

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
100 North Andrews Avenue, 8th Floor Cafeteria/Lounge
Thursday, November 20, 2008 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Cumulative Attendance

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Chair	P	6	1
Phaedra Xanthos, Co-Chair	P	5	2
Laura Clark	P	5	2
Lu Deaner	P	7	1
Elaine Schulze	P	6	1
Connie Christensen	A	3	4
Edna Elijah	A	3	1
Gloria Barr Jackson	A	2	2
Ed Parke	P	4	0
Jacqueline Ackerina	P	2	0

Total Members Present: 7
Current Membership: 10
Quorum: 8

Staff

Julie Richards, Interim Staff Liaison
Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools
Betty Shelley, Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations
J. Opperlee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

A. Opening – Chair Hays

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

Chair Hays called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and attendance was taken.

- **Approve Minutes (October) and Agenda (November)**

As a quorum was not present, the minutes and agenda could not be approved at this time.

Chair Hays stated that she would like to add, under “Old/Ongoing Business,” an item regarding Lauderdale Manors Elementary. She also noted a request for Ms.

Deaner and Mr. Parke to present some information regarding FCATs, which, she suggested, could immediately precede the Chair Report.

- **Introduce New Members – None**
- **Guest Introductions**

Chair Hays introduced Claudia Munroe, who would present information to the Board related to the Green School Initiative. She added that Deborah Owens, Principal of Stranahan High School, would join the meeting later, as she had an earlier commitment. Ms. Owens would discuss the renovations underway at Stranahan.

- **Announcements**

Ms. Deaner informed the Board that a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony would be held at the former Southside School at 10:00 a.m. on January 10, 2009, to open a “boundless playground” on the site. She described the playground as unique, as it serves children with special needs in particular. The former school itself will be restored as the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Community Center. It was noted that the center is a project of the Citizens’ Volunteer Corps.

B. Current Business

1. Green School Initiative – Ms. Claudia Munroe

Mr. Webster introduced Ms. Munroe, Executive Director for Design Services in Facilities and Construction Management.

Ms. Munroe addressed the programs of the Broward County School Board related to the Green School Initiative. She stated that the approach was to take the design standards and criteria used in designing schools and began “greening” these in terms of items and materials. They sought to not only use more green products in construction, but to help the schools create greater sustainability throughout the District as well.

The first approach was to prepare a matrix of the various green rating systems for purposes of comparison. They eventually chose Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) as the base system for the District. They then addressed the specifications and design criteria, which are linked to specific LEED credits. Ms. Munroe described LEED as a nationally recognized rating system, which rates and eventually certifies buildings as green. She also pointed out that lack of certification does not mean a project is not environmentally responsible, as enough credits may exist within a building’s specifications for its certification on those criteria alone. She added that hiring a commissioning agent

to certify a building often comes at an additional cost. In the case of Broward County Schools, using green materials for its specifications was the most cost-effective decision.

The next step was development of the Sustainable Energy and Environmental Design for Schools (SEEDS) Committee. This Committee's purposes include identifying and researching new green products and systems to ensure that they are appropriate for school use. They also recommend pilot projects, such as installation of solar panels, so the projects may be studied to learn if they are applicable for widespread use. They address new legislation or policy as well. Ms. Munroe referred to Florida Statute 255.2575, Energy-Efficient and Sustainable Buildings, which states: "All counties, municipal school districts, water management districts, state universities, community colleges, and Florida State Court Buildings shall be constructed to meet the [standards of] United States Green Building Council, Green Globes, Florida Green Building Coalition, or other nationally recognized rating system."

The Statute further notes that it is applicable to all such buildings with architectural plans begun after July 1, 2008. Ms. Munroe explained that this meant any forthcoming structures must be "tied in" to the new rating system, although she pointed out that the statute did not mandate certification.

The District developed an environmental strategic plan, which covers all aspects of the district's environmental efforts and green initiatives. Ms. Munroe noted that it was recently approved by the School Board. It also supports the District Strategic Plan, as it ensures the district's leadership as an environmental steward.

These aspects helped Broward County's facilities remain in the forefront of environmental sustainability, she said, as well as helping teach children what they can do in the future to preserve and maintain natural resources.

Next, the School Board created its Environmental Stewardship Policy, with the intent that it support the District Strategic Plan. The Policy will establish an Oversight Committee, as well as an Educational Technical Advisory Committee. These groups are intended to help guide the School Board in following the District Environmental Strategic Plan.

Regarding LEED training and accreditation, Ms. Munroe advised that twelve individuals are currently preparing to take this exam. She described this as an extremely rigorous preparation.

There are various pilot projects underway within the District that are related to Green Initiatives, Ms. Munroe noted, including the following:

- Solar roof panels on an elementary school;

- Waterless urinals and other water-conserving fixtures;
- Solar parking lot lighting;
- Irrigation water conservation programs at several schools;
- High-efficiency electrical transformers;
- Energy-efficient lighting installations;
- District-wide test-and-balance program;
- Habitat restorations in several schools.

Ms. Munroe pointed out that several of programs listed above are pilot programs, which may or may not go forward in future schools. She added that the SEEDS and Energy Conservation Committees suggest new pilot programs on a regular basis.

The school noted above as having pilot programs is very similar to another facility that has no such programs, Ms. Munroe noted. This will help the schools measure the actual cost savings that can be a result of the pilot programs; if the savings are what is expected, the programs will be implemented in other schools as well.

She drew the Board's attention to the first LEED certification in the District, which is the Media Center at Atlantic Vocational Technical School. This building is currently under design. Stranahan High School's replacement is expected to be the first LEED-certified high school in the District. She reiterated that the elementary school noted earlier has various green elements in its design as well.

Partnerships are also of great importance, she stated, adding that the School District has partnered with Broward County Naturescape, the South Florida Water Management District, Broward Beautiful, and various local community groups and municipalities. She noted that the School District is a member of the United States Green Building Council.

She offered to answer any questions the Board might have.

In response to a question regarding projected savings by the green design and/or pilot programs, Ms. Munroe stated she could not yet offer an answer, as there were often additions and new programs to be implemented. She noted that this was the reason for the comparison between the two elementary schools, as a means to determine actual savings.

Chair Hays suggested that, should the green elementary school prove to be financially beneficial, some of its programs could be introduced into the other school at a later point. Ms. Munroe agreed, adding that not only might the programs benefit the School Board's finances, energy conservation was "the right thing to do."

Ms. Deaner asked if the program involved students and informed them about environmental issues. Ms. Munroe responded that process procedures were currently being written to accompany policy, and education and curriculum would be discussed as part of this process. She noted that student involvement was very important that students understand the importance of conservation and the reasons for implementing it, and mentioned "Environmental Days" that involved the students.

Chair Hays thanked Ms. Munroe for speaking to the Board.

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Sunland Park

Ms. Clark reported that the Oakland Park Public Library had a program in place called "Fired Up for Reading," in which volunteer firefighters and members of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) participate. These volunteers read aloud to students for an hour once a week.

Ms. Clark contacted the BSO, who forwarded her the email of a potential contact at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. She contacted the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department as well, and is currently awaiting responses from both institutions. She reached out to District 1 Commissioner Christine Teel as well, leaving a message with her secretary.

Chair Hays suggested that Ms. Clark contact Major Raul Diaz or Captain Victor London of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. She also recommended speaking to Chief Bob Bacic of the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department.

Ms. Clark noted that she was unfamiliar with these individuals, although she had emailed two other local officers from whom she was also awaiting a response. She felt that Commissioner Teel would be "a great help."

Chair Hays added that she had made some phone calls as well, and informed the Board that the next Sunland Park SAC meeting would take place on November 25, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at the school if anyone wished to attend.

Ms. Clark stated that she had also emailed Sunland Park's volunteer coordinator, Ms. Cunningham, and had included Principal Maddie Benson in these emails as well. Both of these individuals had been "very thankful" for the Board's interest, she said. She was still awaiting further response from Ms. Cunningham, who is also a teacher at Sunland Park; her initial response, Ms. Clark said, was that the police and firefighters' volunteer program seemed a good idea.

2. Arthur Ashe

Ms. Ackerina reported that she had emailed Tonya Ford, volunteer coordinator at Arthur Ashe Middle School, and was currently awaiting a response. Chair Hays added that she had attempted to contact the magnet program coordinator as well, as she hoped this coordinator could speak at the EAB's January or February 2009 meeting on the topic of differentiated learning.

Ms. Ackerina added that the volunteer coordinator for Lauderdale Manors Elementary was Dawn Yates. Chair Hays asked Ms. Richards to email the names mentioned above to Board members in case anyone was interested in contacting them directly to volunteer at the schools.

- **Lauderdale Manors**

Mr. Webster stated that he had spoken with the Principal of Lauderdale Manors to let her know the EAB would be in contact.

Chair Hays recalled that at the October 2008 EAB meeting, they had discussed adding Lauderdale Manors to their consideration. She said this school would appear on the Board's agenda in the future.

3. EAB Goals

Chair Hays noted that one of the Board's goals was the one-on-one reading program previously mentioned by Ms. Clark. She asked if Ms. Clark wished to discuss the prospective program further.

Ms. Clark felt it would take at least "a couple more weeks" to meet with the necessary individuals regarding the program, but she felt it would come to fruition.

Co-Chair Xanthos mentioned that she had, as discussed at the October 2008 meeting, written a proposal for local corporations, which applies to the one-on-one reading program as well as fundraising. She distributed copies of the proposal to the Board.

She stated that her goal had been to develop a way to approach local businesses for assistance with fundraising, as well as regarding potential employee volunteer programs. As an example, she cited "Jeans Day," on which employees who contributed \$5 to fundraising or charity could wear jeans at their office. She pointed out that her firm "rotates" charities, contributing to both local and international causes; suggestions for these charities were submitted by employees.

She felt the EAB could create a flyer to send to local companies, and possibly at a Chamber of Commerce meeting as well, proposing an “adopt-a-school” program for corporations, who could participate through a “Jeans Day” or similar program. She recommended sending a letter to all Fort Lauderdale schools first, asking if they would be interested in participating in such a program.

She felt the Board should discuss what their “target businesses” should be – for example, limiting the contacts to corporations or businesses with 25 or more employees. In addition to fundraising, the Board could also propose a program in which employees were given two paid hours a month to volunteer at the business’s adopted school.

Chair Hays felt Co-Chair Xanthos’s proposal was “a great start,” and would provide a way for the Board to assist with volunteering and mentoring at schools in addition to fundraising.

She noted that school volunteers are subject to a screening process, which might involve a fee. Mr. Webster pointed out that anyone who would be alone with a student must be fingerprinted as part of this process; however, Ms. Clark clarified that if a certified teacher is also present when a volunteer works with a student, the only such necessity is an application and a background check.

Mr. Webster stated that the background check is dependent upon how the volunteer work is structured: for example, one-on-one mentoring requires fingerprinting, but if a School Board employee is present, the process is less rigorous. In terms of cost, he confirmed that this is absorbed by the District.

It was also noted that the volunteer application was available online, at the Broward County Schools website, and could be completed from home. It consists of a single page, and the turnaround time for application approval was usually five days.

Chair Hays introduced two guests who joined the meeting at this time, John Quinton and Deborah Owens.

Chair Hays suggested that the Board adopt the concept as presented, and agree to further refine some of the issues.

It was noted that the EAB should find out if it is allowed to assist schools with fundraising projects, as the Board is not intended to provide monetary assistance. As they would not be directly involved with finances, however, there might be a greater possibility that they could be of indirect help.

Ms. Richards agreed to check the rules for Board members facilitating a fundraising program.

Ms. Schulze informed the Board that she had spoken with a police retirees' organization regarding volunteer work; as their group was not scheduled to meet in December 2008, they had requested that she revisit the issue with them in January 2009.

[The following item was taken out of order on the agenda.]

Chair Report

Chair Hays stated that she wished to discuss the Teen Advisory Council, in which guest John Quinton was "instrumental" in developing. This was a group in which teenage volunteers from several City Park programs came together to become more involved in civic issues. For example, the Council had invited candidates for Sheriff to a forum held at Carter Park in April 2008.

Chair Hays continued that she had attended the group's most recent meeting. It is a student-run organization in which the students address issues involving the community. She suggested that a member of the Teen Advisory Council join the EAB to give Board members the students' perspectives on issues at the schools. The official position could be as liaison if age was an impediment to the student's membership, she noted.

In addition to the Teen Advisory Council, which arose from the City Park system, there is also a Teen Alliance Coalition, which has a Central Broward Group.

Chair Hays read the group's statement of purpose:

"Their vision is to create and sustain a safe and healthy urban county, consisting of alcohol- and drug-free youth, their mission to prevent and reduce substance use amongst youth by connecting key community stakeholders for collaboration, and thereby lessen the burden on government services and reduce rates of antisocial behavior."

Mr. Quinton stated that he is the project's Director, and the Teen Alliance Coalition is a collaboration of various organizations within the County, including the Boys' and Girls' Club, churches, and School Board- and Police-sponsored groups as well. Parents and neighborhood association presidents are also involved.

He noted that there are only two criteria for joining the group: participants must have "a heart for youth," as young people can be difficult to work with at times, and that participants understand that "it's not about me." Volunteers typically talk, strategize, and network to assist local youth.

While the Coalition is primarily focused on preventing substance abuse, Mr. Quinton pointed out that there is a “synergy” within this goal: it also means juvenile crime, school absenteeism, the dropout rate, teen pregnancy, and other considerations will be addressed as well. He felt the term “youth development” was appropriate to the nature of the group. As the Coalition is funded by a ten-year grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, substance abuse remains the primary focus, but other antisocial behavior is touched upon as well, and education is emphasized.

He added that the Coalition meets bimonthly, and has broken down their work into committees, which may meet monthly or as often as needed.

Chair Hays felt Mr. Webster could be an important contact for Mr. Quinton due to his connection with the School Board and other civic organizations.

She informed the Board that she will be volunteering with the Teen Alliance Coalition, and invited other interested members to participate as well.

Mr. Quinton invited the Board members to attend an Open House for the Coalition on December 15, 2008, at River House from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The next general meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., the third Thursday of every other month.

He noted that one of the Coalition’s youth members had been unable to attend tonight’s EAB meeting, and he was here in her stead; Chair Hays hoped that one of the teen members could attend a meeting in the future.

Mr. Quinton advised that attendees at the earlier meeting had been assigned “homework,” which was an environmental scan: members were asked to stop at a local convenience store to see if they could identify possible drug paraphernalia for sale, such as single-use cigars, and how it was marketed. This would help the Coalition understand the influences teens are dealing with.

Chair Hays provided the Board with a map from this morning’s meeting, which showed marijuana use in the City. She pointed out that this showed it was not a single-district issue.

Ms. Clark asked if Mr. Quinton could describe the Coalition’s goals. He stated that the goal of reducing substance use was one reason the political forum had been held, as attending candidates had gone on record to state their support for a City ordinance restricting the sale of single-use cigars and alcohol products within a particular distance of a recreational center or a school. He advised that other major cities, such as Philadelphia and Baltimore, had passed similar ordinances. In addition, he pointed out that the warnings typically found on tobacco products do not appear on these cigars.

Ms. Schulze suggested that preschools be added to this list of facilities as well.

Mr. Quinton explained that single-use cigars are relatively inexpensive and could be purchased by young people, while packaging these items in numbers was more expensive and could be a deterrent.

Mr. Webster suggested an anonymous hotline regarding substance abuse and other school-associated issues, (754) 321-0911. The hotline is associated with the Silence Hurts program.

Chair Hays thanked Mr. Quinton for attending the meeting, and added that she looked forward to further interaction with the Teen Alliance Coalition.

Stranahan Renovation – Principal Deborah Owens

Ms. Owens stated she is in her fourth year at Stranahan High School. She had formerly worked at Dillard High School, which she described as a “state-of-the-art facility.” Upon moving to Stranahan, she felt those students deserved a school as fully equipped as other students in the District had.

A \$75 million phased replacement was approved by the District for Stranahan High School, designed by Zyscovich Architects. Moss Construction is the contractor; Ms. Owens noted that they are best known for their work in repairing the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Center (KCW) very quickly following hurricane damage.

In order for replacement construction to occur, she advised, the State must first walk through the facility and declare which buildings must be replaced or must stay. Age is a consideration in this process; Stranahan was built in 1953, and was first an elementary school, then a junior high school, and graduated its first high school class in 1959.

Ms. Owens distributed an aerial view of the campus, noting that in the phased replacement, new facilities will be built on the existing athletic fields; once this is complete, the old buildings will be demolished and athletic fields built where they once stood. This is effectively “flipping” the campus. One three-year-old classroom building will remain, as will some eight-year-old science labs; however, everything else will be replaced. The pool will undergo renovations.

Once the State had determined which buildings were to be replaced, a master plan was designed for the campus. Ms. Owens distributed copies of the original look of this plan as well.

She informed the Board that Stranahan is broken down into five learning communities, including a 9th Grade Academy, which emphasizes “rigor, relevance, and relationship” as part of a high school reform program. Ms. Owens noted that a recent news article credited Stranahan with raising its graduation rate by 6%, which she felt was the result of the smaller learning communities at the school.

Zyscovich met weekly with school representatives and observing the academies so they would more fully understand the nature of the school. Once a student has completed the 9th Grade Academy, they must choose one of four career-targeted academies to attend, and all electives are aligned within this curriculum. The architects took these academies into consideration during the design process, Ms. Owens stated.

Stranahan will be a LEED-certified school, as mentioned earlier, although she was not sure which level or certificate would apply to the campus. This will be the first green school in Broward County, with the assistance of State funds.

Ms. Owens noted that the address of the campus will change, as the front of the building will now be located at the southeast corner. Students are lobbying for the street name to be changed to reflect the dragon theme, such as Dragon Way, she added.

She continued that she was working with Mike Roland, Student Activities Liaison of the School Board, to open the school’s pool facilities for public use. Currently four swim instructors assist the school’s Physical Education teacher, she said, as swim lessons for the community were as important as they would be for the school.

She added that the neighborhood is gentrifying to an extent around the school facility, and is not always receptive to school activities taking place nearby, although the school has been on the property for over 50 years.

Mr. Parke asked if the school will be equipped with metal detectors and/or a surveillance system on campus. Ms. Owens stated that there are approximately 64 cameras on campus, monitored by a full-time employee. Metal detectors were not found to be feasible due to the design of the campus, which was “spread out.” She added that they were at times ineffective as well, and referred again to the Silence Hurts program, which urged students to come forward regarding safety issues.

There will be fencing around the property, she noted, and a STAR program is in place, which requires visitors to check into the STAR system when entering the campus. All entrants come in a single door to go through this system before they may enter the campus.

Ground will be broken on the replacement in June 2009, Ms. Owens said. It is expected that rebuilding will take 19 months, although it could occur more quickly with the presence of lots of workers. This part of the project is predicted to conclude in spring 2011.

Ms. Deaner asked if Stranahan's programs for the arts had been adversely affected due to the emphasis on FCATs. Ms. Owens responded that all electives had suffered because of this; however, she intends to retain electives, as she felt they are one way to keep students interested in school.

She explained that students who did not score well on the FCAT in some areas, such as reading, were required to "double up" on that required basic class, which eliminated one elective from their curriculum. Participation in all elective classes was down because of this, she said.

She asserted that FCAT scores have not had a noticeable effect on SAT scores, however, as SATs are a very different kind of standardized test.

Chair Hays felt the FCAT helped students learn how to take a standardized test, and that it might provide some benefit in this area.

Ms. Owens added that Stranahan features a whole-school writing program, which had been initially designed for 10th grade students to prepare for the FCAT but had been expanded to the higher grades as well. She advised her students that this writing program was a form of test preparation for the writing portion of the SAT as well, although she reiterated that they are very different kinds of tests. There is no writing class for upperclassmen, but the Writing Plan includes exercises to improve their writing skills, as well as those of the 9th and 10th grade students who are preparing for the FCAT.

Ms. Deaner stated that she was writing a resolution to the City regarding the FCAT, and asked if she could describe what the test measured. Ms. Owens replied that the FCAT was a "critical thinking" test, while Advanced Placement testing was more of a rote knowledge exam. For example, she said, on the FCAT students read passages on a subject and are tested on their comprehension of the passage.

Ms. Deaner read a draft of her resolution, requesting Ms. Owens's opinion and input:

"The Education Advisory Board is going to recommend to the City Commission of Fort Lauderdale that they support a re-evaluation of the use of the FCAT in its Fort Lauderdale schools in view of the following considerations:

- Time spent in preparing for the test has diminished the opportunities for other disciplines like the arts and physical education, which can lead to the stronger sense of self and further academic performance;
- More importantly, the goals of problem-solving and creative thinking have been impacted.”

Ms. Owens felt that this last sentence was partially incorrect, advising that she is in favor of some standardized testing as a means of measuring students against others in the State and the nation. She did not believe, however, that the FCAT is aligned with what was taught in other states, so it cannot provide an accurate measurement. She particularly opposed its grading system, which she felt is racially biased and does not provide a fair evaluation.

Ms. Deaner explained that the belief of the Board, which had led to the draft of the resolution, was that schools must “teach to the test.” She now felt, however, that the final line above was inaccurate, if teaching to the test meant encouraging creative thinking and problem-solving.

Ms. Owens pointed out that while the schools do not teach to the test, they often attempt to incorporate the “test strategies” associated with the FCAT in the curriculum.

Ms. Deaner concluded the draft resolution:

“The Education Advisory Board supports accountability, but we feel that the test itself should be viewed as only one measure as to a school’s success.”

Ms. Owens felt this was not inaccurate, pointing out that Stranahan is a Top 500 school as selected by *Newsweek*, among other national awards, but is rated a D school in the State of Florida. She felt this called the State’s evaluation process into question, and affirmed again that the test is culturally biased. She also felt removal of the opportunity for electives could affect a student’s future considerably.

4. CCC Project – Further Discussion

There was no new information to report at this time.

5. Statistics – 20 Day Counts

There was no new information to report at this time.

6. Chair Report (continued)

Chair Hays informed the Board that she had attended a function of the African-American Success Foundation, of which Mr. Webster is Chair of the Board of Directors. She recalled that the speaker was a Doctoral candidate from the University of Illinois, who studied African-American successes in the fields of mathematics and engineering. She also noted that the Foundation provides a list of useful contact organizations, which she has shared with students she mentors, and a variety of books on pertinent subjects.

Mr. Webster spoke highly of the event as well, noting that ordinarily a great deal of attention is focused on what does not work, particularly for students, while the Foundation is primarily concerned with what does work, and with replicating the factors that lead to success. He pointed out that a great deal of student success occurs when parents are involved, as well as mentors.

He added that the Foundation holds this event annually, and they are a not-for-profit organization with a volunteer board.

Mr. Parke suggested that a "fear factor" seemed to contribute to fields such as math and science, in which students felt that a particular subject would be very difficult and was then, unfortunately, prepared to fail.

Chair Hays returned to the draft resolution from which Ms. Deaner had read earlier, asking if revisions could be made based upon the Board's discussion with Ms. Owens. Ms. Deaner felt that she should eliminate the phrase dealing with problem-solving and creative thinking; however, Mr. Parke felt otherwise, stating that he had spoken to representatives of other schools who agreed with the original statement.

Chair Hays proposed that Ms. Deaner send her resolution as presently written to Ms. Richards, who would distribute it to the Board; members could then offer feedback and return them directly to Ms. Richards, to ensure compliance with the Sunshine Law. The resolution could be addressed at the Board's January 2009 meeting.

She noted that a question regarding advisory boards and quorums had been on the agenda at a recent City Commission meeting. She had also consulted past meeting minutes to learn if there were differences between the past and present as to what constituted a quorum. In the past, she reported, the number necessary for a quorum had varied, while recently it had been set at eight.

Presently, the Board has 10 members instead of 15, she pointed out, which means more members are needed. The City Commission had agreed that some Boards could reduce the number of members necessary to make up a quorum, although Chair Hays stated that the EAB was not one of the Boards affected by this decision.

Co-Chair Xanthos asked if teleconferencing was an alternative open to the EAB, which might make it easier for members to attend. Chair Hays recalled that this had been discussed by the City Commission at one time, but no agreement had been reached. She stated she would refer to the EAB's Charter for further information.

Chair Hays informed the Board that the week of October 19-15, 2008, had been Florida City Government Week. At the previous City Commission meeting, several students had made posters related to visits from various City Staff. Ms. Richards had provided Chair Hays with a list of the schools and individual children who had created these, and Chair Hays hoped to send congratulatory emails to them on behalf of the EAB.

7. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

a. Education Forum – Sub-Committee Updates

There was no new information to report at this time.

b. Student Member to the EAB

There was no new information to report at this time.

c. City Commission Follow-Up

There was no new information to report at this time.

d. Reports and Updates:

- **Staff Liaison – Julie Richards, Interim**

Ms. Richards had no new information to report at this time.

- **Broward County School District – Charles Webster**

Mr. Webster distributed brochures from the Broad Prize, which had recently provided Broward County Schools with \$250,000 in scholarships for its graduating seniors.

He also provided copies of Parent News, a newsletter that went out to the families of all students. In particular, he drew the Board's attention to an article about technology in the classroom.

Mr. Webster announced that Maureen Dinnen is the new Chair of the School Board. The new Vice Chair is Jennifer Gottlieb, and a new School Board member, Ann Murray, is now representing District 1.

He noted that he had emailed the Board an article by Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, regarding the need to pay more attention to education on a national basis.

Mr. Webster informed the Board that the City of Lauderdale will issue a proclamation in honor of Mickey Pope, Area Director of School Improvement for Broward County, recognizing her as one of 80 women chosen to participate in the Women Rule Leadership Program.

- **Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – Betty Shelley**

Ms. Shelley informed the Board that the Council's annual Christmas party will be held on December 9, 2008, at 6:30. It will be a potluck, and all EAB members are invited.

D. New/Future Business

- **Fort Lauderdale Centennial Celebration – March 27, 2011**

Chair Hays stated that the Council is considering ways to participate in this upcoming event through funding, contribution of prizes, or other means. She noted that any ideas the EAB might be able to contribute toward this event would be appreciated, adding that she felt all schools, public and private, should be involved.

- **December 2008 Meeting**

Chair Hays noted that the EAB usually does not meet in the month of December.

- **January 2009 Meeting**

Chair Hays asked if any members would like to propose guest speakers or other individuals to participate in the January 2009 EAB meeting. She added that she would work with Ms. Richards to prepare the agenda for this meeting, and members should receive it shortly after the New Year.

Ms. Shelley reminded the Board that the Candidates' Forum will be held on January 29, 2009, before the primary election, and asked anyone who wished to ask questions of the candidates send them to her for consideration. The primary is scheduled for February 10, 2009. Another such forum will be held on February 26, 2009, and the general election will be held on March 10, 2009.

E. Next Meeting and Closing

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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