

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
100 North Andrews Avenue, 1st Floor Chamber
Thursday, November 19, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.**

Cumulative Attendance

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	P	5	1
Lu Deaner	P	6	0
Edna Elijah	A	4	2
William Borawski	P	5	1
Katie Leach	A	3	3
Lillian Small	A	4	2
Shezette Blue-Small	A	4	2
Linda Cooke	A	2	4
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	3	2
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	4	1
John Sykes	A	1	4
Chase Adama	P	1	0
Gwendolyn Dudley	A	0	1
James Howell	P	1	0

Appointed members to the Board: 14
Needed to constitute a quorum: 8

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**

Vice Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. It was determined a quorum was not present.

- **Approval of Minutes (October 2009)**

As a quorum was not present, the minutes of the October 2009 meeting could not be approved at this time.

- **Introduce New Members**

James Howell is a member of the South Middle River Civic Association and is very active with Thurgood Marshall and North Side Elementary Schools. He is a member of both schools' SAC committees. He is completing his final semester as an Elementary Education major at Florida Atlantic University.

Chase Adams is an attorney, and has been a City Attorney and a municipal Judge. His focus is on consulting and charitable giving.

Patricia Victoriano, new student member, is Junior Class President of Stranahan High School.

The returning Board members, student members, and Staff introduced themselves as well.

B. Communications to the City Commission

None at this time.

C. Current Business

1. Election of Board Chair

Vice Chair Clark advised that Chair Jacqueline Ackerina has resigned from the Board. Election of a new Chair was tabled until a quorum could be established.

2. Student Members to EAB: Follow-Up

Ms. Victoriano informed the Board that Homecoming at Stranahan High School was cancelled for financial reasons, as not enough students had purchased tickets to the dance. The Junior class has begun making plans to avoid a repeat of this situation in 2010.

Ms. Santos stated she had asked her teachers if they would like her to share any information with the Board; one teacher had suggested that high schools operate on "middle school hours," with a later start. She noted it has been shown statistically that students perform better with a later start to the school day.

Mr. Webster explained this has been a busing issue, among other variables. He proposed that if individuals feel strongly about this issue, they first discuss it in the School Advisory Council (SAC) and “work through the process.”

He added that pickup times for students are also affected by routes. Vice Chair Clark recommended contacting the District’s School Board member by email with this suggestion, or conducting a survey in the school.

Ms. Deaner stated the Board had looked into how Oakland Park’s Board of Education had influenced the direction of the City to establish a Safe Haven Resolution. The Resolution allows for a healthy child under six days old to be left at a Fire Department with no questions asked. She suggested the Board consider making a recommendation for a similar Resolution to the School Board and/or the City. Vice Chair Clark requested that this be an Item on the next scheduled meeting Agenda. Ms. Deaner asked that a copy of Oakland Park’s Resolution be provided to Ms. Richards for dissemination among the Board members.

Mr. Webster informed the Board that this issue had come before the School Board at their most recent meeting, and they are considering a similar Resolution. He offered to send both items to Ms. Richards.

3. School Adoptions – Updates

Ms. Deaner stated that she would like to thank Mr. Borawski and Ms. Shelley for their assistance at a recent Sunland Park Elementary literacy event.

Mr. Borawski pointed out that Sunland Park Elementary is a “school at risk,” for which the State has taken over achievement of their academic objectives. This has led to some disorganization; in addition, the school has had three principals in three years, with the new principal only present for two months. He felt this has led to a “lack of leadership” at the school.

He concluded that he and Ms. Deaner were disappointed, as the event was ultimately not handled as a serious event. Mr. Borawski added that it is always difficult to get parents to attend events, and there was no agenda or organization to the event. The “stations” set up for parents to visit were not properly manned, and no one from the school assumed leadership of the event.

He noted they had spoken to a behaviorist with the school with regard to what could be done to get parents and teachers involved; she had replied that it is unusual for people to take an interest in the school and help out, and added she would like to work with the Board members. Mr. Borawski had also spoken to some of the parents with regard to “the needs of the school,” and some had offered suggestions, such as establishing a parent-teacher association, as there

had never been one at that school. He re-emphasized the need for leadership and direct responsibility to help turn the school around.

Ms. Deaner observed that there may have been some “competition within the school” with regard to who “owned” the event, which prevented it from being shared among various members of the staff. She added that there had been disorganization up until the beginning of the event. She was unsure how to move forward with the school from this point.

Mr. Borawski advised since the most positive achievement of the meeting was the birth of a PTA, perhaps the Board could help develop this organization within the school. He reiterated that the school has had three principals in three years, and the faculty is “very fragmented.”

Ms. Victoriano pointed out that perhaps the Board could help coordinate a more organized event, as parents who had been present for this one may not wish to progress toward establishing a PTA.

Ms. Deaner cautioned that it may not be best for the Board to “impose [it]self” on the school if their assistance is not wanted. She noted that the only person from the event to have kept in touch with the Board had been the behaviorist to whom they had spoken, rather than the principal or the organizer.

Vice Chair Clark speculated that the issue could be one of low morale due to the school’s grades and the many changes that have occurred there. She noted that approximately \$51 million in stimulus funds have gone to Title I schools in Broward County, of which Sunland Park Elementary is one; this will double Sunland Park’s funding.

Mr. Webster proposed that instead of dwelling on the negative aspects of the event, the Board might follow up by calling the principal and focusing on what went well. If she is unavailable, he suggested, perhaps they might contact the behaviorist who had spoken to them.

Ms. Deaner recalled that the school had submitted a list of items the Board might be able to provide, such as small toys and games. She had offered this project to the Junior League, but they had been unable to take it on; she felt the Board may be able to collect some of these items. Ms. Victoriano offered to assist the Board in this, as Stranahan High students participate in efforts of this nature.

It was agreed that Ms. Deaner would contact the principal to set up a meeting with the Board’s Sunland Park Elementary subcommittee, and then bring the resulting information back to the Board.

Vice Chair Clark thanked Ms. Deaner, Mr. Borawski, and Ms. Shelley for their efforts with Sunland Park Elementary.

4. Educational Reform Discussion

Vice Chair Clark noted that this Item had been discussed at the October 2009 meeting.

D. Old/Ongoing Business

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

Ms. Deaner noted that the members of the Arthur Ashe and Lauderdale Manors subcommittees "were not having any success" in making contact at their schools. She suggested the Board might revisit their goals with this in mind. Vice Chair Clark noted they would wait until the next scheduled meeting to learn whether any contact had been made since October.

2. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

- **Staff Liaison: Julie Richards**

Ms. Richards stated the student members from the three high schools will now be official members of the EAB, although in a nonvoting capacity.

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

Mr. Webster announced that Superintendent Notter has been named Superintendent of the Year by the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. He will receive the award on December 4, 2009, in Tampa.

The new School Board Chair is Jennifer Gottlieb, and the new Vice Chair is Benjamin Williams. The School Board's newest member is Kevin Tynan, who was recently appointed by the Governor.

The Commission of Education Excellence Through Integrity, Public Ethics, and Transparency, an independent commission that will analyze the District's practices, procedures, and supporting policies, has recently been announced; its membership includes Mayor Jack Seiler. Mr. Webster advised the first order of business for the commission is a 90-day fact-finding analysis, and noted that the School Board has always emphasized a need for transparency.

Community Boundary Conferences have begun, he continued; the second conference is in progress, and two additional meetings are scheduled. Fort Lauderdale is not going to be affected by boundary changes in 2010. There is an

agreement between the Broward County School District and the municipalities, however, that each school must offer a required level of services, depending upon the number of students in a given school; within the current agreement, it would be necessary to change boundaries to accommodate growth on the west side, while excess capacity remains on the east side. This has created the need for boundary hearings.

If nothing is done, Mr. Webster continued, students will be moved from the west side to the east, which will create a “domino effect.” One proposal is a new consideration of how school capacity is determined, which would involve looking at a collection of schools rather than an individual school. This approach would minimize disruption in moving students, and could help keep children in their community schools. The group that oversees the local agreement is working on a recommendation. Cooper City and Davie have both passed Resolutions in support of this concept.

Mr. Webster explained that a change in the local agreement would require approval from the schools, the District, the County, and 75% of the municipalities that represent 50% of the County’s population. He advised that the Board’s opinion may be sought on this issue in the future, and that professionals will be available to discuss this as the process progresses.

The next Consortium of Education Advisory Boards meeting will be on December 4, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the K. C. Wright Building on the 10th floor.

There is a Superintendent’s Blog available on the District website.

A second round of H1N1 vaccinations will begin for children under 10 years old on November 30, 2009. It is hoped the vaccination program will be complete by December 16. Thus far, it has reached 179 schools.

The Superintendent regularly holds a “brown bag lunch” with Staff members; he also holds a chat with students. A student recently expressed a desire to take a class no longer offered. Mr. Webster noted that the Broward Virtual School offers 70 courses for grades K-12, which are fully accredited and allow students to take classes that are unavailable to them for various reasons. Ms. Victoriano praised this opportunity, as she has taken some of the courses. She explained it allows students to earn summer credits or apply for early admission, and the teachers are very accessible.

Mr. Webster concluded that he had participated in a reading program at Walker Elementary and enjoyed it greatly.

Ms. Deaner noted there had been some question regarding the scope of the Board, and suggested any interested members attend the upcoming Consortium

of Education Advisory Boards meeting on December 4 to get an idea what other Boards are doing. She added that she had copies of reports of “what they have done in the past,” and offered to bring these to Ms. Richards for dissemination among the Board members. She felt this could help stimulate ideas among the Board and perhaps change their focus.

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

Ms. Shelley recalled the interlocal agreement Mr. Webster had mentioned has met with the Board in the past, and felt this could be an Agenda Item in the future.

She agreed that the meeting with other Education Advisory Boards could be helpful, as the Board had been “more involved” in the past. She urged members to attend this meeting if possible.

Ms. Shelley continued that the Council had met the previous week to discuss the concentration of social service facilities, which are disproportionately located in the Middle River Terrace area.

The Council will hold its annual Christmas Party on December 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish. The party will be held in the 8th Floor Cafeteria.

There are no CVC volunteer projects underway at this time.

E. New/Future Business

1. Fort Lauderdale Centennial Celebration: March 27, 2011

There was no new information at this time.

2. Requirements for EAB Subcommittee Meetings

Vice Chair Clark noted that this was discussed at the October meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.