

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
100 North Andrews Avenue, 1st Floor Chamber
Thursday, January 21, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.**

Cumulative Attendance

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	A	5	2
Lu Deaner	P	7	0
Edna Elijah	P	5	2
William Borawski	P	6	1
Katie Leach	A	3	4
Lillian Small	P	5	2
Shezette Blue-Small	P	5	2
Dr. Magdalene Lewis (arr. 7:13)	P	4	2
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	P	5	1
Chase Adams	A	1	1
Gwendolyn Dudley	A	0	2
James Howell	A	1	1
Alec Anderson	P	1	0
Alan Levy	A	0	1

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

Staff

Julie Richards, Interim Staff Liaison
Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Borawski, seconded by Ms. Small, to recommend that the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting “A Safe Haven for Newborns,” similar to what was adopted by the School Board of Broward County and that this resolution be implemented by the City. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

A. Opening

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

Ms. Deaner called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Roll was called and it was determined a quorum was not yet present.

- **Approve Minutes (October 2009; November 2009)**

In the absence of a quorum, minutes could not be approved at this time.

- **Introduce New Members: Gwendolyn Dudley; Alec Anderson; Alan Levy**

New member Alec Anderson introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Anderson is a native of Fort Lauderdale and a former member of the City's Marine Advisory Board, and is the parent of a child in the City's public school system.

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

The following Items were taken out of order on the Agenda.

C. Current Business

1. Election of Board Chair

Ms. Deaner noted that in the absence of a quorum, this election could not be held at this time.

She added that in her previous experience on the Board, members had served as "Co-Chairs" rather than Chair and Vice Chair. She suggested that the members consider returning to this practice.

2. Student Members to EAB

None of the Student Members were present at tonight's meeting.

Dr. Persi stated she had sent several emails to Dillard High School, as well as voice mail, regarding the Student Member program, but had not received a response to date. She asked the Board's opinion on whether she should continue trying to make contact.

Ms. Small observed that she had attempted to contact Fort Lauderdale High School regarding student members, but had also received no response.

Ms. Elijah suggested seeking alternate contacts at the high schools. Ms. Small offered to make a personal visit to the school in order to make contact, perhaps with its principal.

Ms. Blue-Small advised that individuals can more easily make contact with a school's principal by visiting the school's website. She explained the principal and assistant principal are rarely in their offices, but often check email on their own time, after school hours. She agreed, however, that a personal visit to a school would be "the best avenue" through which to find a contact person.

Dr. Persi noted that she had attempted to contact the principal, assistant principal, and intern principal, all with no success. She was unsure if it would be possible for a principal to meet with an individual without having an appointment.

Ms. Deaner did not feel the Board should continue to reach out to the schools in the absence of a response, and suggested that the Student Members representing Stranahan High School be allowed to continue their membership for one year, rather than three months, if they are interested in doing so.

Ms. Elijah disagreed, stating that the Board should not "give up," and felt Ms. Blue-Small's advice offered an alternative. She pointed out that members could call ahead to make appointments with the schools' principals, if necessary. Dr. Persi explained that she had called to make an appointment, but her calls had gone unreturned.

Ms. Blue-Small asked Dr. Persi and Ms. Small to let her know the dates and times when they would like to meet with the respective principals, and she would attempt to make the arrangements. She explained that as an employee of the School District, she has greater access to the principals and their assistants.

Ms. Deaner recommended trying to make contact for one more month before asking Ms. Blue-Small to assist in making appointments. They would make a decision on whether to pursue the issue at the Board's February 2010 meeting.

3. School Adoptions – Updates

Ms. Deaner explained to Mr. Anderson that the Board has adopted three schools – Lauderdale Manors Elementary, Sunland Park Elementary, and Arthur Ashe Middle School – and are attempting to help these schools "according to their needs." At this time, no responses have been received from Arthur Ashe or Lauderdale Manors regarding the adoptions.

Ms. Richards reminded the Board that she had forwarded an email from the principal of Lauderdale Manors to the membership. The email had asked if there was "any information for her" from the Board.

Ms. Deaner recalled that Lauderdale Manors had submitted a "wish list" to the Board, which had not been acted upon thus far. She also recalled that the Student Members had offered to take on these projects, but were not present to

provide the Board with a report. She stated that she would try to contact the Student Members.

Dr. Persi informed the Board that she has gathered "student rewards" for Sunland Park Elementary, including pens, erasers, canvas bags, and other small items, and asked if she should take these to the school personally or if other Board members were interested in participating.

She continued that she has "a contact" for Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe, and Lauderdale Manors through "Back to School Jam." This company provides students in various cities and states with free annual school supplies. The president of this company is Martin P. Cox. Dr. Persi suggested asking Mr. Cox to make a presentation to the Board, in person or on video, informing them on how they can best help the children in the adopted schools.

Ms. Deaner felt this was a great idea, and suggested the Board set up a meeting with the principal of Sunland Park Elementary to deliver the items.

Ms. Shelley advised that the Board had "never really invited the principals" of the three schools to attend a meeting, and suggested they extend this invitation for the February Board meeting so communications could be established.

Ms. Elijah pointed out that Heather Hedman-DeVaughn, Principal of Lauderdale Manors Elementary, had attended a Board meeting to provide them with the school's wish list. However, at the time the Board had had no direction regarding where to find the necessary supplies to fulfill the wish list. She hoped they could discuss a way to provide the wish list items for the schools, and generally become a more active Board. She concluded that helping the adopted schools should be a major goal of the Board in 2010.

Dr. Persi felt contacting Mr. Cox would be a good start toward helping all three schools, and offered to pursue this effort right away.

Ms. Deaner addressed Ms. Shelley's suggestion, stating that perhaps the principals were "overwhelmed;" in addition, as Lauderdale Manors' principal has come to the Board, but the Board "has not delivered," she did not feel it was appropriate to ask the principals to come before the Board again "until we... deliver something."

She noted that the Board has made contact with Sunland Park Elementary, however, and offered to set up a meeting for the Sunland Park committee to present the school's principal with the collected items.

Dr. Lewis joined the meeting at this time (7:13 p.m.). It was noted a quorum was now present.

Mr. Borawski proposed meeting with Sunland Park Elementary's guidance counselor as well as its principal, and added that he had spoken to a gentleman at that school who was interested in establishing a PTA. He felt these would be two "top contact people" in addition to the principal. Ms. Deaner replied that she would suggest this to the principal, although she noted the principal would make the ultimate decision regarding who would attend the meeting.

Mr. Borawski stated that he would like to request that the additional two individuals be invited to the meeting with the principal. He emphasized that the guidance counselor, in particular, had been willing to work with the Board and asked them to contact her. Ms. Deaner agreed to suggest this.

Mr. Anderson advised he is active in the Boys and Girls Club with the Nan Knox Unit, which also helps schools fulfill wish lists. He offered to speak with the director of the Unit to learn their best practices involving wish lists, and share this information with the Board.

- **Approval of Minutes: October 2009 and November 2009**

Ms. Deaner asked if the members wished to make changes to the October 2009 minutes. She noted a change on p.3, asking that the sentence including "the Board exists because..." be changed to "There are three high schools serving Fort Lauderdale: Fort Lauderdale High School, Stranahan High School, and Dillard High School."

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Borawski, to approve the minutes of the October 2009 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Ms. Deaner and Mr. Borawski discussed whether to make a change to the November 2009 minutes on p.5, amending "a serious event" to "an efficient event," but ultimately determined that the phrase could stand as is.

Motion made by Dr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Elijah, to approve the minutes of the November 2009 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

4. Safe Haven Program – School Board Resolution

Ms. Deaner asked if the Board had read the Safe Haven Resolution recently supported by the School Board, and requested their input.

Mr. Borawski felt similar proclamations are being made in other cities all across the United States, and concluded that it is "needed."

Ms. Deaner noted that the Resolution states a birth parent with an infant who is “well and not abused,” three days old or younger, may leave the infant, with notification, at a fire station or a hospital. No questions will be asked, and the birth parent will not be arrested or charged with abandonment of the infant.

She asked if the Board’s approval of the Resolution would be sent on to the City Commission, should the Board decide they would like the City to participate as well as the School Board. Ms. Richards clarified that the Board may send this to the City Commission.

Mr. Anderson felt the Resolution would “hold more power” if the City adopted it as well, and the Board could recommend its adoption by the City Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Borawski, seconded by Ms. Small, to recommend that the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting “A Safe Haven for Newborns,” similar to what was adopted by the School Board of Broward County and that this resolution be implemented by the City. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

It was agreed that this motion would be featured as a Communication to the City Commission on the front page of the January 2010 meeting minutes. Ms. Richards explained that any such Communications are presented at the next City Commission meeting, and added that it is recommended that a member of the Board be present at that meeting to answer any questions the City Commission may have regarding the Communication. Ms. Richards agreed to notify the Board of the appropriate meeting date and time once she has received confirmation from the City Clerk’s Office that the Communication will be on the City Commission’s Agenda, noting that this is usually the first Conference Agenda meeting.

Ms. Small volunteered to attend the appropriate meeting on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Anderson asked if this responsibility does not normally fall to a Board’s Chair or Co-Chair. Ms. Richards explained that there is “no normal protocol” for this representation, and any member of the Board may attend in support. She added that she would inform all Board members of the correct City Commission meeting, including Vice Chair Clark.

5. Title I Funding

Ms. Deaner stated she did not have a great deal of information on this subject, and suggested it could be tabled until the February 2010 meeting. Ms. Richards recalled that Vice Chair Clark had requested this Item be placed on the Agenda, and agreed that it should be tabled until the next meeting.

D. Old / Ongoing Business

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

Ms. Deaner noted that this Item had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Richards offered to re-send Lauderdale Manors' wish list to the Board members.

Mr. Borawski asked if all members are aware of the Board's goals and the members' roles regarding the adopted schools and wish lists, in order to ensure clarity.

Ms. Elijah explained some members of the subcommittees had had direction regarding identification of contact persons at the schools, while other members were tasked with helping assemble the items from the wish lists. She did not feel this provided all members with sufficient direction to act before the next meeting.

Dr. Lewis stated she had brought a copy of a wish list from Arthur Ashe Middle School, and is working with contact person Christopher Gates. She presented a copy of the wish list to the Board, and asked how she might best proceed with it.

Dr. Persi suggested that Ms. Richards could email copies of the wish list to all the Board members.

Mr. Anderson felt it would be best to "note specific action items" for the Board members, as this has been a successful step of previous Boards on which he has served. For example, an action item for himself would be "Mr. Anderson will speak to the Director of the Nan Knox Unit to learn the Boys and Girls Club's best practices." He felt this could be a helpful habit for the Board to establish to ensure they are taking action on specific items, and it would clarify who is responsible for specific items.

Mr. Borawski agreed that this specificity might provide more structure for the Board members; if it appears in the minutes, he advised, members can ask one another for feedback on their individual pursuits.

The following assignments were determined for the members:

- Ms. Deaner: get in touch with the principal of Sunland Park Elementary, and notify the Board of when they can meet with her. At Mr. Borawski's request, she would also ask that the guidance counselor and the individual interested in starting a PTA be invited to the meeting as well.
- Dr. Persi: follow up with Mr. Cox of Back to School Jam regarding free supplies for the adopted schools; continue to work with the principal of Dillard High School on the possible Student Member(s) from that school;

and continue to gather small incentive items for the students of Sunland Park Elementary.

- Ms. Elijah: continue to work on the Lauderdale Manors committee with Ms. Small, and await further direction regarding how the Board can best meet the needs of that school's wish list. She is also willing to work with Dr. Lewis on the Arthur Ashe committee.
- Mr. Anderson: bring information regarding the best practices of the Nan Knox Unit of the Boys and Girls Club back to the Board so it may be applied to their adopted schools' wish lists.
- Ms. Small: no specific assignment, but is available to "work with any elementary school." If any members have difficulty making contact with their schools' principals, she will help arrange an appointment. She also agreed to reach out to local businesses and attempt to gather "trinkets" and other items to fulfill the wish lists.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

1. Election of Board Chair

Ms. Deaner stated she would like to nominate Vice Chair Clark as "Vice Chair or Co-Chair."

Ms. Richards advised that the term "Co-Chair" is not "consistent with the Ordinance," and the Board may elect a Chair and Vice Chair. It was clarified that an individual assisting a Chair is referred to as Vice Chair rather than Co-Chair. As Vice Chair Clark is currently fulfilling that position, the election would be for the Board's new Chair.

Ms. Deaner asked if a Vice Chair may be "promoted" to Chair. Mr. Anderson noted, however, that an individual should be present to accept the nomination. It was determined that the Board would elect a Chair and Vice Chair Clark would remain in her current position.

Ms. Richards clarified that the Board may elect any member as Chair; however, if they would like to elect Vice Chair Clark as Chair, and she is absent, it would be best to table the vote until she is present. Ms. Small felt it would be best to table the vote, as this would allow Vice Chair Clark the opportunity to be elected Chair if she wished.

Ms. Elijah nominated Dr. Lewis for the position of Chair, although she agreed that the election could be tabled if the Board wished to learn whether Vice Chair Clark was interested in becoming Chair.

Mr. Borawski pointed out that as a quorum is necessary in order to elect a Chair, it is conceivable that there may not be a quorum present at the February 2010

meeting, in which case the Board would go three months between Chairs. He felt if anyone is present who is interested in serving as Chair, the vote should not be tabled.

Mr. Anderson raised a point of order, stating that as there was no second to Ms. Deaner's nomination of Vice Chair Clark, that nomination is dead. Ms. Elijah had nominated Dr. Lewis, which also requires a second. He suggested that if there is a second for Vice Chair Clark's nomination, the election could be tabled; otherwise, the Board should move on to the nomination of Dr. Lewis.

Mr. Borawski asked if Board members have the opportunity to state they would be interested in the position before they are nominated. Dr. Lewis agreed she would accept the position of Chair if elected.

Mr. Anderson seconded Ms. Elijah's nomination of Dr. Lewis.

In a voice vote, Dr. Lewis was unanimously elected Chair. Her election was received with a round of applause from the Board members.

It was clarified that Vice Chair Clark remains in this position, as only the position of Chair was open for election.

2. Other Reports / Updates / Discussion

- **Julie Richards, Staff Liaison**

Ms. Richards asked if any members had contact information for the Student Members. Ms. Deaner stated she had information for one member, who may be able to provide Ms. Richards with contact information for the other Student Members.

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

Ms. Shelley stated that the Citizen Volunteer Corps will have a landscaping and mulching project on February 13, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. in Esplanade Park. Interested students can earn volunteer points by participating in this project; members of homeowners' associations may also earn points toward NCIP grants in this manner.

She added that the Council had met the previous Tuesday for a presentation by the Census Bureau, and explained that they are seeking to fill positions. Any interested individuals will be assigned within their own zip codes. The Census Bureau would like to hire 1000 people for this purpose by April 1, 2010. She emphasized the importance of the upcoming Census to the school system.

Ms. Blue-Small asked if the Census Bureau is seeking volunteers or filling paid positions. Ms. Shelley clarified that the Bureau is attempting to fill paid positions, which are available in or out of the office. A “small test” is required of applicants.

Ms. Shelley continued that the national Neighborhood of the Year will be selected in June 2010. The neighborhood that will represent Florida has not yet been designated.

A representative of the Green Committee also addressed the recent Council meeting. This Committee was recently appointed by the City.

The City’s Centennial will take place in 2011. Ms. Shelley reminded the Board that they had once discussed educational activities that might be related to the Centennial, and advised that the City now has a logo for the upcoming event.

Ms. Elijah added that on December 18, 2009, the Council had made a donation of toys to the Children’s Diagnostic Center. Ms. Shelley added that this had occurred at the Council’s Christmas party, and noted the donations had been “overwhelming.”

She concluded that the Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the upstairs Conference Room at 7:00 p.m.

E. New / Future Business

1. Fort Lauderdale Centennial Celebration: March 27, 2011

Ms. Deaner suggested a representative of the Centennial Celebration Committee could attend a Board meeting and advise the members of some of the planned activities. This might help the Board “think creatively” about how they could also support the event. She felt they should attempt to involve schools, but noted they did not want to duplicate work done by other groups or individuals.

Ms. Shelley offered to ask the Council’s representative on the Centennial Celebration Committee to address the next Board meeting.

Mr. Borawski recalled materials that Ms. Deaner had brought to a previous Board meeting. Ms. Deaner explained that several years ago, the EAB had created a booklet “describing the various schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale,” which included and defined magnet and Montessori programs, among others. She agreed that issuing another such booklet is “a possibility” for the Board’s contribution, but pointed out that it requires agreement from the Board that they would like to pursue that direction once again.

Mr. Borawski requested that this be made an Agenda Item for February, and Ms. Deaner agreed to bring the booklet back to the next meeting.

Ms. Deaner suggested that the Board consider the possible impact of Haitian children coming into the District's schools, and asked if any members had additional information. Ms. Elijah recalled reading in the *Sun-Sentinel* that many children from Haiti would be coming into Broward, Miami, and West Palm Beach Counties; there had also been discussion of sending old portable units to Haiti, but there was presently a hold on this plan until the number of children coming to local schools had been more accurately determined. She requested that this be placed on the next month's Agenda, and added that perhaps Mr. Webster would be able to provide more information at that time. Ms. Deaner agreed this should be a future Agenda Item.

She asked if any members had additional information on the interlocal agreement raised by Mr. Webster at the previous meeting, as he had stated at some point the Board may need to make a recommendation to the City Commission regarding this agreement. She felt they should have a guest speaker clarify the issue before the Board made any such recommendation, and asked that this be mentioned to Mr. Webster as well as a potential Agenda Item.

Mr. Anderson provided copies of an article from the previous Sunday's newspaper, which cited that Broward County schools "lack proof" that they are up to building Code standards. He stated he would like to learn how many such schools, if any, are within the City of Fort Lauderdale, and what might be done to follow up on this issue. The article referred to "a significant number" of schools. Mr. Anderson offered to get in touch with the *Sun-Sentinel* or the School Board to learn whether Fort Lauderdale schools are affected.

Dr. Persi stated she had seen an article ranking Fort Lauderdale's public schools 8th in the United States, which was commendable for the School District and the State.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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