



## APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
EIGHTH FLOOR CAFETERIA  
MARCH 20, 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. Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Chair	P	9	0
2. Phaedra Xanthos (arr. 7:38)	P	4	0
3. Laura Clark (arr. 6:40)	P	2	0
4. Klaron Grigsby	P	1	0 - New appt
5. Helen Hinton	A	4	2 - No Reappt
6. Lu Deaner	A	1	1
7. Kaola King	A	2	1
8. Dr. Leola McCoy	A	0	1 - Reappt
9. Elaine Schulze	P	1	0 - Reappt
10. Niara Sudarkasa	A	5	3
11. Maureen Witting	P	1	0 - New appt
12. Connie Christensen (arr. 7:07)	P	5	1

Total Members Present: 7

Current Membership: 12; Quorum: 8

### Others Present

Charmaine Eccles, Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison

Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

### A. Opening – Chair Hays

#### • **Attendance and Sign-In**

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Hays at 6:35 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheets were passed around. As only seven members were present, there was no quorum.

Chair Hays announced Ms. Deaner would not be present due to a birthday celebration, and wanted to recognize Ms. Deaner's 85th birthday and years of contributions.

- **Approve Minutes and Agenda**

As there was no quorum, minutes and agenda could not be approved. Chair Hays requested the Sobel Town Hall meeting be added to the agenda under New Business.

- **Introduce New Members – Maureen Witting, Klaron Grigsby**

Chair Hays welcomed two new members, Maureen Witting and Klaron Grigsby. Ms. Witting and Ms. Grigsby introduced themselves and spoke briefly of their qualifications and background. The Board members and guests also briefly introduced themselves.

- **Guest Introductions**

Chair Hays introduced Dr. Roseanne Belsito, who was invited to the meeting, but did not appear on the agenda. Dr. Belsito, Principal of Broward Community School North, explained the school was involved in a number of activities:

- Provide services to adult students needing additional credits
- Provide FCAT prep services
- Sponsor events to bring back students who have left high school
- English as a second language
- GED programs
- Apprentice programs
- Dance, art, and other activities

Dr. Belsito provided a brief history of her history and qualifications, and provided information packets showing the scope of the available programs. Dr. Belsito announced the school recently launched a website, [www.mycommunityschool.com](http://www.mycommunityschool.com).

Dr. Belsito described one goal of the program was to move from the current location in the old Dillard Museum into the Mizell Center, and hoped to double the size of the current program. The increased size would allow for increased revitalization of Sistrunk Boulevard.

Dr. Belsito stated the newly approved program would have administrative assistants, English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and a grant-funded family literacy program which would allow parents to learn English or work on their GED while their children are cared for by licensed child care workers.

Dr. Belsito stated an ESOL program had been started at Thurgood Marshall last term, which is open day and night, and had a second location available for use during the summer. There is also a childcare program, which attracted women to get their

certificate in childcare. The program crossed over with the vocational/technical centers in a variety of aspects, providing more certificate and licensing programs. Dr. Belsito also described an apprentice program with Atlantic Tech in plumbing, air conditioning, and electricity to attract more people to skilled trades.

Chair Hays suggested City involvement could possibly help promote the programs, and would recommend the issue under "Goals" in the agenda. Dr. Belsito stated one goal was to have various businesses, including the City of Fort Lauderdale, be able to hire students upon completion of the program and participate in career nights to draw businesses to the center. Dr. Belsito stated there is a large Hispanic population and a large Portuguese population, and the center hoped to expose students to more cultural opportunities.

Ms. Schulze asked if the center provided jobs for the students. Dr. Belsito stated there are no resources at the center to provide jobs, but the program tried to provide information to the students when possible. Ms. Schulze requested referrals to the program's child care workers, and Dr. Belsito agreed to provide Ms. Schulze's contact information to the program administrators.

Ms. Nina Randall, Broward County Public Schools, asked if there was a way to have links to companies looking for workers on the program website. Dr. Belsito agreed to speak with the webmaster about the possibility of adding links. Dr. Belsito noted due to the not-for-profit status, there are a variety of restrictions on working with outside businesses. Dr. Belsito also stated since the center does not provide security, 16 to 18-year-olds are not allowed to attend classes in a public shopping center, due to the Jessica Lunsford law. Those students have to be sent to school board property locations, causing 35 people to be turned away from the Deerfield location over a two-month time period.

Ms. Grigsby stated she also sits on the Broward Alliance Workforce One Board, and offered to bring the website link issue to the next Alliance meeting, and add the center to the newsletter.

Chair Hays introduced Nina Randall, Broward County Public Schools. Ms. Randall provided a description of the Partners in Education program, including the office of volunteer services, a mentoring program, parent's involvement program, and district-wide partnerships.

Ms. Randall described her role as director as two-fold, including providing training for schools to recruit partnerships, how to utilize partnerships, and retention of partners. Current partnerships include:

- Churches

- Clubs
- Cities
- Counties
- Sheriff
- Businesses

Another role is to recruit new partnerships, and help maintain visibility for the program. Ms. Randall stated there have been approximately 2,100 active partnerships, and 400 inactive partnerships. Ms. Randall gave the example of a school in Parkland with 74 partners, although some schools had as few as one partnership and were actively seeking more partnerships. Ms. Randall pointed out some of the schools with low numbers of partnerships would be of interest to the Board.

Ms. Christensen stated she is the President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and asked about opportunities to go into the classroom to teach about the Vietnam War. Ms. Randall stated the Vietnam Veterans could come to her if the club was interested in partnering with the school. Ms. Randall would meet with the club and the partner liaison at the school to facilitate the partnership.

Ms. Randall explained if the veterans were interested in speaking to a variety of schools, they would need to prepare an outline of their talk, send it to the Superintendent and Screening Committee, they would send the request to the History Department to check for alignment with the curriculum.

Ms. Randall indicated many schools in the Fort Lauderdale area were looking for volunteer readers. Chair Hays stated the FCAT preparation was also a big need in the district. Ms. Christensen stated the Vietnam Veterans were non-profit, had 130 members, and were looking for areas for increased community involvement. Ms. Randall stated there is a link to school needs, listed by each individual school, on the program's website.

Ms. Randall stated the larger chain stores, Target, Wal-Mart, Publix, Costco, K-Mart, held math or science nights at one of their stores. Parents bring their kids to the store, the teachers write a lesson in Math or Science, and the kids went on scavenger hunts performing different activities like measuring the circumference of an item, locating items from Taiwan, etc. The parents and children worked together, and the children received rewards at the end of the activities.

Ms. Witting suggested those stores donate merchandise to use as awards to be given in assemblies as incentives for completion of homework, etc. Ms. Witting stated the awards would be good publicity for the stores. She also suggested pizza parties for the

classrooms. Ms. Randall stated those parties are being used, but resources to implement the partnerships are necessary in the schools.

Ms. Randall stated the goal would be to increase partnerships with the low socio-economic schools, but there has been poor response from the schools due to lack of resources needed to do follow-up. Ms. Randall stated volunteer school liaisons were needed to help manage partnership relationships.

Ms. Randall told the Board to feel free to send her any partnership opportunities and she would meet with the school and the partner to get the relationship going. Chair Hays noted the issue could be added to the Board's goals and try to involve the City and City employees.

Ms. Grigsby described working with a school too poor to even provide screwdrivers to perform computer maintenance. Ms. Grigsby stated even though the school had a liaison, the time and personnel resources were at such a minimum that the process was frustrating for both partners and the schools.

Ms. Randall stated some of the partners held fundraisers with the school, but the money could not go to the Principal's discretionary fund. Money had to be donated in writing and designated to a specific purpose.

Chair Hays thanked Ms. Randall and Dr. Belsito for their presence at the meeting.

## **B. Current Business**

### **1. Deferred Discussion Item – EAB Goals, Objectives, Activities for 2008**

Chair Hays provided a brief history on the issue of goals for the new members by explaining each year the Board tried to decide on goals and focus for the upcoming year. Chair Hays noted the orientation and reference book some of the Board members had received, and suggested something comparable be used again. Ms. Eccles stated the information is available online, and agreed to email instructions for accessing the materials.

Chair Hays stated for the past three or four years the Board had adopted two or three needy schools in the City and tried to find ways to reach out to those particular schools. Chair Hays admitted some difficulty in getting the schools to accept the help offered sometimes, but there had been some successes, Chair Hays outlined for the new members.

Sunland Park Elementary School on Sunrise, a very needy school, was very involved in environment issues and concerns. There had been no recent updates at Sunland, due to a change in principals at the school. Chair Hays had not yet contacted the new principal, but Sunland is still a very, very needy school. Chair Hays stated an FCAT incentive had been provided to the Sunland students with the King Tut exhibit. A number of students had been sent to the exhibit, with the Jason Taylor Foundation sponsoring the costs of the trip.

Arthur Ashe Middle School was the only middle school without a magnet program. Arthur Ashe requested a magnet program, and the Board had been working on helping with that project. The Citizen's Volunteer Corp had been to the school to plant trees recently, and there have been various other efforts to help the school. The principal from Arthur Ashe had visited the Board to discuss programs recently, and Chair Hays suggested another visit from the principal for updates.

Chair Hays stated another goal had been to work on a citywide Parent's Association to act as a Board of PTAs from the various City schools to promote awareness of the City school needs. Chair Hays asked Ms. Eccles to make available online the City school demographics for the new Board members. Chair Hays stated a continuing concern was the tremendous loss of students in the high schools, and noted the numbers drop drastically between the second and third year of high school. Chair Hays pointed out the Board of PTAs was a continuing goal, and suggested a Board member could take the lead on the issue.

Chair Hays stated the students know nothing about government, and the upcoming elections would be a good opportunity for civics lessons with the students.

Another topic that had been discussed previously was City release time for employees to volunteer in schools. Chair Hays stated there was a move about two years ago to work on that type of program from the City Manager and the Mayor, but the program had not moved ahead. The City employees would be paid for an hour of their time volunteering in the school, and it would be good public relations for the City. Advancement of the program would show interest by the City in the children coming up in the schools.

Chair Hays suggested the Board brainstorm other ideas for goals and activities for the Board:

- Ms. Clark stated the Mayor and Commissioners of Oakland Park spent an hour once a week reading one-on-one to children in the library, and suggested the same could be implemented for the City school students.

- Ms. Clark also referenced another Oakland Park program involving the police and fire fighters volunteering their time for reading.
- Ms. Schulze suggested pulling in people from PTAs in all the City schools, having a meeting, and invite Ms. Randall to speak on opportunities for partnering in the schools.
- Chair Hays provided an example of bringing people in to get involved with the MLE project, which led to committees that were currently working. Chair Hays suggested contacting foundations or groups interested in sponsoring the program. Chair Hays recommended a couple of Board members could take the lead on the idea.
- Ms. Christensen suggested Civics in the Classroom, and asked if a curriculum would be created to work through Social Studies. Chair Hays stated the Board would look into details of specific projects later, but should just do brainstorming for this meeting.
- Ms. Clark suggested the Veterans coming to the schools for a few hours on Veteran's Day.
- Ms. Grigsby suggested using the academy technology school students, as part of their school projects, to mentor a high school student who was having a hard time. Ms. Grigsby offered to discuss the possibilities with the leader of the virtual learning center. Chair Hays reminded the Board that anyone volunteering at the schools would need to go through a background check and be fingerprinted.
- Ms. Xanthos suggested high school students mentoring middle school children, and middle school children mentoring elementary children, like the Waldorf School program.
- Chair Hays suggested the same type of mentoring program for the students of Sunland and Arthur Ashe.

## **2. Sobel Town Hall Meeting**

Chair Hays explained the recent Sobel Town Hall Meeting had been held to discuss taxes and budgets. Since no Board members had attended the meeting, there was no update to provide.

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

**1. Sunland Park - Update**

Chair Hays noted there had been no update on Sunland Park, and as indicated earlier, Chair Hays had not yet spoken to the new principal. Chair Hays stated she would attempt to make contact with the new principal before the next meeting to provide an update.

Ms. Schulze provided a brief history on the Sunland Park school project for the new Board members. Ms. Schulze explained there had been disputes about the ground water and the air quality due to the auto body shop and dry cleaning store in the area. Dr. Leola McCoy headed up a project to bring in experts from Tallahassee, including the EPA, to perform testing. The HRS has also been involved in the testing the children. The problems have been identified and are now under control.

Chair Hays explained there had also been concerns with the FCAT grades within Sunland.

**2. Arthur Ashe - Update**

Chair Hays suggested Mr. Webster provide the Arthur Ashe report along with his School District report later in the agenda.

**3. Parent Association - Update**

Chair Hays stated there has been no Parent Association update due to the recent Education Advisory Board resignations, and the project may be resurrected at a later date.

**4. Chair Report**

Providing a brief history on the Consortium of Education Advisory Board, Chair Hays explained the School Board brought together all the Advisory Boards in the County to brainstorm and share ideas. As a result of these meetings, a workshop had been held, and the Consortium, along with representatives from the various cities met periodically to plan events.

In addition, a number of best practices showcases had taken place, the last one held at Piper last January. Chair Hays stated Fort Lauderdale had been well represented. During the recent conference call, another showcase had been discussed, and the date for the next showcase would be May 14, 2008, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Stranahan.



The purpose of the showcase would be to alert government and City officials what is going on regarding best practices in various cities. Chair Hays stated an email had gone out to the Mayor and the City Commissioners asking them to attend.

Chair Hays announced Kid's Day would be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Silver Ridge Elementary School in Davie. The purpose of the event would be to "expose children to a positive and healthy environment where they will learn about areas of health, safety, and their environment." Environmental groups, entertainment, and Teddy the Turtle would all be involved in the event. There would also be spinal, dental, and vision screenings, and ID cards and fingerprinting service would be available.

Chair Hays announced there would be a Fort Lauderdale High School event, March 27, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. for discussion and planning of the new buildings, and the next phases of construction, including the pool, river walk, and stadium.

Chair Hays provided handouts from the NSTA regarding the Science Alliance for Elementary Schools. The program is to provide tools and preparation educators need in teaching Science.

Chair Hays announced the State Community Initiative Prevention Conference to be held April 26, 2008. Continuing ed units would be available for those who need them.

The Florida Department of Education and the Office of Mathematics and Sciences will celebrate the first annual Florida Science Day on May 16, 2008. Chair Hays stated educators would submit lesson plans to be used in schools around the state on that day. The theme would be wind energy. Chair Hays suggested the Board try to convince the City Commission to declare May 16, 2008 as Science Day in Fort Lauderdale. Chair Hays agreed to get a proclamation together to be ready for the agenda at the next City Commission meeting.

Chair Hays cited an article from the *Orlando Sentinel* entitled "Students Excel on AP Exams Thanks to the FCAT." Chair Hays gave the following statistics:

- In 1997 there were 7,000 Florida students having an AP. Last year there were 83,000 students.
- Florida leads the nation in the number of African American and Hispanic students passing AP exams. Three times the number of African Americans have now passed as compared to ten years ago.

- Florida is number four in the nation in the number of high school students passing AP exams.

Chair Hays emphasized taking the FCAT, and other standardized tests, is a skill requiring practice. Chair Hays felt it was important to share the positives in the state, and agreed to provide copies of the article to the other Board members.

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

### **a. Education Forum – Sub-Committee Updates**

Chair Hays explained three committees had been formed, including a steering committee made up of local principals, the Community Involvement Committee, the Parental Involvement Committee, and the Public Safety Committee. Chair Hays stated the committees had not met since the holidays, and there had been no minutes made available to date. Chair Hays expressed concern that the committees may be dying and need revitalization.

### **b. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

Chair Hays stated there were no update, and no minutes available at this time.

### **c. Student Member to the EAB**

Chair Hays explained there had been a suggestion to appoint a student member to the Education Advisory Board. There had been student members in the past, and other cities had student members on their Boards. The student could be either a full member appointed by the Commissioner, or a guest member. Chair Hays felt it would be beneficial to hear a student's perspective and insights on issues being discussed.

Chair Hays had attended the last Parks and Recreation Board meeting and spoke with John Quinton, a Rec Programmer II for the City. Chair Hays provided handouts regarding Mr. Quinton's program called the Teen Advisory Council using kids in the Parks and Rec programs to be the Council members.

Chair Hays explained every Park program sends representatives to the Team Council, the Team Council forms their own leadership, their own rules, their own objectives, which engages the children in the civil process. Chair Hays suggested Ms. Christensen contact Mr. Quinton to discuss the program.

Chair Hays had asked the Council to suggest one or two members to send to the Education Advisory Board. Ms. Christensen agreed to call Mr. Quinton and request they come and make a presentation to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

**d. City Commission/Manager Follow-up**

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

**e. Reports and Updates**

**Staff Liaison – C. Eccles**

Ms. Eccles provided copies of the updated Board vacancy list. Chair Hays requested other Board members to make recommendations for new members.

**Broward County School District – C. Webster**

Mr. Webster provided an update from Tallahassee and stated the budget shortfall could be as much as \$1.5 billion, although the House is not expected to cut that much out of the 2008/2009 budget. Most education programs, including mentoring, school recognition awards, and teacher stipends are likely to be cut or eliminated. Mr. Webster stated it was also probable that the per student funding for public schools for 2008/2009 will be decreased, but will still be higher than 2006/2007.

Mr. Webster received an email regarding the House Education Appropriations Chairman announcement that the 2008/2009 budget would be lower than the ending budget for the current year. Mr. Webster noted the ending budget had been reduced twice since it was adopted last May by the legislature. Mr. Webster quoted Mr. Pickens saying, "Everything is going to be cut."

Mr. Webster stated the Efforts in Education Bill would go to the full Senate the following week. The Bill would clamp down on hiring and firing procedures for instructional personnel, and no longer allow teachers to quit in one system and move to another system in the State.

Mr. Webster provided responses from Arthur Ashe regarding questions about the magnet program. The Board would consider boundary changes, but the issue needed further study. No boundary changes had been made, and the boundary process would begin again in May. The magnet did not receive federal funding, but the Board did approve the magnet. Students would be recruited from outside the boundary area and a magnet curriculum would be implemented.

Mr. Webster announced the next exhibit at the Old Dillard Museum, Writer's Serenade, would be held March 27, 2008. The exhibit would also be held in June.

Mr. Webster reminded the Board of a previous discussion held regarding the Dinner for Dads where the Board had requested the schools in the Dillard zone. The schools are:

- Broward
- Dillard Elementary
- Martin Luther King
- Lauderdale Manors
- Thurgood Marshall
- Rock Island
- Sunland Park
- Westwood Heights
- Arthur Ashe
- William Dandy
- Parkway
- Dillard High School

Mr. Webster stated the Million Father March had been organized to get more men involved. There would be a Dinner for Dads in the Dillard zone, the fathers would be recognized in the schools, and the organizers were looking for opportunities for the dads to work in the schools. School principals will be attending, and the fathers would receive certificates for attending.

Mr. Webster explained the Juvenile Justice Board had put together a blue ribbon panel to examine zero tolerance. Mr. Webster did not have final information available, but felt the recommendation may be to do away with zero tolerance in school. Mr. Webster would wait to see what the final verbiage was and disseminate the information when it became available.

Mr. Webster stated PBS&J Engineering had been sponsoring a program in Broward County called Kid's Class for the last three years. This year the program would be held in Fort Lauderdale, schools were selected, including Arthur Ashe, the school would select ten students, and PBS&J would assign ten mentors to the children. PBS&J converted their boardroom into a computer lab for six weeks for the kids. The kids would attend once a week for six weeks with their mentor for training. The program kickoff will be April 9, 2008 at 3:00 at PBS&J. The Board members were invited to attend. The graduation from the program is tentatively scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 3:00.

Chair Hays asked if Mr. Webster was sending the News and Views to Board members. Mr. Webster stated that was possible now that a new member list had been created. The newsletter would be every other week, sent electronically, and would go to the Board members.

### **Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association – B. Shelley**

Chair Hays announced the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association was currently working on educational and neighborhood goals, and anyone interested could get copies of these goals by emailing Chair Hays.

#### **D. New/Future Business**

##### **1. Best Practices Showcase**

Chair Hays reminded the Board members to save the date for the Best Practices Showcase. Board members interested in helping with the event would be welcome.

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

The next meeting would be April 17, 2008. Any suggestions for agenda items should go to Chair Hays or Ms. Xanthos.

Ms. Schulze suggested the Board spend some time on defining the goals. Anyone with ideas for goals should email them to Ms. Eccles. Chair Hays would send out copies of the goals already discussed to help members prepare for the next meeting. Chair Hays reminded the Board a quorum was necessary to establish the goals.

Chair Hays stated the Florida Academy of Sciences would be selling bumper stickers for \$2.00 to raise money for their program. Any churches or student organizations willing to sell the bumper stickers as a fundraiser would receive 50 cents out of every \$2.00 for stickers sold.

Ms. Christensen stated an article in *Sierra Club* magazine advised the glossy inserts in magazines and newspapers are made with heavy metal-based dyes, including lead and mercury, and should not be used in litter boxes, dog runs, or classrooms.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.