

**APPROVED
MINUTES
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	7	2
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	P	7	2
Chase Adams	A	2	2
Alec Anderson	P	2	1
Shezette Blue-Small	P	7	2
William Borawski	P	8	1
Lu Deaner	A	8	1
Gwendolyn Dudley	A	0	4
Edna Elijah	A	6	3
James Howell	A	2	2
Alan Levy (arr. 6:42)	P	2	1
Vialene Monroe	A	0	2
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	6	2
Lillian Small	P	7	2

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

Staff

Julie Richards, Interim Staff Liaison
 Charles Webster, Broward County Public School Liaison
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

A. Opening

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Roll was called and it was determined a quorum was not present.

The presentation by Ms. Wright-Hines was then moved up on the agenda.

- **Guest Introductions: Ms. Luwando Wright-Hines, Director, Title 1, Migrant Ed & Special Programs, Broward County School Board**

Ms. Wright-Hines addressed the issues of Title 1 and stimulus monies. Funds had been provided via the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through Entitlement Grant Funding. Title 1 funds are for schools which meet various thresholds established by the District for students with a high rate of free and reduced lunch. The District has established the percentage for the 2009/2010 school year at 40%. This year, because of the ARRA funds, the District also deployed a separate mechanism of bringing on the high schools to make them accessible to Title 1 monies. State fiscal year allocations were reviewed and although listed as "preliminary," were Broward County's actual final allocations received of approximately \$48 million.

[Mr. Levy arrived at 6:42 p.m.]

Ms. Wright-Hines continued that preliminary allocations for Title 1 were \$60 million (the annual District allocation received via the Florida Department of Education through the US Department of Education). Stimulus allocations were designated for use over the course of two years. There are various set-aside requirements for which the District has to earmark the funds; 20% is set aside for transportation and supplemental educational services (CWTSES). Teachers with National Board Certification are given incentives paid out of Title 1 funds with a set-aside of \$2.4 million for the Effective Teacher Program (ETP).

Ms. Wright-Hines also briefly outlined federal reporting requirements and timely use of ARRA monies, as well as supplemental versus replacement funds.

Ms. Clark mentioned the additional challenges and stresses in teaching at Title 1 schools.

Ms. Wright-Hines indicated that the District is currently in collective bargaining/negotiations with the Teachers' Union to ensure a memorandum of understanding is drafted as it relates to giving the incentive funding for the National Board Certified Teachers; however, the Union will have to "bless" any "gifts" as they are "looking out for the teachers' best interests." Ms. Clark interjected that National Board Certified Teachers do not view it as a "gift," but as "payment for mentoring," for working with the most challenging schools, and for obtaining the highest certification available in the profession.

Brief discussion continued regarding National Board Certification requirements and teacher incentives.

Ms. Wright-Hines stated that additional information can be found on the District's website under Chief Financial Officer link for ARRA showing the quarterly reports and how funds are earmarked.

Ms. Wright-Hines added that Title 1 funds have to be used “over and above” annual budget monies. With those additional monies, the District was able to deploy 64 curriculum specialty individuals at various schools and pay for instructional coaches in the areas of reading, math, and science. Instructional facilitators were hired for the schools to provide feedback and meet with the coaches weekly. “Curriculum delivery methodologies” are provided. In keeping with ARRA’s basic premise to “save and create jobs,” jobs had been created by hiring the instructional coaches, enabling the District to go to the layoff list and place those teachers back in the schools. A portion of the monies was also set aside for parent involvement initiatives, as well as monies to assist teachers in taking courses to prepare them to take subject area exams.

Ms. Blue-Small asked if there was anything they could do to “assist in freeing up these dollars.” Ms. Wright-Hines responded that beside the Union negotiations for specialized funding, the funds are at the schools and being utilized.

Mr. Borawski inquired regarding the relationship between Title 1 and the Special Ed department in the District, noting that Title 1 utilized more money than Special Ed which was “bare-boned all the time with everything.” Ms. Wright-Hines indicated that IDEA receives large amounts of money for students with disabilities. There is a coordination of efforts with regard to grants to ensure paraprofessional collaboration. Title 1 funds are for the “whole school, not just for the students at that school on free and reduced lunch.” The Principal of each Title 1 school decides on allocation of services.

Mr. Levy told Ms. Wright-Hines that they are very lucky to have her in the Broward County School System. Mr. Levy also wondered if there were any “breakthroughs” for education from Washington. Ms. Wright-Hines stated that the President has “deployed his blueprint and we’re still looking at it.”

Ms. Clark mentioned Senate Bill 6 and correspondence received from Senator Thrasher. She then provided a copy of the Senator’s letter to the Board members and read a portion into the record. Senate Bill 6 appears to remove teacher tenure, bases teacher salaries on student scores, and also adjusts retirement payments. Ms. Clark expressed concern that the bill will cause teachers to leave as there will be no incentives and, in addition, teachers could be fired for not achieving score goals. She believed teachers should be accountable, but not solely based on tests.

Chair Lewis thanked Ms. Wright-Hines for “doing a fantastic job.”

Chair Lewis then asked about the children coming from Haiti and the schools in which they’re being placed. Mr. Webster explained a special code is used to track the students coming in after the date of the earthquake. These children are “all over the

School District and have melted right in with everybody else.” He stated that the schools are bending over backwards to make them feel welcome and help them deal with the trauma of the earthquake. Over 1,000 additional students in the system have created “barely a ripple.” In addition, the schools have worked to educate the earthquake victims on available community resources.

The Agenda then resumed.

- **Approve Minutes (February 2010)**

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

- **Introduce New Members: Gwendolyn Dudley and Vialene Monroe**

Ms. Dudley and Ms. Moore were both absent.

- **Announcements** - None.

B. Communications to the City Commission - None, due to lack of quorum.

C. Current Business

1. **Title 1 Funding** - Previously discussed.

D. Old / Ongoing Business

1. **School Adoptions and Wish Lists: Lauderdale Manors, Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe**

Mr. Borawski stated a meeting has been scheduled with the Principal, Shawn Allen, of Sunland Elementary School for April 9, 2010 to go over the wish list, discuss the PTA, and ways the Board can lend a helping hand to the school.

With regard to Lauderdale Manors, Ms. Small had a meeting with City Commission Dubose to discuss mentors for the school.

Chair Lewis reported she had a conference with Christopher Gates at Arthur Ashe. The school is requesting money for supplies. Chair Lewis approached her neighborhood, Golden Heights, to see if they would be willing to “adopt” Arthur Ashe as their community school. Golden Heights agreed and will be working in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club to collect monies for school supplies and school trips. Mentors are also needed to work with the children.

Ms. Small asked about the contents for the hygiene kits requested by Lauderdale Manors. Toiletries were suggested, as well as decorating shoe boxes containing lotions, soaps, etc., to make them look like gifts. Ms. Clark offered to get with the leadership club at her daughter's high school to see if the students could put something together.

Chair Lewis stated they would not be completing the agenda items as there was no quorum.

2. Fort Lauderdale Centennial Celebration - 3/27/2011

3. Other Reports/ Updates/ Discussion

a. Reports and Updates

- 1) Staff Liaison, Julie Richards**
- 2) Student Members to EABH**
- 3) Broward County School District - Charles Webster**
- 4) Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations - Betty Shelley**

E. New/Future Business

With regard to the Board's acknowledgement of and support for diversity in Fort Lauderdale public schools, Mr. Borawski stated two people approached him to discuss cancellation of a prom due to a same sex dating issue. Mr. Webster stated this had not happened in Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Clark stated she believed in the near future special classes such as art, music, PE, and library media will be removed from the elementary school curriculum in Broward. She stated parents are against this, adding that many beneficial programs are initiated through the school library. Mr. Borawski agreed that without the specials his own children could not have turned out to be "well rounded, good citizens" as art and music are an essential part of the learning process. Ms. Small mentioned the BTU Retirees' Group and information she received from the President about removing the services, including information on how the delivery of those services can still remain available during classroom teaching. Ms. Clark pointed out that with FCAT, there's no extra time during classes.

F. Next Meeting and Closing

Items not discussed will be put on the April agenda. Ms. Richards stated a representative from the Centennial Committee will be at the next meeting.

Mr. Levy recommended bringing in State Legislators as guests to the meeting. Chair Lewis encouraged the Board members to suggest other speakers.

Ms. Small offered to share information she receives from the BTU Retirees Group.

The next meeting will be held on April 15, 2010.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by L. Edmondson, Prototype, Inc.]