

APPROVED
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	6	0
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	A	4	2
Shezette Blue-Small	A	3	3
Lu Deaner	A	3	3
Joseph Discepola	P	4	1
Edna Elijah	P	4	2
Elaine Fiore	A	2	1
Roland Foulkes	P	4	0
Nancy Green (arr. 6:42)	P	4	0
Trisha Halliday	P	4	0
Katie Leach	P	3	1
Alan Levy	P	4	2
Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	P	3	3
Lillian Small	A	5	1

Appointed members to the Board: 13
 Needed to constitute a quorum: 7

Staff

Julie Richards, Staff Liaison
 Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum.

A. Opening

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Chair Lewis expressed condolences to Dr. Persi, whose mother recently passed away.

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

There was a quorum in attendance.

Chair Lewis welcomed back Ms. Elijah, who had been out following an accident.

- **Approve Minutes (September 2010)**

The minutes for the September 2010 were approved as distributed.

- **Introduce New Members (none)**
- **Guest Introductions: (none)**
- **Announcements**

Mr. Foulkes referred to a letter from Mr. Notter and Mr. Williams regarding the October 28, 2010, meeting on the graduation rate of black males. The meeting was initially scheduled to be held at the K. C. Wright building, but is now scheduled to be at the Dillard High School auditorium. It will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2010.

Mr. Foulkes announced he had brought with him a pamphlet from the Florida Division of Elections, as well as a sample ballot from the Supervisor of Elections.

He reported that he also brought information regarding a recent boundaries meeting at Dillard High School. The meeting had been called by Vice Chair Ben Williams. Mr. Foulkes stated that 2,078 total public high school students live within Dillard's boundaries during this academic year, but only 1,085 currently attend Dillard and 993 attend other schools. That is money lost to Dillard. The focus of the meeting was about possibly extending Dillard's boundaries from Andrews north to Oakland Park Boulevard, south all the way to Broward Boulevard, and west to either 441 or to the turnpike. There will be another meeting within a few weeks to follow up. Other schools, Boyd Anderson and Blanche Ely, are also having similar problems.

Mr. Foulkes then directed the Board's attention to a statement by Levi Williams, one of the attorneys who litigated the CCC lawsuit, which speaks to the budget crisis and how it will impact the schools on the east side of the County. These schools will be asked to "do without" when "wealthier schools may not be asked to do the same."

Mr. Foulkes announced that the South Florida Diversity Alliance of Colleges and Universities will have their Annual Diversity Summit at Nova Southeastern University on November 30, 2010. The theme is "One Planet – One Tribe."

He invited members of the Board to World Community Day on November 5, 2010, at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Pompano Beach. The theme is "Building the Beloved Community." Mr. Foulkes will be presenting at this function, as well as the Annual Diversity Summit.

He reminded members to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming election.

Ms. Leach remarked that she was at Dillard the previous day and discovered that they have sufficient staff for theater performances, but do not have money for costumes and sets. She will be meeting with Ms. Stanley on November 3, 2010, to discuss a partnership between the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theater and Dillard to produce "Aida" together. Ms. Leach added that the Children's Theater has a very talented group of artists who are willing to volunteer their time for the project.

Ms. Leach commented that she was very disappointed to see that Dillard has not hired an additional magnet coordinator, even though a large portion of their magnet dollars are back in place. Dillard has two magnet programs: technology and performing arts. However, there is only one coordinator overseeing both programs, which have a combined enrollment of 800 students.

Mr. Levy mentioned that there have been efforts for years to get the schools to work together with an agency such as the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theater and he is very happy to hear that is finally happening. He congratulated Ms. Leach on her success.

Mr. Webster confessed that times have been somewhat chaotic within the school system. Out of 555 teachers who were laid off at the end of last year, all but 21 have been rehired. There are still over 400 non-instructional staff that are on lay-off. He said they are at 98% class-size, so they will probably face some sanctions.

Ms. Leach asked Mr. Webster if money that is restored to the magnet program might be supplanted into another area, and Mr. Webster was not sure and could not speculate on that. He did say, however, that if there is a specific question on that, he will try to find the answer.

Ms. Leach expressed concern that some schools might close. Mr. Webster commented that they are fighting within the limits set by the legislature.

Ms. Richards asked that the Board keep Ms. Deaner in their thoughts, as she believes it is Ms. Deaner's intent to resign from the Board due to health concerns.

Ms. Halliday reported that she went to a program at the Community Center across the street from Fort Lauderdale High School and was very impressed with the students. She thanked Mr. Foulkes for passing along the information about the meeting.

Mr. Levy announced that there will be a special football game as part of Fort Lauderdale's Centennial Celebration at Lockhart Stadium, with Fort Lauderdale High playing Stranahan. He was not sure of the date, but believes it is November 10, 2010. He will send a flyer later.

B. (Not addressed)

C. Current Business

1. Student Members to the Education Advisory Board

Chair Lewis wondered why there were no students at the meeting, and Ms. Richards replied that the Board will be discussing the student representation on the Board.

Chair Lewis called the Board's attention to the drafted application for the student members to the Advisory Board.

Ms. Richards explained that the draft is very close to the application that Board members fill out. What she did was incorporate most of the discussion from last meeting about what they are looking for in student members.

Mr. Levy mentioned that at the last meeting he was asked to contact Dr. Wright and Ms. Stanley and he did. They were thrilled with the idea of participating and having both a junior and a senior represented on the Education Advisory Board. Mr. Levy called them a week later and told Dr. Wright and Ms. Stanley that someone would contact them. Mr. Levy expressed his confusion over what exactly the Board intends to do.

Ms. Richards remarked that she had emailed and also mailed the minutes and the packet to each Board member. Mr. Levy said he had not received either, but perhaps it was at his "other office."

Ms. Halliday commented that what Mr. Foulkes came up with (the selection criteria) at the last meeting was very good.

Mr. Foulkes told the Board that he left the last meeting with the understanding that there was going to be a subcommittee. The two students who came last time were brought by an individual member, but at the same time the Board was discussing a procedure for bringing students on the Board. He thinks there was a mix-up.

It was clear to him from reviewing the minutes that he was supposed to draft a letter, and Ms. Richards was going to draft an application. He had received the names of the principals at Fort Lauderdale and Dillard from Ms. Richards and he also called them. He has the names of two students from Fort Lauderdale and has a call in from Ms. Stanley's point person for students at Dillard. The students from Fort Lauderdale have already been vetted by the principal.

Chair Lewis suggested forgetting the subcommittee, as it is holding things up. Mr. Foulkes replied that the subcommittee has "sunset," as it has accomplished its goal of writing the letter and application.

Chair Lewis noted that the year is flying by and Ms. Elijah suggested bringing the students on board at the first of the year, at the January meeting. Ms. Leach suggested sending out the applications the next day to the principals and then reviewing their

responses at the November meeting. They can invite the students to attend the January meeting.

Mr. Levy wondered what happened to the two students from Stranahan. Ms. Elijah commented that the two Stranahan students should be included in the pool with the other students and should be provided with information for the January meeting.

Chair Lewis reiterated that they should bring in the students no later than their January meeting.

Mr. Webster remarked that he will double-check to find out if the materials (the letter and the application) need to be screened through the Superintendent's office, as is usually the case.

Ms. Elijah pointed out that there was a deadline of October 15, 2010, mentioned on the letter of support. Ms. Richards assured her that would be updated, along with anything else based on the Board's discussion.

Ms. Leach said they are probably in "good shape" with their application, as it has the City of Fort Lauderdale seal on it. Mr. Webster will check on it. Ms. Richards suggested that Mr. Webster receive a copy of the approved letter.

Mr. Discepola commented that the letter is great. He wondered if the Board would review the student's applications and give them a rubber stamp approval based on the principal's recommendation. Chair Lewis answered that the Board would make that decision.

Chair Lewis then asked for discussion on how many students should be from each school.

Ms. Halliday thought two from each was good, as they had mentioned, for safety reasons if nothing else.

Dr. Persi mentioned that if they are going to invite two, then the letter would have to be changed. She advocated accepting the students with open arms from any of the schools, as it is difficult to get participation.

Chair Lewis endorsed the idea of two, so that the students would feel more comfortable, and asked the minutes to reflect that they will be choosing two from each of the following schools:

- Fort Lauderdale High School
- Stranahan High School
- Dillard High School
- Wingate Oaks

- Fort Lauderdale and Dillard Community Schools

Mr. Foulkes responded to Mr. Discepolo's comments that they will basically "rubber-stamp" the principal's recommendations. The applications will help the Board acquaint themselves with the students' backgrounds. He added that if there was an application that someone on the Board had a problem with, then they could review it.

Mr. Discepolo was curious if these would be formal appointments going through the City Commission, and Mr. Foulkes replied that the students would be informal advisors to the Board. The Board is inviting them, which is different than if the students came to the Board asking to be advisors. Ms. Richards added that the City Commission previously gave their approval to have the student members.

Chair Lewis wondered if any one Board member would be responsible for the students, or if it would be all of the Board members. Mr. Foulkes believed that all of the Board should be responsible for them.

Ms. Green recommended that at least one of the students from each school should be able to drive. After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that they will ask for a junior and senior, one of each. Mr. Levy suggested that the juniors could carry over to serve on their senior year, providing continuity.

There was a **roll call vote** to approve having a junior and a senior, with all members voting in favor.

Regarding the letter, Mr. Foulkes commented that the dates and the clarification on the students (juniors and seniors) would have to be changed.

There was a **roll call vote** to approve the amended letter to be sent to the principals, with all members voting in favor.

Regarding the student application, Chair Lewis asked for any changes that need to be made.

Motion by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Mr. Foulkes, to accept the application as is. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foulkes recognized Ms. Richards for her efforts on the application and Mr. Levy for reminding the Board that individuals can take the initiative and move things forward.

2. Amendment 8

Ms. Leach wondered if she was correct in that the School Board was not taking a position on Amendment 8. Mr. Webster replied that the School Board cannot take a

position on any issue, per their attorney. The Board, however, can articulate the impact the measure might have on the District, but the matter is still under consideration.

Ms. Leach shared her understanding of the details of the Amendment, after conferring with several of the legislators who worked on it. She said that the Amendment states that the school has to have an average class size of 21 from kindergarten through 3rd grade, as opposed to each class having 18. In other words, they cannot go above 21. As far as the funding that is attached to it, it is no different than the FTE dollars. She said she thinks the Amendment allows the schools to have a little flexibility and she disclosed that she voted in favor of it.

Mr. Levy was curious how tracking of the average class size would be monitored throughout the state, and Ms. Leach responded that they would probably take it from the 20-day count.

Mr. Webster brought up the situation again if a class is at 18, and a 19th student comes along and how that is handled, because students transfer in and out all the time. He does not know how it would be handled.

Mr. Foulkes and Chair Lewis said they voted “no” on the Amendment. Mr. Foulkes reasoned that the voters spoke in 2002 in respect to what they wanted regarding class size, at a time when the State was moving into a financial boom. He felt that this Amendment would give more flexibility to districts, but it would undo the will of the majority of voters in 2002. He said he received a flyer from the PTA that urged a “No” vote, as it increases size of every class by at least 20%.

Mr. Levy expressed concern that if there is not enough money to run the schools, then the schools will have to do without some things. He thought it was akin to punishing the students and the teachers, and he declared that the State has the responsibility to educate the students to become productive citizens. He said that the problems will not be solved with a vote on this Amendment – it should not be in the Constitution to begin with.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned there is a description of the Amendment in the booklet he had handed out.

Ms. Halliday was curious if the Board needed to vote on the measure as a Board. Chair Lewis responded that they will not be taking a vote on it and they are not suggesting any particular vote.

There was a short discussion about materials that various members had received regarding the Amendment.

D. Old/Ongoing Business

1. School Adoption: Lauderdale Manors, Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe

Nobody was present to report of Lauderdale Manors or Sunland Park.

Chair Lewis reported that she had not yet made contact at Arthur Ashe.

Mr. Foulkes was curious what the process was for school adoption and for how long they are they adopted by the Board. Secondly, he mentioned that the Diversity Committee visited Westwood Heights Elementary School, on the south side of Broward Boulevard in the Riverland Park area. He reported that it is a transition school in an all-black community. The principal has serious needs for the school and he had invited her to attend a Board meeting to inform the Board of her concerns. Mr. Foulkes added that if there is an opportunity to adopt another school, he would recommend looking at Westwood Heights.

Chair Lewis explained there are no written guidelines for adopting schools. The ones that they have adopted happened because Board members lived near those schools. She suggested having guidelines for adopting schools.

Ms. Elijah added that Lauderdale Manors and Sunland Parks were adopted because they were "F" schools with great need. She recalled that their involvement with the schools was inactive for several years, but just started to pick up again last year.

Mr. Levy commented about "Race to the Top" and it was mentioned that both Lauderdale Manors and Sunland Park had been part of that. He remarked that other organizations such as the United Way are getting involved with that program. He further remarked that perhaps they could look at more neglected schools if the ones in "Race to the Top" get enough attention from the participants in that program. Mr. Webster said he would get a list of the schools that are in "Race to the Top."

Ms. Leach reported that Dillard Elementary had been an "F" school for several years. Mr. Webster recalled there were issues with the FCAT this past year.

Ms. Leach suggested that they consider adopting schools whose performance had dropped. Ms. Elijah recommended waiting to select new schools until they have the list from Mr. Webster.

Mr. Foulkes was curious exactly what the Board does for a school that they adopt. Chair Lewis replied that the schools send a wish list to the Board and the Board tries to fulfill it. Ms. Elijah added that some of the school's principals came to a Board meeting and presented some ideas for consideration.

Motion by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Ms. Leach, to keep the said list until they receive the other listings from Mr. Webster and then proceed at that time. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

a. Reports & Updates

1) City Staff Liaison – Julie Richards

Ms. Richards reminded everyone to please take their packets with them. She asked Mr. Levy to have his assistant contact her with a functioning email and mailing address.

Ms. Elijah asked Ms. Richards if members from different advisory boards would be participating in the event aspect of the Centennial Celebration, and Ms. Richards answered that there is a huge official committee, and she believed one of their members made a presentation. She offered to arrange another presentation at the Board's pleasure. There was consensus that that would be a good idea.

Mr. Foulkes commented that he is very concerned about the image projected regarding the future of Fort Lauderdale. He shared the June 2010 issue of "Go Riverwalk Magazine," which implied from its content and cover that the future of Fort Lauderdale would be non-diverse. He continued that Fort Lauderdale claims to be a diverse community, yet that diversity was not reflected in this publication. He feared that any initiative coming out of the Centennial Committee would not exhibit the diversity of the City. He remarked that Fort Lauderdale is ranked seventh in the nation for racial segregation and first in the State, and the City must work towards recognizing its diversity.

2) Student Members to the AEB – None

3) Broward County School District – C. Webster

Mr. Webster noted that Mr. Foulkes brought up the October 28, 2010, meeting for the senior staff of Broward School District, and wanted to remind the Board to check their email for the updated information on the venue.

Mr. Webster reported there was a meeting of the Coalition of Educational Advisory Boards the previous week and he will distribute the minutes. The organization will meet bi-monthly and that information would be in their minutes.

He also reported that on the District's website that there are five calendar options for the 2011-2012 school year, and they are trying to engage the public to get their feedback. He encouraged the Board to let him know what they think.

Ms. Elijah inquired about raises for the teachers. Mr. Webster reported there was an impasse hearing on Monday and the Board voted to accept the recommendations of the

magistrate, which was to not provide raises. He reiterated that there are still many non-instructional staff on lay-off.

Ms. Leach mentioned that she was recently in the pick-up line at school and someone in a BTU tee-shirt tapped on her window. The person handed her a list of candidates and asked her to vote for these people if she “supports her teachers.” Ms. Leach wondered if the School Board had a policy regarding this type of activity during this time – the drivers are already distracted and children are running around, and she felt it was a safety issue.

Mr. Webster said there is a policy on campus, but outside the gate is a police matter. The only thing the Board could do is call the “proper authorities” and have them take a look at it, as it is a distraction for people trying to drive.

Mr. Levy echoed Ms. Leach’s concern and expressed his hope that the Board could establish that as an off-limits zone. Mr. Webster said he would get more information and update the Board on that situation.

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

E. New/Future Business (None)

F. Next Meeting and Closing

Chair Lewis thanked the Board for attending, and hearing no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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