



APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
100 North Andrews Avenue, 8th Floor - Cafeteria
February 21, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Administrative Note: Minutes Approved May 15, 2008

April 2007- March 2008
Cumulative Attendance

<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1. Michael Bacigalupi	A	4	4 - Off
2. Connie Christensen	P	4	1
3. Laura Clark	P	1	0
4. Lu Deaner	P	1	0
5. Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Chair	P	8	0
6. Helen Hinton	P	4	1
7. Kaola King	P	2	0
8. Dr. Leola McCoy	A	4	4 - Off
9. Elaine Schulze	A	4	4 - Off
10. Niara Sudarkasa	P	5	3
11. Phaedra Xanthos	P	3	0

Total Members Present: 8
Current Membership: 11; Quorum: 8

Others Present

Charmaine Eccles, EAB Staff Liaison
Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison
Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

A. Opening – Dr. Hays

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

Acting Chair Hays called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheets were passed around. Eight members were present; there was a quorum.

Chair Hays introduced Mr. Ray Dettmann, a Harbordale representative and District IV Representative.

Chair Hays introduced Ms. Shelley, and announced Ms. Shelley would be approved as a voting member of the Board.

- **Approve Minutes (Oct., Nov., and Jan.) and Agenda (Feb.)**

There was a quorum; minutes were approved.

- **Introduce New Members – Laura Clark**

Chair Hays welcomed new member, Laura Clark. Ms. Clark introduced herself and spoke briefly of her qualifications and background. The Board members and guests also briefly introduced themselves.

- **Guest Introductions**

B. Current Business

1. Chair/Co Chair Elections

Item deferred as there was no quorum.

2. Deferred Discussion Item – EAB Goals, Objectives, Activities for 2008

Item deferred as there was no quorum.

C. Old/Ongoing Business

Dr. Hays provided a brief background explanation for the new members on the history and issues bringing attention to Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe, and Lauderdale Manors.

- Funding had been provided through the Jason Taylor Foundation to take Sunland Park students to the King Tut exhibit.
- Arthur Ashe is the only non-magnet middle school, and has been working toward the magnet designation.
- Trees are being planted by the City to improve the appearance of the empty lot at Arthur Ashe.
- The City Manager and the Mayor were supposed to be working toward issues at Lauderdale Manors, but Dr. Hays noted no movement forward in the last year or two.

1. Sunland Park - Update

Dr. Hays stated there had been no update on Sunland Park since Mr. McCoy became ill, but the school still has needs. The school is located on a busy highway, and is located next to a cleaners, and Dr. McCoy had been working toward resolving environmental and safety issues.

Dr. Hays noted the school is still an "F" school, and Mr. Dawkins, the new principal, had been working toward academic improvements.

Mr. Webster announced Mr. Dawkins resigned in December, and Mr. Benson is the new principal at Sunland Park.

Dr. Hays reminded the Board Sunland Park continues to be a very needy school, and should be given special consideration as the Board sets its goals for the year.

2. Arthur Ashe - Update

Dr. Hays stated Arthur Ashe would be invited to a future Board meeting to provide a presentation.

Ms. Bartleman, County-wide School Board Member, announced Arthur Ashe is not involved in the boundary process this year, and would be revisited next year.

The "Flying L" Drive dedication will be Friday, February 22nd, 2008 at 8:30. Ms. Bartleman predicted the event would be very well attended and would include guests from the Fort Lauderdale High 50 Year Club.

Dr. Hays announced a Town Hall Meeting on taxes and budgets to be held in March.

Ms. Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, provided information on the second Crimewalk, to be held February 22, 2008 at 6:30. Dr. Hays reminded the Board associations who participate would be given points to be used for grants for various projects in the City.

Ms. Bartleman introduced herself, gave a brief background, and a description of her duties. Ms. Bartleman provided an explanation of the funding process for the Board. The Required Local Effort, the largest piece of the tax bill, equals \$481 per \$100,000 in assessed value, and goes directly to the State for redistribution to the Counties according to the County's Full Time Equivalency (FTE) rate. The money is redistributed through the Florida Education Finance Program. There is a complicated formula for the redistribution, which was changed four to five years ago. At that time, money for south

Florida had been reduced, which cost the district approximately \$90 million over the last four years. In addition:

Ms. Bartleman provided the following figures:

- The district has the ability to levy two additional mills, a 0.51 or 0.25 levy, which is \$66 per \$100,000 of the assessed value. The 0.25 levy is limited to \$100 per student.
- Capital millage equals \$200.
- Per \$100,000 taxpayers pay \$747 to the school system in taxes.
- The debt service, an amendment in 1986, which closes this year, was \$17 per assessed value.

The school district has a \$5.2 billion budget, divided into:

- Capital Budget, including land for schools and maintenance for buildings.
- Operational budget, running the school district, including 85% of the budget toward salaries
- State law does not allow the money to be mixed between the two budgets.

Within the operational budget are categorical budgets including safety and textbooks. Money within the categories must be spent within those categories, meaning the School Board does not have the authority to move money within the categories. The County is within the bottom 10% per student of funding in the nation.

Regarding passage of the property amendment, and based on State estimates:

- The School Board stands to lose \$146 million over the next four years.
- There is a statewide funding shortfall of \$2.1 billion for 2008-2009.
- It is estimated the district will lose \$72 million next school year.
- Utility rates have all increased, including windstorm insurance at approximately \$24 million.

In response to a question from Ms. Clark, Ms. Bartleman stated software falls under the Operational budget, and hardware for new schools fall under the Capital budget.

Ms. Clark asked about the process of working with Tallahassee to move money within the budgets. Ms. Bartleman confirmed the County is in the process of requesting increased flexibility from the State.

Ms. Bartleman provided the Board with the County's five-year capital plan, which would not be totally funded by capital dollars. Certificates of Participation, similar to common mortgages, are borrowed based on the two mills to fund capital projects. The County has a \$1 billion debt, to be covered by the two mills, and the new property amendment would affect the borrowing capacity. The County is already committed to a 2.64% salary increase totaling \$40 million.

Taking into consideration the property tax changes, the County is expecting a \$175 million shortfall, with \$100 million due to tax reform, and the loss of bonding capacity. Currently, Board is looking to restructure the debt to help cover the shortfall.

Ms. Bartleman explained the classroom reduction policy with the following:

- K, 1, and 2 – 18 students per class
- 3, 4, 5 – 20 students per class
- Middle School – 20 to 22 students per class
- High School – 25 students per class (in core classes)

The final year for the classroom reduction policies to be in place is 2010. Any school not meeting the classroom sizes would either have to go on double session or alternative calendar, or the District would be penalized by losing Operational budget to build new classrooms.

Ms. Bartleman stated the following goals had been set by the district regarding the current year budget:

- Maximize reductions outside the classroom
- Reducing workforce through attrition
- All new hiring was frozen, except school-based hiring
- All non-mandatory purchases were frozen
- Unnecessary overtime has been frozen
- All consulting has been frozen

Ms. Bartleman explained the 65% Rule, meaning 65% of all operational dollars were to be spent in the classroom. Although on its face, the rule sounded good, those dollars did not include counselors, reading leaders, cafeteria, school psychologists, social workers, or utilities. Ms. Bartleman emphasized the danger in the 65% Rule would be the need for a 60% majority to have the amendment removed from the State Constitution.

Ms. Carhart asked if an analysis had ever been done to determine, if the 65% had not been working, what would be a more realistic number. Ms. Bartleman stated the number was not the issue, rather what was allowed to be included in the dollars. Ms. Bartleman described the audit process and emphasized the district was constantly auditing to see where cuts could be made.

Responding to a question regarding lotto money, Ms. Bartleman provided the following:

- If all lotto money were given to the School Board, the money would fund three days for the public education system.
- 67% - FCAT A+ plan, including bonuses for teachers
- 24% - magnet programs
- 7% - curriculum
- Balance to prizes and Bright Future Scholarships
- The School Board has no say in how the lottery funds are spent

There followed a discussion by the Board on the No Child Left Behind program where Ms. Bartleman provided examples of how children are categorized under the program. Ms. Bartleman advised under the tutoring program, \$1,200 per child is allowed, but there is no requirement that a qualified teacher provide the tutoring. Children could be placed in "mom and pop" tutoring programs or after school programs with no way to assess success. The district is unable to require progress reports from non-district tutoring programs.

Ms. Bartleman provided her telephone numbers for Board members to request federal legislative packets containing the district's suggestions to the State. Ms. Eccles agreed to obtain packets to mail out to Board members. Ms. Bartleman emphasized as the County Advocate, the Board should give her phone numbers out to any employee or parent who felt the need for assistance.

Dr. Hays asked for an update on the Diversity Committee. Ms. Bartleman stated Mr. Folks, the Committee Chair, has asked site visits be stopped to allow a review of standards regrouping of the new committee members.

Dr. Hays provided a brief history on a lawsuit brought against the schools charging inequities between the schools. A settlement had been reached, which required the School Board to perform monitoring duties. The Fort Lauderdale schools were involved that that settlement and monitoring. Dr. Hays requested Ms. Bartleman continue to provide updates to the Board regarding the monitoring of the settlement.

At 7:50 p.m. Dr. Hays announced a quorum of the Board was present, and suggested the Board go back to the agenda items requiring a vote.

Dr. Hays noted one correction on the previous minutes; page three, paragraph six, the words "no only" should read "not only".

MOTION made by Ms. Deaner, seconded by Ms. Christensen, to approve the minutes from October, November, and January with the noted change. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by Ms. Deaner, seconded by Ms. Xanthos, to approve the February agenda. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Returning to the discussion on Arthur Ashe Dr. Hays asked about progress made on getting Ms. Frazier to join the Board. Ms. King stated she had made calls to Ms. Frazier, but they have not spoken directly. Ms. King will continue to follow up and encourage Ms. Frazier's participation.

Dr. Hays opened the floor for nominations for Chair/Co Chair Elections.

Ms. Deaner nominated Dr. Hays to chair the EAB, and commented Dr. Hays was the most knowledgeable and experienced member of the Board. Ms. Christensen seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Dr. Hays was elected Chair of the Education Advisory Board.

Ms. Hinton noted the importance of having a committee Co-Chair.

MOTION made by Ms. Christensen, seconded by Ms. Hinton, to elect a Co-Chair for the Education Advisory Board to assist and support the Chair, and to function in the Chair's absence. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Xanthos volunteered to serve as Co-Chair, and the Board unanimously agreed to her appointment.

3. Parent Association - Update

Dr. Hays stated there has been no Parent Association. Dr. Hays announced Dr. Bacigalupi will probably not be returning, and Dr. Hays will pursue updates on the Parent Association.

4. Chair Report

Dr. Hays spoke with Maureen's (Vice Chair of the School Board) secretary regarding the steering committee meeting minutes from January. The minutes are not yet available. The meeting with the principals has resulted in a great rapport, and a website is being developed.

Dr. Hays announced The Beacon Broward Teen News would be having a special on Stranahan, which be available on the city site. A date had not yet been announced.

Dr. Hays provided an update on the Consortium of Education Advisory Boards, and noted there would be conference call the following week for future planning and lessons learned.

Dr. Hays requested a future agenda item be included to discuss bringing a student member to the EAB. Dr. Hays also suggested members from each of the Innovation Zones. The Innovation Zones include the high schools and the schools feeding into the high schools.

Dr. Hays announced there had been a dedication ceremony at Civic People's Park for Jennie Brooks and William Dandy, both recently deceased, and honored for their work in education.

5. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion **a. BCPS Education Forum – Sub-Committees**

Mr. Borrero stated issues at the last Parental Involvement meeting had been tabled, and had no updates.

As discussed in the last meeting, the Safety committee needs to be restructured and has no update.

b. City Commission/Manager Follow ups

Ms. Eccles stated there was no update at this time.

c. Reports and Updates

Staff Liaison – Carhart/Eccles

Ms. Eccles expressed no issues or concerns at this time. Dr. Hays stated an attachment to an email had been sent to Ms. Eccles regarding the number of students taking AP, and announced Florida ranked fourth. Dr. Hays would resend the email to Ms. Eccles.

Broward County School District – C. Webster

Mr. Webster noted an article in the *Sun/Sentinel* covering the Old Dillard Museum expansion. The community school would be relocated to the Mizell Center, hopefully by August, 2008. Mr. Webster invited the Board back to visit the museum. Some updates on the museum included:

- Ninety-five students from Plantation Middle School will be touring the museum.
- A Miami school has requested to send 235 children to tour.
- Partnership with the Swimming Hall of Fame had hosted a very well attended event.

Mr. Webster updated the Board on the bus tours of the local schools. The schools would be allowed to showcase special projects. Mr. Webster stated the bus tours had been very successful, and requested the Board members attend one of the bus tours.

Mr. Webster announced the Safe Community Initiative Conference, and provided information handouts to the Board members. The Conference will be in April.

Mr. Webster shared a press release on the Head Start program. Dr. Hays requested the press release be emailed to Ms. Eccles and Ms. Shelley.

Mr. Webster announced a push for Latino voters called Latino Voter 2008, and provided information on a February 27, 2008 neighborhood meeting.

Mr. Webster gave a brief description of the Coalition of Education Advisory Board's best practices showcase.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – B. Shelley

Ms. Shelley announced the Council meets the second Tuesday of every month, and invited Board members to attend.

D. New/Future Business

Ms. Christensen discussed a booklet received from the Pennsylvania Bar Association used to educate students in civics. Ms. Christensen stated she would contact the Florida bar to see if the state had an equivalent. Ms. Christensen stated 90 students would be attending the Spirit of America Youth Conference. Harriet Kaye left \$4 million in trust to send Florida students to Valley Forge, and the attendees would include both middle and high school students. The conference will be expanded next year to allow for additional attendees.

Dr. Hays announced the Mt. Bethel Church program for middle and high school students to obtain college information. The program included college information and recruiters.

The Board brainstormed the following ideas for future goals and objectives:

- Civics in the classroom
- Continue with Arthur Ashe and Sunland
- Fostering relationships between the schools and business partners
- Volunteers coming into the schools to help with reading, especially in Title I schools
- Mentoring program

Mr. Webster agreed to provide a short presentation on possible business partnering in the next meeting.

Dr. Hays discussed Board vacancies to be filled. Ms. Eccles agreed to provide a list at the next meeting.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. Bierbaum, Prototype, Inc.]