**E. Next Meeting and Closing**

**E1) Agenda Items:**

To be determined.

**E2) Location and Date:**

*Location:* City Hall; 8<sup>th</sup> Floor cafeteria  
*Date:* August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.