

**APPROVED  
MINUTES  
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
100 North Andrews Avenue, 1st Floor, Commission Chambers  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 6:30 PM**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	8	2
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	P	8	2
Chase Adams (arr. 7:00)	P	3	2
Alec Anderson	P	3	1
Shezette Blue-Small (arr. 6:56)	P	8	2
William Borawski	A	8	2
Leonore "Lu" Deaner (left at 7:56)	P	9	1
Gwendolyn Dudley	A	0	6
Edna Elijah	P	7	3
James Howell	A	2	3
Alan Levy (arr. 6:51, left at 7:56)	P	3	1
Vialene Monroe	A	0	3
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	P	7	2
Lillian Small	P	8	2

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

**Student Members**

Patricia Victoriano  
 Giselle Santos

**Staff**

Julie Richards, Interim Staff Liaison  
 Jimmy Koeth  
 Mike Ciesielski  
 Betty Shelley, CFLCA Liaison  
 Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison  
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Guests**

Barbara Keith, Executive Director, Stranahan House  
 Chris Akagbosu, Director, Growth Management Division, School Board of Broward County

**A. Opening**

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Chair Lewis stated she would not follow the Agenda as prepared.

- **Guest Introductions: Barbara Keith, City of Fort Lauderdale Centennial Committee**

## **B. Communications to City Commission**

The Educational Advisory Board wants to notify the City Commission they passed the following motion:

1. **Motion** made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Dr. Persi, to recommend that the City Commission support the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement with School Board of Broward County for Public School Facility Planning. By roll call vote, the Motion carried unanimously (10-0). (follow-up from April 6, 2010 City Commission Conference Meeting Agenda Item I-B; direction from Commission)

## **C. Current Business**

### **1. Fort Lauderdale Centennial Celebration – 03/27/2011 – Education Sub-Committee Report – Barbara Keith**

Ms. Keith informed the Board that the Centennial Celebration Committee has been underway for over a year, and the festivities will start January 1, 2011, and continue until March 27, 2011. She mentioned that the vision of the Education Committee has been “to celebrate Fort Lauderdale’s heritage and promote awareness of our history and create lasting legacies as we move into the future.”

Ms. Keith listed several objectives of the Centennial Committee:

- Hire a historian to make sure all the facts are correct.
- Celebrate the history of the City’s neighborhoods.
- Create lasting, tangible legacies both big and small.
- Involve children and the schools in the Centennial Celebration.

Some planned activities are:

- Educational programs to focus on historic sites, prominent citizens, and highlight the events of 100 years
- Beacon program, no cost involved
- Scholarships
- Working with MODS
- Driving and walking tours
- Essay and poster contests

- Park plaques
- State historical markers
- Trunk shows
- Highlighting the 17<sup>th</sup> Street causeway

Promotional and marketing plans include:

- Postcard mailings
- Street pole banners
- Brochures
- Merchant store windows
- Bus wraps

Ms. Keith welcomed any suggestions the Board has for the Centennial Committee.

Ms. Deaner showed a booklet the City used to have about education in Fort Lauderdale and wondered if an updated version of that would be helpful. Ms. Deaner gave a copy to Ms. Keith.

Chair Lewis asked how the Committee will involve the neighborhoods. Ms. Keith said there is varied representation on the Centennial Committee, and they will also be going to the neighborhoods with presentations.

## **2. Presentation by School Board of Broward County, Growth Management Division on Interlocal Agreement – Chris Akagbosu, Director of Growth Management Department for Broward County School District**

Mr. Chris Akagbosu, Director of the Growth Management Department of the Broward County School District, announced the other members that were also in attendance this evening: School Board Member Maureen Dinnen; Thomas Coates, Executive Director of Facility Management, Planning and Site Acquisition; Leslie Brown, Executive Director of Educational Programs; Jill Young, Director of School Boundaries Department; and Lisa Wight, a Planner with the Growth Management Department. He invited Ms. Dinnen to the microphone.

Ms. Dinnen announced a budget meeting on April 19, 2010, that will be broadcast on Beacon Channel 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meeting can also be viewed online at [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com).

[Mr. Levy arrived at 6:51 p.m.]

Ms. Dinnen stated that they will be proposing changes to the Interlocal Agreement, which is signed by the County, by cities and then signed by the School Board. It is about concurrency, the new law that governs school capacity, and is built into the State Plan. Ms. Dinnen advised that the model they had set up is not working as well as hoped; therefore, they are going to use a model more similar to Dade County's. Under this model, they can use portables, using a different percentage of capacity in the

school. They must do this, Ms. Dinnen claimed, or there will be monumental boundary changes that will occur, resulting in thousands of children moving schools in a year or two.

Ms. Dinnen stated that several reasons they are in this situation now is due to declining population and the economic situation. The goal is to change the Interlocal Agreement to permit more flexibility.

Mr. Akagbosu returned to the microphone to continue the presentation. He pointed out that the presentation is on the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement for local public school facility planning.

He then gave a short history of how this came about. Mr. Akagbosu explained that concurrency, which was incorporated into the Interlocal Agreement in 2008 in Broward County, means that capacity has to be available at a school before development can be approved. Therefore, the Interlocal Agreement requires that a City cannot issue building permits until the School District says it is at capacity. The law also requires that concurrency be applied at a certain point, called the plat or site plan.

Mr. Akagbosu further explained that concurrency does not permanently prohibit development from moving forward, even though it slows it down. Concurrency does ensure the school board has capacity in its Five Year Plan that the developer can rely on.

However, the Developer can also propose a proportionate share mitigation, to mitigate the anticipated student impact, and, if approved by the School Board, then that development can move forward.

The requirements of public school concurrency are:

- Have the Interlocal Agreement
- Have a public school facilities element adopted by each city in Broward County
- Have a uniform level of service, which is now 110% permanent capacity
- Have a place to measure whether that capacity is available (Elementary, Middle and High School boundaries adopted by the Board each year)
- Have a financially feasible plan (the District's Five Year Capital Plan)
  - The fifth year of the plan must show each school is at 110% capacity or below

[Ms. Blue-Small arrived at 6:56 p.m.]

Mr. Akagbosu continued that the State also required that the School Board adopt a Plan Survey, showing the district needs. In 2008, that plan showed that the District had excess capacity. The State then declared that the School Board can no longer build the classroom additions that were identified in the Five Year Plan.

[Mr. Adams arrived at 7:00 p.m.]

The only option left for the School Board was to implement school boundary changes. He referred to a map showing the middle schools, and how they would have to make boundary changes going from west to east. As this would create hardship for the students and their families, the School Board reached out to stakeholders to determine how best to address the situation.

One of the stakeholders is the Oversight Committee, which oversees the Interlocal Agreement. The Committee has met several times and concluded that the best solution is to change the level of service from 110% permanent capacity to 100% gross capacity (gross capacity = portables plus permanent capacity), and to sunset the use of gross capacity in 2018. He then referred to a slide which showed how the gross capacity is calculated.

When changing from 110% permanent capacity to 100% gross capacity, the number of schools will be significantly reduced that are not supposed to be level of service. The actual number of students over the 110% threshold is also much lower.

The benefits of going to gross capacity are:

1. Avoid massive boundary domino change.
2. Fiascos will affect fewer schools and fewer students.
3. By allowing students to stay in their school, helps maintain integrity of neighborhood.
4. Decrease need for expense of busing.
5. Decrease number of accidents related to busing.
6. Maximize utilization of capacity at school site.
7. Also, some cities, including Fort Lauderdale are proposing large scale developments to encourage economic development and diversity and increase tax base. With the new Interlocal Agreement proposal, there will be capacity so the developments can move forward.
8. School board can use portables to meet class size requirements and level of service.
9. Schools will not have a new deadline to meet level of service.

Mr. Akagbosu disclosed that there still may be boundary changes, but they will be done strictly for educational purposes, and hopefully to adjacent schools.

He informed the Board that the School Board, and County, and 75% of the cities, constituting 50% of the population have to approve the change for the new Interlocal Agreement to take effect. The Oversight Committee approved the change unanimously, the School Board and Broward County have approved it, and 10 cities have approved it.

He concluded his presentation by saying that they are trying to get all cities to approve it by May 17, 2010, so that the Department of Community Affairs has enough lead time to

work on it. On September 10, 2010, the massive boundary change will commence if the new amendment does not go through.

Dr. Persi asked if anyone has looked at the Miami-Dade model to see how successful it has been and how long it has been in place. Mr. Akagbosu responded it was in place in January of 2008, and there are no problems as yet. Dr. Persi then asked who goes around to the neighborhood schools to present to parents, and how do the parents receive the information about boundary changes. Ms. Leslie Brown answered that question by saying she and Ms. Young have gone out to do the presentations, and the parents have expressed the strong desire to keep families within their own communities.

Ms. Deaner wondered if there were any statistics on the effect of portables on student achievement. Mr. Akagbosu said he didn't know of any studies on that, but he did say that the portables are inspected every year and have the proper tools for education. Vice-Chair Clark contributed that she had taught in portables and she loved them. Ms. Brown added that they do have some covered walkways and are outfitted like a traditional classroom. Ms. Small also mentioned she taught in a portable and it was very well equipped.

Ms. Elijah asked about the capacity in a portable. Ms. Brown said that they follow the same standards as regular classrooms for class size reduction.

Dr. Persi inquired about the square footage of a portable, and does the District have to purchase any additional relocatables at this time. Mr. Coates responded to her question by saying that the portables range in size from 900 to 1,000 square feet, which is typical for a classroom. He said they did not need to purchase any additional portables.

Mr. Levy wanted to go to 7.3-7.10 and try to understand the review and comprehensive plan. He asked if it would require a comprehensive land use plan for each project that would be dealt within each city and in the county. Mr. Akagbosu replied that if this change goes through, because a county and the cities are required to adopt a public school facilities element, which is a compliment of the comprehensive land plan, then they will have to change that comprehensive plan. But if referring to the land use in terms of development review, then concurrency is reviewed by plat and site plan. He continued that development of use starts from land use, zoning, then plat and site plan, and then building permit. So that review point will not change. Because the public schools facilities element, which is a compliment of the Comprehensive Plan, will need to be amended to address the goals, objectives and policies.

Mr. Levy expressed concern about Amendment Four that is being proposed. Mr. Akagbosu said there may be a related effect on development level because Amendment Four talks about land use.

Chair Lewis thanked the speakers for their excellent presentation. Mr. Akagbosu had a closing comment that he understood that the City Commission needs a

recommendation from the Board to approve the proposal. Chair Lewis asked the Board if they wanted to study further or make a recommendation at this time. Mr. Anderson thought it would be normal procedure to open it up to the public, if any were in the room.

Chair Lewis then opened up discussion to the members of the public in attendance. Mr. Akagbosu pointed out that since the City Commission meets on May 4<sup>th</sup>, it would be helpful to have the recommendation now so that they could meet the May 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. Vice-Chair Clark wondered if there was anything negative about the proposal.

Ms. Victoriano wondered if Magnet students would be affected, but Mr. Akagbosu assured her they would not.

**Motion** by Vice-Chair Clark, seconded by Dr. Persi, to support the amended Interlocal Agreement for the Public School Facility Planning. In a vote by roll call, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Chair Lewis then returned to the Agenda.

**A. Opening – Dr. Magdalene Lewis**

- **Attendance and Sign-in Sheet**

Roll was called.

- **Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2010, meeting.**

Ms. Deaner made a correction to the minutes on page 4, in the first paragraph of Mr. Borawski's report. She mentioned that the Principal's name should be "Shawn Allen" instead of "Shawn McKennan."

Ms. Blue-Small noted that on page 3, second paragraph, instead of "Small" it should be "Blue-Small."

Vice Chair Clark noted on page 2, fifth paragraph, that the word "gift" is not appropriate in that context.

Chair Lewis asked for a **vote** on the minutes with the noted corrections of the March 10, 2010, meeting. In a voice **vote**, the vote passed unanimously.

- **Introduction of New Members**

Gwendolyn Dudley was not present.

**B. Communications to City Commission**

Chair Lewis noted that Item B was previously covered.

### **C. Current Business**

Chair Lewis noted they had already covered Numbers 1 and 2.

#### **3. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

Chair Lewis noted that the floor was open for election for Chair of the Board. Dr. Persi commented there were so many changes on the Board and they are just starting to have continuity, and she therefore recommended continuing with Dr. Lewis as the Chair.

**Motion** by Dr. Persi, and seconded by Ms. Small, to continue with Dr. Lewis as the Chair. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Chair Lewis noted the floor was open for election for Vice-Chair of the Board.

**Motion** by Ms. Small, seconded by Dr. Persi, to keep Laura Clark as Vice-Chair for the same reason stated for re-electing Dr. Lewis. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Elijah noted she did not get to vote for either, and she wants the record to show that she votes affirmatively for both.

### **D. Old/Ongoing Business**

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

Ms. Small asked Vice-Chair Clark to comment on Lauderdale Manors. Vice-Chair Clark's daughter spoke to the teacher in charge of student leadership, and they are very excited about it and want to make it a project for April and May. She said they are going to fill up lunch bags instead of boxes. Ms. Small showed several bag samples that she got from U-Line. She reported that they can get stickers made through the Public Information Office that say "Education Advisory Board" to put on the bags.

Vice-Chair Clark suggested various hygiene items to put in the bags that students could use at school to keep clean. Ms. Small has a collection of lotions and so forth from hotels that she can bring. She asked the Board members to ask their dentists for sample toothpaste and toothbrushes and also to bring their hotel samples in.

Vice-Chair Clark suggested 50 or 100 bags to start with. Ms. Small reported that the bags cost \$38.00 for 250 bags. She reiterated the list of items needed: toothpaste,



toothbrush, wipes or small sponges, shower gel or small bars of soap from hotels, Ziploc bags for used soap.

Ms. Victoriano suggested items for monthly needs for females. Vice-Chair mentioned that every clinic in the schools have those items.

Ms. Elijah asked if the toiletries were for Elementary, Middle School and High School, and Ms. Small clarified they are for Lauderdale Manors. Ms. Elijah expressed concern about elementary-aged children's allergies to lotions. Dr. Persi agreed that was a very good point, and suggested depending on the school nurse or principal to provide a list of children who have skin allergies. She also asked if the bags would be handed out to all children, and it was noted they would not.

Ms. Small suggested making the supplies available to the school along with the bags, and they could make up bags as needed.

As Ms. Deaner had to leave the meeting early, Chair Lewis asked her to report on Sunland Elementary. When she returns from her trip, she will make an appointment with Shawn Allen. She noted that the reason for her trip is that she was invited to Washington D.C. by a former kindergarten student, Ian Solomon, who is being appointed the next day to head the World Bank.

Ms. Victoriano informed Ms. Deaner that they had finished their collections and wondered if they could make their delivery anytime soon to Sunland. Ms. Deaner asked Ms. Victoriano to set up a time and then they can go together to the Principal's office.

[Ms. Deaner left the meeting at 7:56 pm.]

Ms. Small returned to her discussion of Lauderdale Manors. She has worked on the mentoring program and has two prospects and wants two more. The first one is an anesthesiologist, Dr. Adlai L. Papi, from Florida Medical. The second one is Derek Ellington, whom she met at her church. She hopes to get them cleared by the end of the school year.

[Mr. Levy left the meeting at 7:59 p.m.]

Chair Lewis reported on Arthur Ashe, noting she met with her neighborhood group and was told they needed money for field trips. The neighborhood group has not yet committed to a final number.

2. [nothing listed on agenda]

### **3. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion**

**a. Reports & Updates**

**1) City Staff Liaison – Julie Richards**

She hoped that the Recommendation to the City Commission would make it on to Tuesday night's Agenda, not formally, but as a Communication. Then the Commission will advise staff on what they need to do on that item. She will keep the Board updated.

Chair Lewis encouraged the Board members to attend the City Commission meeting.

**2) Student Members to EAB**

Ms. Victoriano announced that she lobbied so hard for the Governor to veto Senate Bill 6, and was so happy about the veto today.

**3) Broward County School District – C. Webster**

Mr. Webster reported it has been very busy and thanked Ms. Dinnen for "giving part of his report." He handed out flyers about the Town Hall meeting, and asked all to attend or tune in on TV or the internet. Also, questions can be posed to [townhall@browardschools.com](mailto:townhall@browardschools.com). The meeting will be on the district budget and state public education funding.

He reported on violence on school property and said they want to familiarize the public with the plans they have in place. They had a press conference the previous week to introduce a new slogan: "You Have the Power to Make a Difference, Use It!" They want to give people various ways to contact the district, and urge them to do so. He mentioned that every day they deal with threats of violence, and do whatever necessary to intervene so that nothing bad happens.

He commented on the Governor's veto of SB6, and the Governor's letter mentions specifics if anyone wants to see it.

He announced that Dr. Earlean Smiley has accepted a superintendent's position in North Carolina.

Ms. Elijah remarked that the flyer is a terrific idea. She asked if there would be a possibility of the flyers going to homeowner's associations so they could help spread the word. Mr. Webster said if he could not get the physical flyers to her, he would email the information. Ms. Shelley said she would get the information to the Board members.

Chair Lewis said she would also like to distribute them at churches, and Mr. Webster told her he would do whatever he can to get the word out.

Vice-Chair Clark brought up an issue about cutting special programs such as library, reading specialists, and P.E., and reducing teachers' breaks. Teachers are upset. She said, "There are other ways to cut spending than to take away directly from our students." She asked the Board to take a stand on cutting special programs. Chair Lewis asked Vice-Chair Clark to forward that information to the Board, so they can make a clear decision.

There was a short discussion on the reasons for and ramifications of the cuts on teachers and students, with Ms. Small, Ms. Elijah and Vice-Chair Clark contributing.

Mr. Webster continued his presentation by informing the Board that all of the questions that come up pre-meeting will be answered, either during the live broadcast or on the website. In addition, there will be a minimum of two Board members at each location to answer locally pertinent questions before and after the broadcast time.

Dr. Persi asked if the budget has been approved yet, and Mr. Webster replied that the County cannot do anything on it until State Legislature votes on their own budget. He thinks that happens during the last week in April.

Dr. Persi wondered if the Board and District Administrators have reached out to the staff and asked them to do a needs assessment school by school. Mr. Webster does not know for sure, but assumes there is involvement at some level.

Chair Lewis contributed that when the school is given their budget, it is up to the Principal to determine where to make those cuts. Vice-Chair Clark questioned the practice of cutting teachers before non-instructional employees.

Mr. Webster held that nobody wants to make cuts, but they are dependent on a State legislature that does not adequately fund education. They need to "shine a light" on the legislature.

Chair Lewis urged the members of the Board to keep themselves informed.

Ms. Victoriana spoke about losing specials, especially music, and how that would be a big loss for the students, as that is how many students discover their majors. She has heard that their school is losing \$1M, about 12 teachers.

Chair Lewis brought the discussion back to a broader view. She asked the Board to study it further, and put it on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Blue-Small urged the teachers, school staff and students to show up at the Town Hall meeting to support their position.

Vice-Chair Clark mentioned Ms. Kraft is on Facebook and answers everybody's questions.

**4) Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – B. Shelley**

Ms. Shelley commented that neighborhoods were concerned that they will have to pay for undergrounding, but there was a good presentation last Tuesday night to let them know they will not have to pay.

The Mayor has given a challenge to all to volunteer. They are aiming for 100,000 hours for the Centennial Celebration. Whatever volunteering you do from now on, turn in the hours to Maxine Singh and it will be added to the "volunteer thermometer" that is in the hallway.

She also announced that the coming Saturday at South Middle River Park there will be a ceremony dedicating the park to Charlotte Rodstrom and President Joanne Smith. The ceremony will take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., with light refreshments.

**E. New/Future Business**

**F. Next Meeting and Closing**

Chair Lewis thanked everyone for attending, and reminded everyone to keep the lines of communication open.

The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2010.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.