

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
100 North Andrews Avenue, 1st Floor Chamber
Thursday, September 17, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.**

Cumulative Attendance

| Members | Attendance | Present | Absent |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Jacqueline Ackerina, Chair | P | 3 | 1 |
| Laura Clark, Vice Chair | A | 3 | 1 |
| Lu Deaner | P | 4 | 0 |
| Edna Elijah | P | 3 | 1 |
| William Borawski | P | 4 | 0 |
| Katie Leach | A | 2 | 2 |
| Lillian Small | P | 3 | 1 |
| Shezette Blue-Small | P | 3 | 1 |
| Linda Cooke | A | 2 | 2 |
| Dr. Magdalene Lewis | P | 2 | 1 |
| Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D. | P | 3 | 0 |
| John Sykes | P | 1 | 2 |

Appointed members to the Board: 12

Needed to constitute a quorum: 7

Staff

Julie Richards, Interim Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools

Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations

Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None at this time.

A. Opening

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

Chair Ackerina called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll was called and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted that a quorum was present.

- **Approve Minutes (August 20, 2009)**

Motion made by Ms. Deaner, seconded by Ms. Small, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2009 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

- **Introduce New Members**

John Sykes introduced himself to the Board. He is a longtime resident of Fort Lauderdale and has a daughter who is a senior in high school.

The other Board members introduced themselves at this time as well.

B. Communications to the City Commission

None at this time.

C. Current Business

1. Student Member to the EAB

Chair Ackerina observed there had been a number of discussions regarding the student members to the Board. She recalled that two options had been raised:

- Three student members;
- One member, with the membership rotating between the three City high schools.

She stated she would like to resolve this issue at tonight's meeting, and opened the floor to discussion by the Board.

Ms. Deaner recalled that a compromise had been suggested, in which one high school junior from each school would serve for a period of three months, so each school would be represented during the school year. Mr. Borawski agreed that each school should be represented.

Chair Ackerina requested a motion to formally propose this plan if all Board members were in agreement.

Motion made by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Ms. Small, that one high school junior from each of the three Fort Lauderdale high schools serve for a period of three months as the student member to the Board. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Chair Ackerina moved on to the question of who would be responsible for communicating with each school regarding this selection.

Mr. Borawski referred to p. 7 of the August 20, 2009 meeting minutes, in which it was suggested that the member be each school's Student Council President. Ms.

Small pointed out, however, that students elected to this position are seniors rather than juniors.

Dr. Persi proposed selecting a junior class officer rather than a student body officer. Chair Ackerina noted that the appointment will also depend upon who volunteers from each school, or whom the school is willing to appoint. She noted that transportation is an issue for some students.

Dr. Lewis recommended establishing objectives for the student member to achieve. She added that while she had supported the earlier motion, she felt three months is an insufficient time for each student member to have gained knowledge and experience, and suggested "six months or a year" per student.

Chair Ackerina reminded the Board that the motion had approved a three-month period; while Dr. Lewis' statement was "very valid," they would adhere to the three-month time frame at this point.

Ms. Deaner explained that the reason for the three-month time frame would allow all three schools to be represented. Dr. Lewis asked if the three students might be allowed to serve concurrently, which might allow them to communicate among themselves.

Chair Ackerina agreed that this had been discussed as a goal; however, as most Board meetings schedule time for presentations from the community, there might not be sufficient time for each student to communicate his or her needs to the Board.

She requested discussion regarding whether one individual Board member wished to approach all three schools, or if three individuals took responsibility for each school, respectively. Once this was determined, the Board could discuss the appropriate parameters they wished to set for the students.

Ms. Deaner recommended that the students be advised they would receive community service credit for participating in the Board.

Mr. Borawski, Dr. Persi, and Ms. Small each volunteered to reach out to a school. Chair Ackerina stated she would supply Ms. Richards with the names of the school principals and other contact persons, to be sent to the three volunteers via email.

She moved on to the parameters for these student representatives, and asked that Ms. Richards oversee "who...makes [the] appointments," such as the Mayor or the student's City Commissioner. Ms. Richards stated she would seek advice from the City Attorney's Office regarding how this would be done.

Chair Ackerina added that even if a student member has not yet been appointed to the Board, he or she could attend the October meeting as a member of the general public.

Dr. Lewis requested clarification of how students' names would be proposed. Chair Ackerina explained that the three Board volunteers would procure students' names, after which time students would be asked to submit applications; then "whoever is available first" to serve as the student member would begin his or her three-month term.

Chair Ackerina assigned the three volunteers to their respective schools at this time:

- Dr. Persi: Dillard High School
- Mr. Borwaski: Stranahan High School
- Ms. Small: Fort Lauderdale High School

Regarding the necessary parameters for student membership, including the requirements the Board would expect of the students, Chair Ackerina suggested that some responsibilities would be the same as for Board members: attendance is mandatory once appointed, the students must provide adequate transportation to and from meetings, and the students should be sufficiently vocal to share information at meetings as well as at their schools.

Dr. Persi also proposed that the student might, at the first meeting, make a brief presentation to the Board regarding his or her background and accomplishments.

Mr. Sykes asked if the student member would be a voting member of the Board, as their limited experience might preclude an ability to vote "logically." Ms. Richards advised that she would seek counsel from the City Attorney's Office on this question.

Dr. Lewis asserted that the student member should be "an achieving student." Ms. Deaner, however, did not feel the position should necessarily go to the individual who achieves the most, but perhaps to "a good communicator." She pointed out that academically gifted students often have many opportunities already open to them.

Dr. Lewis explained that she had not intended this to specifically mean academics, but hoped that the chosen student would be interested in government. Dr. Persi agreed that the individual who makes the student appointment should do so in the best interest of the Board.

Dr. Lewis expressed concern that the three-month appointment period would only give the student member time to "get their feet wet;" Chair Ackerina reminded the Board, however, that the students would be invited to attend and

participate in meetings as members of the public after their appointment periods had expired.

Ms. Small proposed that if students attend after their appointment period has expired, additional community service hours might be made available to them.

Ms. Elijah agreed that the students should have an interest in government, as Ms. Deaner had proposed; she also felt, however, that they “need to be in good standing” at their schools.

Motion made by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Ms. Blue-Small, to accept the recommendations the Board has made for the student member(s) of the EAB. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

2. School Adoptions – School Selections and Updates

Chair Ackerina recalled that at the August 20 meeting, individual Board members had offered to reach out to particular schools. She added that she wanted to confirm each Board member is on the “subcommittee” for a school, and if not, they could select one of the adopted schools at this time. This would mean assisting and facilitating that school in its goals and needs during the school year. One member of each group would provide updates to the rest of the Board with regard to the progress of the adoption and any special events that might be taking place at their respective schools.

Ms. Deaner reported for Sunland Elementary, stating that she had met with Principal Allen, who was interested in the EAB’s work and in a partnership with the Board. Sunland Community Liaison Ruby Snell also attended the meeting, and described some of the school’s programs, including an accelerated reading and math “superstar” program. This program allows children to earn points that may be exchanged for “goodies,” such as pencils, stickers, erasers, and other small items, at an “in-house ‘store.’” Ms. Snell advised that “gently used” games, such as board games, hula hoops, and jump ropes, could also be redeemed.

It had been suggested that the Board host an evening meeting in October, Ms. Deaner continued. Principal Allen had also noted she would appreciate recognition for a student from the American Heritage School, Danielle Colson, who had also adopted Sunland Elementary and provided them with necessities such as backpacks and books. Ms. Deaner noted that she was looking into various outlets to recognize the student, such as the *BECON (Broward Education Communications Network)*; she also proposed the Board submit the student’s name to their City Commissioners and/or the Mayor and perhaps request a proclamation in her honor.

Ms. Blue-Small advised that there is a link called "Broward Snapshots" on the School Board's site; the Principal could submit a video to recognize the student if she wished.

Ms. Deaner concluded that a good deal could be done for Sunland Elementary.

Chair Ackerina noted that Ms. Elijah had agreed to adopt Lauderdale Manors Elementary, but did not recall if other Board members had volunteered to work with this school as well. Ms. Elijah explained she planned to work with Lauderdale Manors along with Ms. Small, who was in charge of the group assisting that school.

Dr. Lewis stated she had placed three calls to the principal of Arthur Ashe Middle School, but had yet to receive a response. She stated she would keep trying to reach the new principal.

Ms. Small noted a **correction** (p. 8) to the minutes of the August 20, 2009 minutes, as they do not reflect that she would work with Dr. Lewis at Arthur Ashe as well as chairing the group for Lauderdale Manors. It was noted that this **correction** would be made to the August 20, 2009 minutes.

Mr. Sykes stated he would make a decision regarding the adopted school with which he would like to work by the next scheduled meeting.

D. Old / Ongoing Business

1. Schools' Wish Lists: Lauderdale Manors, Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe

Chair Ackerina advised that the school wish list for Lauderdale Manors had been distributed via email once again. She asked that the appropriate committee address these needs; should they need additional support from the Board, it would be addressed as part of the meeting at large.

Motion by Mr. Borawski, seconded by Ms. Elijah, that the committees oversee the needs of their respective schools and bring any requests for additional assistance back to the Board. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

2. Learning for Success, Inc. – KAPOW Program

Chair Ackerina reminded the Board that this program had been presented at the Board's August meeting, although they had not reached a consensus regarding whether or not to recommend the program to the City Commission. She asked if any Board members had feedback at this time.

Ms. Blue-Small stated she had spoken with the principal of North Side Elementary, who described the program as “great” and added that it taught students a great deal about a real work environment. She also explained it was “taught in isolation” rather than integrated into the overall curriculum. Her only concern was that the school is “required to do JA,” or Junior Achievement, which is a very similar program that simulates a work environment.

Ms. Richards added that Learning for Success had made a presentation at the most recent budget hearing. The program was not approved for funding at that time, although there is another scheduled budget hearing.

Chair Ackerina asked if this meant a Board recommendation regarding the program might have an impact on the City Commission. Ms. Richards suggested that the Board include any such recommendation or motion as a Communication to the City Commission.

Chair Ackerina requested feedback from the other Board members at this time.

Ms. Deaner stated she had reviewed the program’s curriculum and thought the concept “a very good idea,” as was the idea of having partners in education. She pointed out that the program’s lesson plans seem to have coordinated their information with required laws, and was surprised to learn the lessons were taught in isolation rather than integrated into the schools’ curriculum.

Ms. Blue-Small explained that teachers did not participate in the program’s lessons: they were taught by an individual who volunteered through the Learning for Success program.

Ms. Deaner continued that she felt programs of this nature had “a specific time period” in which they were popular, and did not feel this was “the best way for education to go.” In addition, if the program’s concepts are not integrated into the regular classroom curriculum, she felt it would not have “much of an impact,” and would not encourage it in younger grades in particular.

She added that the Board had raised the issue of including one (or more) of its adopted schools in the KAPOW program; Sunland’s Principal had advised they are unable to use the program at this time, as their curriculum is dictated by the Board of Education.

Dr. Persi asked if Lauderdale Manors had expressed an opinion regarding the program. Ms. Shelley stated that when KAPOW was presented to the City Commission at the budget hearing, Lauderdale Manors’ Principal had stated she was interested.

Dr. Lewis stated that she felt the program should be applied to middle or high schools rather than elementary schools.

Motion made by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Mr. Borawski, that the Board recommends approval of the program to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion failed (unanimous accord).

3. Chair Report

Chair Ackerina recalled that an article about the ratings system for State high schools had been distributed by Ms. Richards to the Board, and encouraged members who found articles of similar interest to forward them to the Board at large as well.

She reported that an Education Summit will be held on September 26, 2009, in the City of Hollywood, Florida, from 6-9 p.m. at McNichol Middle School. The African-American Advisory Council and Education Advisory Committee are holding this summit to attempt to increase graduation rates among minority students. Chair Ackerina offered to send more information to any interested Board members.

4. Other Reports / Updates

Ms. Deaner stated she was pleased to see that high school evaluations no longer rely solely on the FCAT, but now employ additional information as well. She wished to applaud the Board for having sent a "similar request" to the City Commission earlier this year.

- **Staff Liaison – Julie Richards**

Ms. Richards invited the Board to "Dolphins Day" in the City on behalf of the Mayor. A party is planned at Huizenga Park on September 18 from 4:30-8 p.m.

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

Mr. Webster informed the Board that a student at West Broward High School had perished in a traffic accident earlier in the day.

He stated that Broward County did not win the \$1 million BROAD Award, and plan to be competitive once again in 2010. They will, however, receive \$250,000 in scholarships for Broward County students.

The Million Father March, which he had mentioned at the August 2009 meeting, was a success, with nearly 37,000 fathers participating. The National PTA President was present for the entire day of the event.

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

Ms. Shelley had nothing to report at this time.

E. New / Future Business

1. Fort Lauderdale Centennial Celebration – 3/27/2011

There was no information to report at this time.

2. Other New Business

Ms. Deaner stated that she had learned Board “subgroups” can meet and still remain in compliance with the Sunshine Law. She reported that the following regulations applied: public notice must be posted at least two weeks in advance, and minutes must be taken at the subgroup meeting.

She added that these conditions apply not only to groups meeting with regard to adopted schools, but any other subgroups the Board might have.

Ms. Richards clarified that the City Attorney’s Office has stated minutes should “preferably” be taken by the City’s professional service, which meant meetings should be planned sufficiently in advance. For this reason, meetings should be held in a room in which audio may be recorded for later minutes transcription, and a professional recording secretary should be present.

Ms. Elijah asked if this meant meetings must be held at City Hall. Ms. Richards confirmed this.

Ms. Deaner felt this made subgroup meetings “impossible to have.”

Ms. Small requested clarification of “subgroups” or “subcommittees,” asking if the group in which she participated with Ms. Elijah and Dr. Lewis would be subject to the Sunshine Law if they wished to confer with their particular school’s principal. Chair Ackerina agreed this is “an excellent question,” and explained that in this example, such a group would be assisting the particular school on behalf of the Board. Should two members meet for Board business in the absence of a principal or other school representative, they would be subject to the Sunshine Law.

Ms. Richards added that all Board members have been sent information, via email, from “the handbook” regarding the specifics of the Sunshine Law. She suggested that if there are further questions, Chair Ackerina could forward these to Ms. Richards, who could in turn get answers from the City Attorney’s Office.

Chair Ackerina also referred members to their handbooks, and added that handbooks could be provided if any member did not have a copy.

Ms. Deaner asked if time might be allocated for “work sessions” by subgroups during the Board’s monthly meetings. Chair Ackerina clarified this question as “can committees meet during the official meeting...once a month, as individual groups?”

It was noted that some City Boards or Committees schedule subcommittee meetings throughout the month, with posted notice and a recording secretary present.

Ms. Elijah pointed out that subcommittee meetings would be subject to the availability of their members.

Chair Ackerina asked if there were other specific questions that could be passed on to the City Attorney’s Office for further clarification.

Ms. Richards proposed that the questions be written down and emailed to her, so she could forward them to the City Attorney’s Office as promised.

Ms. Deaner asked who is responsible for the payment of the City’s recording service. Ms. Richards stated that this is the City’s responsibility, and added she would verify whether funding is available for subcommittee meetings.

She added that if further questions arise after today’s meeting, members could email her with these.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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