

APPROVED
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	5	0
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	P	4	1
Chase Adams	A	2	3
Shezette Blue-Small	A	3	2
Lu Deaner	A	3	2
Joseph Discepola	P	3	1
Edna Elijah	A	3	2
Elaine Fiore	P	2	0
Roland Foulkes	P	3	0
Nancy Green	P	3	0
Trisha Halliday	P	3	0
Katie Leach	A	2	1
Alan Levy	P	3	2
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	2	3
Lillian Small	P	5	0

Appointed members to the Board: 15
Needed to constitute a quorum: 8

Staff

Julie Richards, Staff Liaison
Betty Shelley
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Students

Sade Smith
Gloria Grissett

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

A. Opening

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Chair Lewis gave condolences to Vice Chair Clark, whose mother recently passed away.

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

It was noted that Shezette Blue-Small is still on the Board.

There was a quorum in attendance and Chair Lewis announced they will follow the agenda as printed.

- **Guest Introductions (taken out of order)**

Mr. Reed Lorber, a resident, introduced himself.

- **Approve Minutes (June; August 2010)**

The minutes for the August 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

The minutes for the June 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

- **Introduce New Members (none)**

- **Announcements**

Mr. Foulkes mentioned that in March of this year the Diversity Committee launched a student award called the Broward Diversity and Inclusion in Educational Equity Leaders in Action Award. There were two awards granted in March and April: one to Garrett Myerson at Stoneman Douglas; and one to David Ganye from Zion Lutheran Church and School in Deerfield Beach.

Mr. Foulkes continued that the Diversity Committee is accepting “rolling recommendations” from the community. He distributed a copy of the application form and requirements and asked the Board members to forward any recommendations to him.

Mr. Foulkes said the awards are open to all students in the District, and each municipal board can decide who they want to nominate. He remarked that he will take nominations both from individual Board members and from the Board as a whole, as long as they are students in Broward County.

Ms. Small announced that on the Sunday morning prior to the opening of school and the Million Father March, she distributed flyers to five different churches. Chair Lewis commented that she had heard there were a lot of fathers who took their children to school on the opening day.

Mr. Foulkes reiterated that on the back of the application that he distributed there is a list of requirements for the award. He remarked that they are looking for the unsung

heroes in the District who are making contributions in the areas of diversity, inclusion and educational equity.

Ms. Halliday was curious if the applications could be taken to various high schools for distribution. Mr. Foulkes replied that the County staff is in the process of notifying all the appropriate school personnel, and the information will also be posted on the School Board website.

Ms. Small suggested that Board members who are liaisons at their three adopted schools could facilitate the efforts at those schools. Mr. Foulkes added that the Board members should feel free to work with any school on this project, from elementary through high school, and public, private and charter schools.

B. Communications to City Commission

Ms. Richards explained that this is just a recurring item on the agenda, for any Communication from the Board, and that there is no Communication at this time.

C. Current Business

1. Student Members to the Education Advisory Board

Ms. Small reminded the Board that they were supposed to take up the requirements that Mr. Foulkes brought to the last meeting.

Vice Chair Clark mentioned that the students that they had previously are seniors now and probably not available this year. She was curious if they would follow the same procedure as before, having the schools pick two students.

Ms. Fiore said that after the last meeting she asked her husband to round up some students at Stranahan and there was one young lady who was supposed to attend this meeting, but she did not.

Mr. Foulkes reminded the Board that he had gone through last year's Board minutes looking at the discussions about how to include students. He drew up some proposed guidelines based on that research. He thought the Board was going to look at that at this meeting.

Mr. Foulkes' guidelines included the following:

Student selection:

- One student from each high school (9-12 grade), preferably a junior
- Two representatives from the adult community school attendees
- One from Wingate Oaks (K-12) for multiple handicapped
- The students cannot be appointed - they would be informal advisors to this body.

Term of service:

- One to two years of service
- Identify and select in July of each year
- Limited to two consecutive academic terms

Prerequisites, requirements and expectation of service:

- Do well academically (3.0 GPA or above)
- Do not miss more than three consecutive meetings
- Members of FEA preferred
- Demonstrate leadership both on campus and in community
- Bring letter of support from principal
- Complete the same training that the Board members go through for the Advisory Board
- Bring critical issues, problems or concerns and possible solutions
- Recommend their successor and provide a bio

He remarked that these requirements are limited to the public school system, but they should reach out to the other student populations (e.g., private, adult, disabled).

Mr. Levy wondered if they could have one student from each public high school attend the Board meetings and also meet with their respective principals once a month and provide a conduit for communication from the principal to the Board through the students.

Ms. Small commented that the Board had tried in the past to get a student from each high school, but it was difficult, and they ended up with two students from Stranahan.

Vice Chair Clark remarked that she likes the organized layout that Mr. Foulkes prepared. She added that both students they had before were part of a Leadership Club at Stranahan, and she suggested going through a Leadership teacher.

Ms. Fiore asked if there was a student application, and Chair Lewis wondered if it was necessary. Ms. Fiore said it would make sense to give applications (with requirements) to the teacher who is sponsoring FEA, SGA, and so forth. The teacher would distribute the applications to the students.

Ms. Small requested that they go over Mr. Foulkes' proposal step by step and approve or disapprove each item, unless they are going to accept the entire proposal.

Chair Lewis remarked that it appears to her that all the steps are necessary.

[Two students joined the meeting.]

The two students introduced themselves, Gloria Grissett and Sade Smith, who are both 17 years old and seniors from Stranahan.

Chair Lewis welcomed them and returned to the discussion on the student selection process.

In response to Mr. Levy's question, Mr. Foulkes responded that each high school is listed, so there would be one from each of those three, two from adult school and one from Wingate Oaks for a total of six. He explained that six was an arbitrary number, and could be changed by the Board. Mr. Foulkes was curious if, in the past, a letter had been sent from the Chair to the schools requesting the students. He felt the principal might respond more proactively with that more formal approach.

Chair Lewis announced she would like to appoint Mr. Foulkes to be the Chairperson of this effort and have two other Board members assist him. She further explained that he would be the chairperson of soliciting students from the other schools mentioned in his outline.

Mr. Foulkes suggested that if there is a subcommittee, they could create the student application and, together with an official letter, invite the principals to hand out the applications to students who they think would serve their schools well on this body.

There was clarification that a subcommittee was not formed at this time.

Ms. Richards offered to draft the application that the Board discussed. If a Board member drafted the letter for the Chair to sign, she would also be willing to assist to finalize it. She can distribute it to other Board members and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Foulkes accepted Chair Lewis' invitation to draft the letter and Ms. Richards will draft the corresponding application form on the Board's behalf. Mr. Foulkes clarified that the reason for the application is part of training the next generation of members for this Board.

Chair Lewis asked Vice Chair Clark to assist Mr. Foulkes, and Mr. Levy remarked that he would be receptive to calling the top person at the high schools. Mr. Foulkes asked that Ms. Fiore also assist.

Ms. Richards reminded the members to send copies of their paperwork to her and she will convey it to the other members of the Board.

Ms. Clark suggested that they allow students to come in pairs, so they can drive together.

Ms. Richards mentioned that the volunteer hours can be submitted to the Mayor's Challenge.

Mr. Discepolo asked Mr. Foulkes to explain his asking the students to bring at least three possible resolutions to the problems they present. Mr. Foulkes replied that it is something he lives by, to offer solutions, and not just complain about the problems. Mr. Discepolo then suggested modifying the requirement to "solutions" rather than an arbitrary number of solutions, as it may be daunting for the students to come up with three solutions.

Chair Lewis asked the members to look at the recommendations.

Vice Chair Clark questioned the appropriateness of having sexual orientation mentioned as part of the inclusiveness. Mr. Foulkes explained that he just put that in the document as an example to show they would not exclude anyone due to their sexual orientation, religion, etc. It was not meant to imply that they would ask people about their preferences. Vice Chair Clark did not want to make an issue of it and Chair Lewis thought they should eliminate that criteria.

Ms. Small commented on the second bullet point regarding being a member of FEA. She suggested adding an interest in government or in education, not necessarily FEA. Chair Lewis remarked that if the students have an interest in the City of Fort Lauderdale she would assume they have an interest in government. Mr. Foulkes pointed out that the requirements say "preferred" not "required," and that leaves it open.

Mr. Discepolo was curious about what type of accommodation the Board would make for the students from private, charter and home schools if they are not included in the proposal.

Vice Chair Clark asserted that if the requirements are made too restrictive, they will not get many students.

Ms. Green was curious what the students thought about the criteria. The two students said they both are members of their student government. Ms. Smith added that they think the whole line about "not all gay, not all different" should be removed. She offered that they are members of FEA, SGA and she is a member of Push Coalition. Ms. Grissett said she thought a 3.0 GPA was difficult, as in her case, she goes to Stranahan in the day and night school in the evenings. She suggested a 2.5 and above GPA was more realistic. Ms. Grissett explained that a lot of juniors are not paying attention to such matters, and she suggested asking seniors to invite a junior.

Vice Chair Clark liked Ms. Grissett's suggestion.

Ms. Green felt that the pre-requisites do not apply to the post K-12 adult or the Center members.

Chair Lewis asked the Board members to communicate with Mr. Foulkes through Ms. Richards to make any changes to the proposal.

Mr. Foulkes wondered if the students were eligible for the same training that the Board members had, and Ms. Richards responded that she is not sure. She added that the City Commission had not approved the student members to be able to vote or be counted in the membership of the Board, so they may not be eligible for the Board members' training.

Mr. Discepola stated that a member of the student government would be best fitted to fill the role of student member, as they are naturally connected to the communications in the school. This approach would also make it easier for the principal to select the students.

Mr. Discepola asked the students present if they have particular titles in the student government. Ms. Smith said she had been Secretary, and is now a general member; Ms. Grissett said she is a general member. Ms. Smith said there were 20 members in the student government at her school, some who do not hold offices. Mr. Discepola then advocated sending a letter to the principal recommending that one of the student government representatives assume the Education Advisory Board membership role. Chair Lewis asked Mr. Foulkes to make note of it.

Chair Lewis commended Mr. Foulkes and the Board for their help putting this together. Mr. Foulkes will bring the proposal back to the next meeting for voting.

2. Amendment 8 – Lillian Small

Ms. Small introduced her topic, Amendment 8, which she had read would allow the Florida legislature to cut state funding for smaller class size, and would no longer require school districts to meet the current class size goals that voters adopted. She brought this up to apprise the Board that this item will be on the November 2 General Election ballot, and retired teachers are being asked to vote NO on 8. Ms. Small recounted that Ms. Leach had previously remarked that she did not think there was state funding attached to this Amendment, and she was curious what other Board members had heard.

Vice Chair Clark and Mr. Levy both contributed what they had read in the paper, but they were still unclear on the actual facts. Ms. Halliday went online and read aloud the fiscal impact of the Amendment. If the Amendment is approved, no costs will be incurred. She knows the BTU's position and understands it, but does not see a good way out of this situation.

Vice Chair Clark remarked that she has 30 students in each class, and others have it worse. She believed that increasing class size would create more problems in the

schools, and make it impossible to reach the kids with trouble. She invited Board members to come spend the day with her at Oakland Park, where she teaches. Ms. Fiore also spoke about the quality of education declining with increasing class size.

Chair Lewis urged the Board to get themselves educated on Amendment 8 and know what they are voting on.

Mr. Foulkes commented that Mr. Notter spoke to the District Advisory Council at their first meeting of the year. Mr. Foulkes' understanding was that this Amendment will take them back to pre-class size. If it does not pass, districts could be penalized. The penalties are not based on the entire district enrollment, but rather, if one school has one student over the prescribed class number, then the whole district is penalized \$38M. He reported that the statistics on class size are taken on the 10th and the 20th day of the month. Mr. Foulkes thought that the Superintendent is going to be distracted from his job by making sure no classroom has one student too many. Mr. Foulkes added that he is not decided on how to vote on the measure.

Chair Lewis asked the Board members to forward as much information as they can to Ms. Richards, so that they can be informed on the issue.

Ms. Small added that her subject was just a discussion topic, and she was not asking the Board to take a position on Amendment 8.

D. Old/Ongoing Business

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

Ms. Small reported that she made a surprise visit to Lauderdale Manors, but the principal was not in, so she will make an appointment to go over the wish list for the year. She will go on the Proctor & Gamble website and review the items on their list.

Vice Chair Lewis mentioned that her daughter had inquired about what the Leadership Club can do.

There was nobody to report on Sunland Park.

Chair Lewis reported that she has not had a chance to meet the new principal at Arthur Ashe, but she will do that and report on their wish list.

2. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

a. Reports & Updates

1) City Staff Liaison – Julie Richards

Ms. Richards said she had nothing to report officially, but did have some information from the last School Board Meeting as an information item.

[Ms. Richards distributed papers.]

Ms. Richards informed the Board that she thought Mr. Webster had some updates, but he was unable to attend due to conflicting meetings.

2) Student Members to EAB

Chair Lewis invited the students to make further comments and informed them that Ms. Richards will keep them updated on meeting dates.

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

4) Council of Ft Laud Civic Association – B. Shelley

Ms. Shelley is the liaison for the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association, a group that includes all the HOA's within the City of Fort Lauderdale. There are about 42 HOA's and they meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. She invited Board members to attend and find out how neighborhoods are solving problems.

The group also works in volunteer projects. Last week they did some planting at Stranahan Park. Anyone who participates in the Citizen Volunteer Corp gets points toward projects for their neighborhood. The NCIP grants are due next Friday.

She announced that the next meeting will be October 12, 2010, and it will be at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria (time and place changed due to a different meeting in their usual room). They will try to have two people with opposing views discuss Amendment 8.

E. New/Future Business

Mr. Foulkes announced that in January, 2011, the Broward County Diversity Advisory Council will celebrate the tenth anniversary of January being Broward County Diversity and Inclusive Community Month. The month was launched to encourage all the municipalities, the School Board, and the County Commission to issue resolutions or proclamations acknowledging the diversity within the County and the specific municipalities and to do whatever they can to have events to acknowledge and commemorate the month. All groups are asked to do something to commemorate Broward's inclusive diversity.

F. Next Meeting and Closing

Chair Lewis thanked everyone for attending, including the students and visitor. Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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