



APPROVED MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
Eighth Floor Cafeteria
April 17, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.**

Administrative Note: Minutes Approved May 15, 2008

**April 2008 - March 2009
Cumulative Attendance**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1. Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Chair	P	1	0
2. Phaedra Xanthos (arr. 6:40)	P	1	0
3. Laura Clark	A	0	1
4. Klaron Grigsby	A	0	1
5. Lu Deaner	P	1	0
6. Kaola King	A	0	1
7. Dr. Leola McCoy	A	0	1
8. Elaine Schulze	A	0	1
9. Niara Sudarkasa (arr. 6:39)	P	1	0
10. Maureen Witting	A	0	1
11. Connie Christensen	P	1	0
12. Gilbert Borrero (arr. 7:35)	P	1	0

Total Members Present: 6

Current Membership: 12; Quorum: 8

Others Present

Betty Shelley, Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations

Charmaine Eccles, Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison

Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

A. Opening – Dr. Hays

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hays at 6:35 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheets were passed around. It was determined a quorum was not present.

- **Approve Minutes and Agenda**

As there was no quorum, February and March minutes and agenda could not be approved. Chair Hays requested an EAB congratulatory letter be added to the agenda under New Business.

- **Introduce New Members**

Chair Hays advised Mr. Gil Borrero had been reappointed to the Board at the City Commission meeting and would be attending later in the meeting.

- **Guest Introductions**

There were no guest introductions.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Webster announced the safety meeting would be May 8, 2008.

Ms. Christensen advised 33 children from various Broward County schools would be going to Valley Forge for the Spirit of America Youth Conference. Ms. Christensen provided a brief overview of the conference. Chair Hays suggested the Education Advisory Board send a congratulatory letter to the students selected to attend. Ms. Christensen agreed to provide a list of the students at the next meeting.

Ms. Deaner announced Fort Lauderdale High School had successfully participated in a Civics project to get NE 4th Avenue renamed after their school, Flying L Street. Ms. Deaner suggested sending a congratulatory letter to the high school.

B. Current Business

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

Chair Hays suggested some significant time be spent on goal setting for 2008 to set the focus for the next year. Chair Hays provided the following goals taken from previous meeting minutes to begin the discussion:

1. Develop a recommendation for the Mayor, Commissioners, City Staff (police and fire fighters) to do once a week reading one-on-one to children in the school library.

2. Organize a session where members of PTAs in all the City schools come to meeting to have Ms. Randall to speak on opportunities for partnering in the schools.
3. Find foundations, groups interested in sponsoring partnership programs.
4. Promote Civics in the Classroom as a joint venture between City and schools and have a special day in city where city workers "take a kid to work." Perhaps EAB could work to develop a curriculum for such an event.
5. Establish a program whereby Veterans come to the schools for a few hours on Veteran's Day.
6. Develop program for using the academy technology school students, as part of their school projects, to mentor a high school student who was having a hard time with technology.
7. Develop a program whereby high school students mentor middle school children, and middle school children mentor elementary children, like the Waldorf School program.
8. Develop a special program of mentoring students of Sunland by former Sunland students who are now at Arthur Ashe.
9. Continue to work with Sunland to provide assistance or aid to the Sunland students.
10. Continue to work with Arthur Ashe to continue their attainment of a magnet program.
11. Continue to work on formation of citywide PTA.
12. Provide a mechanism whereby City would help promote programs within community schools and provide avenues to hire qualified graduates from the community schools.
13. Help City develop more partnerships between City and City employees and City schools.

Chair Hays suggested the Board work to revise, reword, and prioritize the list. The Board members made the following suggestions:

- Ms. Shelley felt that number one and number 13 went together and spoke to “partnerships.” Chair Hays agreed several items would fall under partnerships and could be incorporated.
- Chair Hays felt that number two and number 11 could be merged.
- Chair Hays suggested number three could be combined with numbers one and 13 as number three also dealt with partnerships. Ms. Xanthos felt that number three was important enough to be left on its own, and the word “corporations” should be added.
- Ms. Christensen agreed to help with number five, providing Veteran representatives and artifact displays. Ms. Christensen suggested the program could also be used for Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. Ms. Deaner suggested the program might be more appropriate for middle and high schools than for elementary children.
- Ms. Deaner suggested numbers seven and eight could be combined as they both deal with mentoring. Chair Hays suggested the mentoring could also become community service projects.
- Chair Hays explained items nine, ten, and 11 came from previous goals. Chair Hays announced the magnet program for Arthur Ashe had been approved. Ms. Eccles provided a copy of the newspaper announcement, and stated the new name of the school would be Center for Intellectually Talented Youth (CITY).

Ms. Xanthos stated the goal for the magnet would be experiential learning with a focus on being introduced to new environments. Chair Hays noted the EAB had provided significant assistance over the past two years getting the magnet program approved.

- Chair Hays felt number ten may have been accomplished, and the Board might want to look at ways to get support for funding.
- Chair Hays felt number 11 could be combined with number two.
- The Board felt numbers six, seven, and eight could be combined, three, four, five, nine, ten and 12 should be kept separate, one and 13 should be combined, two and 11 should be combined. This would leave a total of ten goals.

In clarifying number 12, Chair Hays explained the community schools provide education for dropouts and special programs for adults. Chair Hays noted there was no

mechanism to combine education with jobs, and felt there might be some way for the City to hire from those community schools. Ms. Sudarkasa stated in other cases the schools have come to the Board, and suggested the community schools might put together a plan to use for marketing with the City.

Mr. Webster reminded the Board members this discussion had originated in the March meeting where Dr. Belsito presented information on the community schools. Mr. Webster suggested having Dr. Belsito present at the Old Dillard Museum reception. Chair Hays suggested the Board hold one of their future meetings at the Old Dillard Museum. Ms. Xanthos offered having the school develop their own proposal might be a good idea. Chair Hays suggested the school do the proposal, and the Board would foster the idea with the City, and help to find investors and businesses willing to hire from the schools.

Ms. Xanthos introduced another potential goal for the Board, and explained the community nutrition program at Nova University. The program would improve nutrition for low-income people by instituting programs in elementary schools to introduce urban children to gardening and growing vegetables. Ms. Deaner explained she had been involved in a similar program at Sunland, which had been dropped in the chaos at the school. Chair Hays suggested some type of a nutrition program could be reintroduced at Sunland. The gardening/nutrition program was added to goal number 11.

Chair Hays asked the Board members to begin to rank the goals in order of interest to the group. The Board members came to a consensus that numbers six, seven, and eight – mentoring with students, would be the top priority. Ms. Deaner expressed concern regarding how students would get transportation from one program to another. Chair Hays reminded the Board the purpose was to get the goals set, and not to avoid a goal because there might be problems. The Board could work toward solutions in the future.

The Board came to a consensus that number three would be their second most important goal, and numbers one and 13 would be the third most important. Chair Hays agreed to reorganize and combine the list of goals for the next meeting.

2. Best Practices Showcase

Chair Hays stated some cities would be doing five to seven minute oral presentations at the Best Practices Showcase at Stranahan, on May 14, 2008, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Chair Hays had spoken to Leslie, and the schoolhouse would be resurrected for display with some handouts and materials. Chair Hays stated this had been a bad year for getting anything accomplished, and was at a loss for what could be included in an oral

presentation. Chair Hays suggested the work of the EAB in getting Arthur Ashe designated as a magnet could be used for the presentation.

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Sunland Park - Update

Chair Hays noted there had been no update on Sunland Park.

2. Arthur Ashe - Update

Chair Hays noted there was no update, other than the magnet designation being achieved.

3. Parent Association - Update

Chair Hays stated there has been no Parent Association update.

4. Chair Report

Chair Hays provided information from Senator Nelson's office regarding the National Bar Association Law Camp. Ms. Eccles agreed to email copies of the information to the Board members. Ms. Eccles will also forward the News and Views from March 26th.

Chair Hays mentioned the Emergency Town Hall meeting held at the Mizell Center in early April for parents, educators, and community leaders. No members of the Board had attended the town meeting.

Chair Hays referred to an article entitled "Miami Dade County Public Schools and Broward County Public Schools Named 2008 Finalists for \$1 Million Broad Prize." Chair Hays noted only four schools had made the final list. Mr. Webster emphasized this was a big deal because the schools were not self-nominated. The Foundation came to the schools based on their performance. Chair Hays provided the following as reasons Broward was chosen as a finalist:

- 2007 – Broward's Hispanic and African American students out performed their peers in other Florida districts serving students with similar income levels.
- Hispanic students out performed their peers in reading and math at all grade levels, elementary, middle, and high school.

- African American students out performed their peers in reading at all grade levels, and in math in middle and high school.
- African American and Hispanic students achieved higher average proficiency rates than the state average for those student groups in reading and math at all grade levels.
- Between 2004 and 2007, Broward showed greater improvement than similar Florida districts in math at all grade levels, and in middle and high school reading.
- Broward's African American students showed greater improvement than their peers in similar districts in reading and math at all levels.
- Broward narrowed achievement gaps between Hispanic students and their white peers in reading and math at all grade levels, and between African American students and their white peers in math at all levels, and in the elementary and middle school reading.
- Achievement gaps on SATs and advanced placement.

Chair Hays asked that the article be incorporated as part of the minutes.

Chair Hays referred to the Smart Schools Initiative information sent out to the Board members by Ms. Xanthos.

Chair Hays referred to the SAT prep course information sent out by Ms. Eccles for the June SATs.

Chair Hays provided information from the Town Hall meeting at Carter Park on March 31, 2008. The meeting consisted of a candidates forum with candidates for sheriff, state representatives, judges, and county commissioners. Chair Hays stated the event was a good opportunity for students to ask questions and learn about the process for elections.

Chair Hays provided a newspaper article from the *Miami Herald* regarding school vouchers.

5. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion
a. Education Forum – Sub-Committee Updates

Chair Hays provided a handout with information on Bloust.com, a free website for teachers. Chair Hays also provided copies of the Final Report of the Fort Lauderdale Community Involvement Committee. Ms. Deaner noted Bloust was also being used by realtors to check on school districts for potential homebuyers.

Chair Hays had no update on the parental involvement committee, or the safety and security committee.

b. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Hays stated there was no update, and no minutes were available.

c. Student Member to the EAB

Chair Hays explained the student member initiative would be on hold until the fall. The Teen Advisory Committee would not meet again this year as they meet based on the school year calendar.

d. City Commission/Manager Follow-up

Chair Hays asked Ms. Eccles to check with the City Manager for minutes taken on the Principal's City Manager meeting, and getting copies for the EAB. Chair Hays also suggested the City Manager come to the next EAB meeting and update on the City Manager meeting. Ms. Eccles agreed to extend the invitation.

e. Reports and Updates

Staff Liaison – C. Eccles

Ms. Eccles provided a new EAB contact list to the Board members. The Board held a brief discussion regarding potential new members for the EAB.

Broward County School District – C. Webster

Mr. Webster announced the Safety and Security Summit would be held May 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Webster agreed to email flyers regarding the summit.

Mr. Webster mentioned the Smart School Initiative, and stated he would be speaking with a representative from the initiative in order to get more information. Following questions from Board members, Mr. Webster explained the initiative did include a green school initiative.

Mr. Webster announced Broward Days would be the following week, and Thursday would focus on educational issues.

Mr. Webster provided an update from Tallahassee regarding the budget shortfall, and emphasized the budget cuts would impact everyone. There followed a discussion by various Board members of the budget.

Ms. Xanthos asked about the new school being built. Many students would be shifted due to the boundaries, and the cost of the school would be \$120 million.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – B. Shelley

Ms. Shelley stated there was no update on the Civic Associations. Ms. Shelley announced the citywide yard sale on May 8, 2008, in the parking lot at City Hall. Chair Hays provided handouts regarding the yard sale to raise money for the City Council.

Chair Hays announced the Gloria Baron Prize for Young Heroes. The deadline for nominations would be April 30, 2008, and was for outstanding young leaders between the ages of eight and 18 who have made a significant, positive difference to people and our planet. Ten winners would be selected from across the United States. An example of a noteworthy project was Becca's Closet, where a teen provided used gowns for proms and homecomings.

D. New/Future Business

1. Old Dillard Museum

Chair Hays stated the Board would try to hold the June meeting at the Old Dillard Museum.

2. Congratulations Letter

Chair Hays announced an assistant principal from Harbordale Elementary was a finalist for the 2008 Assistant Principal of the Year. Chair Hays suggested the EAB send a congratulatory letter to Jennifer Woertz-Kasdin regarding her nomination.

Chair Hays advised Arthur Ashe won the National Education Association award NEA's Book Across America Library Award. Arthur Ashe was one of only three schools in Florida to win the award. The \$1,000 award will be used to purchase books for the school library. Chair Hays recommended writing a letter on behalf of the EAB congratulating Arthur Ashe.

Chair Hays announced Susan Davis, media specialist at Bennett, was awarded the Holocaust Public Education Award at the countywide remembrance on May 4, 2008. The award is presented to an educator in the public school system that has shown outstanding effort and commitment in teaching Holocaust studies. Chair Hays agreed to send a letter to Ms. Davis.

Chair Hays presented information regarding The Big People Spelling Bee, April 19, 2008, to help promote literacy in Broward County.

Chair Hays recommended the EAB begin recognizing accomplishments of individuals in Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Christensen asked for clarification on the established criteria to create a student member for the EAB. Chair Hays stated there had been student members in the past appointed by a Commissioner. Chair Hays stated the student could be a less formal liaison rather than an appointed member. Chair Hays wanted to see what the Teen Advisory Council suggested, and would perhaps request two members.

3. Good of the Community

Ms. Christensen stated the 90-minute Memorial Day program would be held in Lauderdale Memorial Park, May 26, 2008 at 9:00.

Chair Hays noted the year 2011 is the centennial year for Fort Lauderdale. Chair Hays stated in a conference meeting there had been some discussion of the centennial celebration, to include a presentation by the historical society. Chair Hays felt some planning could be done by the EAB for the centennial involving school children.

Some suggestions provided by the Chair were a poetry contest, essay contest, or historical vignette. The winners from each school would then go into a citywide competition. Small prizes could be awarded to the children as an acknowledgement for their participation. Ms. Deaner suggested the art departments of the various schools could do posters, and vouchers for Home Depot and Best Buy could be used as gifts. Chair Hays recommended the issue be added as a long-term goal for the Board.

Ms. Xanthos stated the Green Energy Event, in coordination with Arbor Day and Earth Day, would be held at the library at Stranahan Park on April 26, 2008. Ms. Xanthos also announced the City would be giving away trees at the event.

Chair Hays announced the Polynesian community would be holding a benefit to raise money for a baby born with facial deformities. The benefit would be at Snyder Park on Saturday from 12:00 to 4:00.

E. Next Meeting and Closing

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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