

APPROVED
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	10	2
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	P	10	2
Chase Adams	A	4	3
Alec Anderson	A	3	3
Shezette Blue-Small [6:45 arr.]	P	10	2
Lu Deaner	P	11	1
Joseph Discepola	P	2	0
Gwendolyn Dudley	A	0	7
Edna Elijah	P	9	3
Roland Foulkes	P	1	0
Nancy Green [6:39 arr.]	P	1	0
Trisha Halliday	P	1	0
James Howell	A	2	5
Katie Leach	P	1	0
Alan Levy	A	3	3
Vialene Monroe	A	0	5
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	8	3
Lillian Small	P	10	2

Appointed members to the Board: 18
 Needed to constitute a quorum: 10

Staff

Julie Richards, Staff Liaison
 Michael Ciesielski, Planning & Zoning
 Betty Shelley, CFLCA Liaison
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

As of this date, there are 18 appointed members to the Board, which means 10 would constitute a quorum.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Ms. Leach, seconded by Mr. Foulkes, to request that the City Commission demand that the Broward County School District reinstate the \$6.6 Million funding for magnet programs. By roll call vote, the Motion carried unanimously (11-0).

A. Opening

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- **Introduce New Members**

Chair Lewis introduced the new members who were present: Joseph Discepola, Trisha Halliday, Roland Foulkes, Katie Leach and Nancy Green.

Mr. Discepola noted he is a resident of Fort Lauderdale and attorney practicing civil law.

Ms. Halliday is the parent of four children who have attended schools in Broward County, with the last one now beginning at Fort Lauderdale High School.

Mr. Foulkes is a medical anthropologist who consults and trains in the areas of cultural competence and diversity. He currently serves as Chair of the School Board's Diversity Committee and is on several other committees for diversity in education.

[Ms. Green arrived at 6:39 p.m.]

Katie Leach has two children just entering school and works at Nova Southeastern University in their Autism Consortium, doing outreach to children with autism.

Nancy Green has been an advocate for the schools since 1985. She has been employed by the Broward County School Board for 14 years, working as the Cambridge Program Coordinator and a college advisor.

The remaining Board members, CFLCA Liaison, Recording Secretary and staff then introduced themselves to the new members.

- **Approve Minutes (February; March; April; May 2010)**

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Ms. Elijah, to approve the meeting minutes of February 18, 2010. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously (11-0).

Regarding the March 18, 2010 Minutes, the following correction was noted by Ms. Deaner: on page 3, the Senator's name is Thrasher.

Motion by Ms. Small, seconded by Mr. Foulkes, to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2010, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously (11-0).

[Ms. Blue-Small arrived at 6:45 p.m.]

Regarding the April 15, 2010, minutes, Ms. Deaner noted the following corrections:

- On page 6, paragraph 2, Mr. Akagbosu said he “didn’t know” rather than “did know.”
- On page 7, at the bottom, it should read “Vice Chair Clark” instead of “Vice Chair Clerk.”

Vice Chair Clark noted the following correction:

- On page 11, fourth paragraph from the bottom in the sentence, “Vice Chair Clark questioned the practice of cutting teachers before clerical,” she wanted the minutes to read “non-instructional” rather than “clerical.”

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Ms. Small, to adopt the Minutes of April 15, 2010, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously (11-0).

The following corrections were made regarding the May 20, 2010 minutes:

- Ms. Elijah noted her name was misspelled at the bottom of page 1 in the Communications to the City Commission.
- Mr. Discepola requested to remove the word “not” on page 4, paragraph 4, line 5.
- Mr. Ciesielski asked to add the word “capacity” after the words “100 and 110%” on the 3rd bullet point in paragraph 3, page 9.

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Ms. Small, to adopt the minutes of May 20, 2010, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously (11-0).

- **Guest Introductions**

Chris Akagbosu introduced himself, Director of Growth Management Department, Broward County Schools.

Mike Ciesielski is Planning and Zoning Department, City staff member and member of the Broward County School Growth Management Board.

- **Announcements (not addressed)**

B. Communications to City Commission

Ms. Deaner reported that both she and Mr. Levy attended the City Commission meeting and they granted the Board the extension of time to reconsider the Interlocal Agreement. Ms. Elijah asked how long the extension is and Chair Lewis said that it is her understanding that they come to a decision at this meeting. Ms. Richards commented that the City Commission wants the Board to take the time necessary to discuss the matter.

C. Current Business

Motion by Vice Chair Clark, seconded by Ms. Leach, to discuss item C.2 (School Budget Concerns) before Item C.1, the Interlocal Agreement. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously (11-0).

2. School Budget Concerns – Laura Clark

Vice Chair Clark distributed the summary of her notes of the SBBC Meeting on June 15, 2010. She also distributed some information that the union provided to her. She then read from her notes and summarized the sentiments of some of the speakers that they need to cut bloated budgets to benefit the teachers/students. Vice Chair Clark noted there were suggestions on the web and on a Facebook group called “Save our Specials.” Other suggestions were to close facilities not used over the summer, combine administrative departments, and close video and radio stations unless paid for by grant money. The Broward Teachers Union had a list of “smart solutions” they presented to the Board.

Chair Lewis commented that according to reports given to the Board, and from what has been in the newspaper, the cuts are being made by the State, not the County. The counties are all trying to make adjustments accordingly.

Ms. Leach remarked that she attends most of the School Board meetings or records them. She said the Board plans to apply for grant money to open 6 more magnet programs when they cannot afford to maintain the ones they currently have. She mentioned that Walker Elementary is under-enrolled by 400 children. Their total enrollment capacity is 700 and 300 of those are magnet students. She also mentioned that she has spoken with Representative Bogdanoff, and was told that they did not cut the funding, but increased it by 4%. The money is in one discretionary fund that is given to the school district and they are allowed to use it as they choose.

Motion by Ms. Leach, seconded by Mr. Foulkes, to request the City Commission to demand the School District reinstate the \$6.6 Million funding for the magnet programs. In a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously (11-0). This will be a Communication to the Commission.

Vice Chair Clark mentioned that Nick Sakhnovsky, who is running for District 8, condemned the School Board for overlooking parental concerns when passing the budget. She added that teachers find out about changes and cuts after the fact.

Mr. Foulkes wondered what role the District Advisory Council (DAC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) played in formulating the budget decisions. Vice Chair Clark responded that she has not had any contact with the DAC nor the PTA, but she does know that at her school the PTA was not involved in the decision-making. Vice Chair Clark spoke about the impact of recent cuts on the libraries and the arts.

Ms. Green remarked that while it is true that the School Board “lost funding” due to cuts from lottery funding, it is not true that there is nothing they could have done about it. She spoke about how Fort Lauderdale High School achieved recognition from Newsweek magazine, being number 129 out of 27,000 high schools. She said this is due largely to their magnet program, which involves 65% of the student body. Ms. Green remarked that the School Board has an obligation to ensure continued funding for a program beyond the initial grant money. She concluded by saying it is “incumbent upon them” to find the \$6.6 Million.

Ms. Halliday added that not only is the money lost, but students will be lost as well. She remarked that the Cambridge Program is excellent, and a lot of parents were bringing their children over even from private schools to attend.

Ms. Deaner mentioned that she thought the original intention of the magnet program was to attract certain children to certain schools and neighborhoods. She said she believes that what is being proposed is contrary to the integration of diversity throughout Broward County. She continued that “it would be dastardly to undo what has been done for so many years and that will happen if they increase the portable situation out west.” They will have to put schools out west because of the increase, and the east is limiting itself in terms of population, diversity and the magnet program.

Vice Chair Clark inserted that the number of students in the magnet programs in the east is 40,000 students.

Mr. Foulkes brought up the Citizens Concerned about our Children lawsuit settlement agreement with the School Board in 2000. The Diversity Committee was charged by

the judge to monitor the School District on nine conditions, looking at disparities between the wealthier, western schools and the poor older schools on the east side of the County. They looked at media centers and advanced placement classes. They found great disparity in discipline across the District. The Five-Year Capital Plan led to a lot of disparities found in older buildings not being refurbished on the east side. They also looked at boundary assignments, but that is currently on hold. He recently met with SAC and SAF at Dillard High School and saw statistics of under-enrollment there. Dillard has lost roughly half of their students and many of them are going elsewhere because they want to. Their magnet programs are under-enrolled by half, which means less money coming into the schools. He continued that over the last five years, they have found the District to be in non-compliance with the lawsuit agreement.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned that although there have been efforts to convince the Board to make cuts equitably across the board, that has not been done. Under-enrollment is not just a fact at Dillard, it also affects Boyd Anderson and Blanche Ely.

Mr. Foulkes reported that efforts have also been made to encourage the top-level administrators to take pay cuts, but that has not happened either. He said they need to keep pressure on the School Board to look “inward and upward” for dollars.

He brought up ESE students and funds for them. There are special funds from the federal government for ESE programs. The Superintendent decided to take those dollars and save the jobs of 900 teachers. Mr. Foulkes reported that the ESE program is suffering as a result.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned that he has been working with a few teachers who are members of the Broward Teachers Union (BTU), and he learned that the union has not represented their interests regarding incidents in the schools with their administrators. He also pointed out that teachers pay \$600 a year to be members of the BTU, and it is supposed to be a partner in education in the County.

He recommended that BTU take \$400 from the \$600 fee and contribute that to a teacher development fund or pool to hire teachers. He remarked that the BTU also has “excessively paid high level administrators” that need to take a cut.

He continued that the largest portion of ad valorem taxes go to the School District. Taxpayers are “involuntary investors” in the school system, and as such, need to be heard.

Vice Chair Clark requested that her summary be attached to the Minutes.

Chair Lewis then returned to Item C-1 on the Agenda.

1. School Board of Broward County, Growth Management Division's Interlocal Agreement

Motion by Ms. Leach, seconded by Mr. Foulkes, to approve the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement as presented by the School Board. In a roll call vote, the motion was **denied** unanimously (0-11).

Ms. Deaner wondered if they should include some of the answers to the questions posed by the City Commission.

Mr. Ciesielski responded by saying that they were given the list of seven questions synopsised by the Planning and Zoning staff which were concerns and questions raised by the City Commission. These questions were brought up at the Board's last meeting for response. In the last 48 hours, an email was sent to the Board from Broward County responding to questions asked at last month's meeting pertaining to five issues raised about cost analysis and portables.

Ms. Deaner suggested providing a rationale for their vote, instead of just voting.

Mr. Discepola had also submitted questions to the School Board and did receive a response, but he said the answers were not complete. He received the reply via email on June 15, 2010.

He said he has been studying the agreement and finds that the cost benefit analysis provided by the Board merely changes a percentage and provides a "legal fiction" for them to propagate the same overcrowding in the schools in the west. He does not believe this amendment will ever allow the City to build more schools. He thinks the only way to do that is to make boundary changes and that the Amendment is an effort to stall those changes until 2018, when they sunset the use of portables.

He continued by saying that Florida Statute Sec. 163.31777(12)(j) only penalizes them for not cooperating by not entering into an interlocal agreement, which they have already done. The fact that the concurrency rate is already above the threshold behooves them to make some changes. The School Board Policy 5000 authorizes boundary changes.

To the question Mr. Discepola asked regarding the financial impact of boundary changes with school busing versus using portables, the School Board replied in the recent email that they are unable to provide an answer. Questions 3, 4, and 5 on the "question sheet" relate to boundary changes and portables. The School Board admitted that \$60,000 was the cost to move a portable. Regarding #4, they said the cost to bus

students to under-enrolled schools “cannot be provided at this time.” He believes that the proposed Amendment is a stall tactic to keep money in the west and it will not benefit the under-enrolled schools in the east. Mr. Foulkes said that is the justification for voting “no.”

Ms. Deaner stated that it was only a temporary solution, as boundary changes will have to occur in certain schools anyway. She added that her priority with education is providing a positive environment for students including the differences in cultures, the breakdown of stereotypes and respecting all peoples. For those reasons, her vote is “no.”

Mr. Discepola commented that he understands parents do not look favorably on boundary changes, however, they are inevitable. He emphasized that the School Board Policy 5000 dictates they are supposed to maximize the use of existing space throughout the district not to exceed capacity equal to or greater than 110% of permanent capacity. They are supposed to do this through boundary changes to meet school concurrency. He encouraged the Board to vote “no.” He thinks the amended agreement does nothing.

D. Old/Ongoing Business

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

Ms. Small explained that the Education Advisory Board has adopted three schools that have presented wish lists to the Board. Lauderdale Manors’ wish list included hygiene kits for girls and male mentors for boys.

Ms. Small reported that she met with the Principal, Ms. Devaughn, at Fort Lauderdale Manors on May 26th and delivered the hygiene kits and products for the girls. She obtained some stickers for the bags and reassembled the items if they fit in the bag; the remaining items will be stored at the school. She also put an asterisk by the lotion indicating that the student take care using the lotion in case the student has allergies that may be aggravated by using them.

She commented that she told the Principal that she has secured three gentlemen to serve as mentors and is going to get them cleared through the School Board. That has proven difficult as many schools are asking for mentors and there is a short supply. Mr. Foulkes commented that mentoring is critical for success for young men.

She also reported that Ms. Devaughn will be switched with Ms. McCann, the current principal at Manatee Bay Elementary.

Ms. Small presented a certificate of appreciation for Ashley Clark, who is a member of the Leadership Club at Cardinal Gibbons High School. They took on the Lauderdale Manors as part of their club projects. Vice Chair Clark will deliver the certificate to her daughter.

Ms. Elijah mentioned that Ms. Devaughn's last day will be July 1 and Donna McCann will be taking over for her. She is hoping to have direction to meet with Ms. McCann over the summer to welcome her to the school. She also announced that Vicky Flournoy (from Lauderdale Manors) was chosen Assistant Principal of the Year. Mr. Foulkes announced that Mr. Griffin from Rock Island was selected as Principal of the Year.

Vice Chair Clark remarked that her daughter will be involved in the Leadership Club and wants to help again next year.

Ms. Small reminded Board members to bring back travel-sized lotions as they vacation this summer.

Ms. Deaner reported on Sunland Park. She said they lost contact with Principal Allen and also their students have not appeared at the Board meeting. The last time she spoke with them, they said they did collect merchandise suitable for Sunland's wish list, but they wanted to present it. It was noted that from May on is a difficult time of year for high school students, as they have finals. Ms. Deaner will try again to get in touch with them.

Ms. Elijah noted that Lauderdale Manors moved up last year to a "C" rating from an "F."

Chair Lewis remarked that she worked with the principal and assistant at Arthur Ashe and got her Golden Heights Home Owners Association agree to give at least \$100 for field trips at the beginning of next year. Chair Lewis also commented that the principal there is being moved to Village Elementary.

2. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

a. Reports & Updates

1) City Staff Liaison – Julie Richards

Ms. Richards reminded the Board of the Mayor's Volunteer Challenge, and that she will send some information to the members. The Mayor wishes to thank everyone for their

volunteer services, including Board members, and she reminded them to log in their hours.

2) Student Members to EAB (absent)

Ms. Small wondered if they were going to try to get Fort Lauderdale and Dillard High School students involved after the break. Chair Lewis said they need to get them involved, and the length of their term should be a topic for the next meeting.

Mr. Foulkes asked how the students are selected for participation, and Vice Chair Clark responded they had to be involved with student council. Mr. Foulkes suggested approaching the Future Teacher's Clubs. Chair Lewis said they need to develop a written procedure on how they select their students.

Ms. Deaner recalled that they had made a requirement that they be juniors, did not have to be member of "high echelon," but could be whoever was recommended by the principal or someone who understood the student body. Her opinion is that a three month term is too short. She recommended a junior, proposed by responsible school personnel from each high school to serve the whole school year.

Chair Lewis requested that those members who want to work with the high schools formulate a committee and move forward. Mr. Foulkes suggested including representatives from the adult learners in the district, and offered to serve on the committee. Ms. Leach suggested incorporating student representatives from other schools such as Pine Ridge Center.

3) Broward County School District – C. Webster (absent)

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

Ms. Shelley elaborated on the Volunteer Challenge, noting it applies to more than just volunteering for the schools.

From the Council of Civic Associations, July 8-10 is the 14th Annual Neighborhood Conference in St. Petersburg. There are three people going from the Council: Joanne Simmons, Ron Centamore and Genia Ellis.

The top Assistant Principal and Principal were recognized at the City Commission meeting with proclamations.

On Saturday June 26, the CVC will have another volunteer project at 8:00 a.m. at South Middle River, and anybody can help. Points will be given for volunteers' neighborhoods.

She mentioned the Urban Market near the Bryant House every Saturday morning.

She also commented that the student volunteers were very interested in what they were learning by attending the meetings.

E. New/Future Business – none

F. Next Meeting and Closing

Chair Lewis announced there will be no meeting in July, but the Board will meet again on August 19, 2010.

Ms. Elijah announced that Lauderdale Manor Home Owners Association will have a Candidates Night for Circuit Court and Broward County judges. It will be at 1340 Chateau Park Drive on July 1, 2010. On August 5, there will be Candidates Night for District 9.

Mr. Foulkes distributed packets regarding the District's three-year strategic technology plan. There is no money in the budget this year for new technology. He mentioned the Internet Coast, which is trying to brand the South Florida Tri-County region as the new Silicone Valley of the East. Their website is icoast.com, and there is a whole section on education. He hopes that schools can partner with businesses in the region with resources. He also announced World Refugee Day, which will be celebrated on Monday, June 20, at the Seminole Hard Rock. Also, there will be a Diversity Committee Meeting on August 5 at 8:30 p.m. to which everyone is invited.

Chair Lewis thanked Vice Chair Clark for her help in bringing information relative to the budget cuts and thanked Ms. Small for taking care of the kits/bags.

Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]