

**APPROVED**  
**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>APRIL 2011-APRIL 2012</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	3	0
Katie Leach, Vice Chair (arr. 6:39 p.m.)	P	3	0
Shezette Blue-Small	A	0	3
Theresa Bucolo	A	2	1
Vincent Cella	P	3	0
Catherine Cirillo	P	3	0
Laura Clark	P	1	2
Joseph Discepola	P	2	1
Theron Douglas	A	1	2
Edna Elijah	A	1	2
Roland Foulkes	P	3	0
Nancy Green	A	1	2
Trisha Halliday	P	2	1
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	P	3	0
Franco Ripple (left 7:31 p.m.)	P	3	0
Lillian Small	P	2	1

Appointed members to the Board: 16  
 Needed to constitute a quorum: 9

**Staff**

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

**Students**

None present.

**Communication to City Commission**

None.

**A. Opening**

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

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

As of this date, there are 16 appointed members to the Board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum.

Following roll call, it was determined there was a quorum in attendance.

- **Approve Minutes (May '11)**

Mr. Foulkes asked that the last sentence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on p. 3 be rewritten as follows: Mr. Foulkes stated that the State of Florida defines a gifted student as “one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance.” (Rule 6a-6.03019, Florida Administrative Code).

Mr. Foulkes provided the name of the person who seconded the motion at the bottom of p. 10 – Vice Chair Leach.

Mr. Webster said on p. 3, between paragraphs 3 and 4, Ms. Park’s name was not underlined, where Ms. Rusnak’s had been underlined.

On p. 5, Mr. Webster said that in the first full paragraph, Mr. Park should be Ms. Park. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph up from the bottom on p. 5, “WISK” should be “WISC.”

Mr. Webster said that Ms. Pope asked to have the last sentence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> full paragraph on p. 8 read as follows: “She thought these definitions were Dr. Blasik’s personal opinions during a discussion of the issue, not the official position of the District.”

Mr. Webster asked that the 3<sup>rd</sup> full paragraph on p. 12 be rewritten to read as follows: “Mr. Webster commented that every student and parent receive a copy of the Code of Student Conduct, and are required to sign a statement that they have received it. It was noted that displays of affection would not be in the Code of Student Conduct.”

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Ms. Halliday, to accept the minutes as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- **Introduce New Members**

None.

- **Guest Introductions:**

Two guests introduced themselves: Maria Rodriguez, Coordinator of Charter Schools with Broward County Public Schools; and Jody Perry, Director of Charter Schools, Broward County School System.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Foulkes announced on Monday, June 13, the Diversity Committee, in collaboration with the Hallandale Beach Education Advisory Committee and the Hallandale Beach High School Task Force, held a community forum regarding issues at Hallandale Beach. He said the District has acted quickly on most of the concerns and are still working throughout the summer on the remainder of the concerns and other items.

Mr. Foulkes continued that on June 14, the Diversity Committee presented its annual report on the CCC response report to the School Board. He said he sent copies of the report to the Committee for informational purposes.

[Vice Chair Leach arrived at 6:39 p.m.]

Chair Lewis asked Betty Shelley and Charles Webster to introduce themselves.

Vice Chair Leach requested another correction to the minutes on p. 8, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. She did not think she said "black eye." It was noted that the clerk would listen to the audio and see if it was said. Chair Lewis mentioned she would wait until getting the necessary corrections before approving that portion of the minutes.

## **B. Communication to City Commission**

None.

## **C. Current Business**

### **1. Discuss the Subject of Implementing Charter Schools in the City**

Ms. Richards said that she asked Ms. Perry to attend in case the Board has questions on the issue. She said the Charter Revision Board was also asked to look at the topic which they had on their June 2 agenda. She said the minutes from that meeting have not yet been posted; however, she did listen to the recording and reported that the Charter Revision Board indicated that that topic was a moot point for their Board. The Education Advisory Board could pursue discussing that item as requested by, and convey its findings to the City Commission. Ms. Richards added that if there was something to go from this Board to the Charter Revision Board, that Board said they would take a look at it.

Ms. Richards reported some of the comments made at the Charter Revision Board's June 2 meeting:

- Reference to a city charter school in Pembroke Pines
- Charter schools are already running ok
- If the City had charter schools, they would be municipal charter schools

Ms. Richards commented that as the EAB looks at the issue, perhaps they could look into how to get the charter school, the rules and regulations, who would run it and so forth.

Ms. Halliday also attended the June 2 meeting, and she said the Charter Revision Board did not understand why it was on their agenda because they had no knowledge of it. They thought it would be more appropriate for either the EAB or the School Board to take care of it. Questions had come up about funds, and Ms. Halliday wanted to ask questions related to funding to the guests at this meeting.

Ms. Perry stated there are 68 charter schools in Broward County with another 14 opening in "this next round of schools." That enrollment would be approximately 26,000 in the charter program.

Two municipalities oversee the governing board of charters: Pembroke Pines, and Coral Springs. Pembroke Pines has an elementary, middle school and high school on multiple campuses. Coral Springs has a middle school and a high school.

Charter schools, municipal or other, are funded through the State of Florida in the exact same method as a District school is funded with the exclusion of 5% of the funding for the first 250 students at the school, which reverts to the District for oversight and support purposes.

In response to a question by Chair Lewis, Ms. Perry said there are charter schools in Fort Lauderdale, but they are not municipal charter schools. They are privately run, publicly funded, charters. Vice Chair Leach stated that there are five in the City: Charter Instructional Training Center, Charter School of Excellence (multiple schools at the same address), Charter School of Excellence at Riverland, and one at Maverick High School.

Mr. Discepola wondered how a private charter school being publicly funded would be different than a municipal charter school. Ms. Perry said the employees at the municipal one would be public employees – at a charter school they are private employees (they do not qualify into Florida retirement system or pension systems). Ms. Perry clarified that it is not a "private charter school" per se, but rather a privately-run charter school. They still have to follow State statutes regarding charter schools. She said that for the municipal charters, the City Commission is the governing board. In a privately run charter, it is a separate entity.

Mr. Ripple was curious about the standards for both instructional and administrative personnel. Ms. Perry explained that all charter schools that receive public funds must have certified teachers, but administration is not required to meet the same level of licensure as is required in a District school. Mr. Ripple was curious why the standards would be different for the administrative personnel, and Ms. Perry replied that State Statute dictates they are not required to do that because when the movement began it

was under the auspices of businesses and other entities that may have had people coming in with expertise in their field to run the schools. Mr. Ripple noted that now that charter schools are established, he thought maybe the State should have some parity in administrative criteria and qualifications between publicly funded public schools and publicly funded charter schools.

Dr. Persi asked Ms. Perry if she oversees the municipal charter schools, and she said she oversees all of the charter schools receiving public funds, even the privately-run ones.

Dr. Persi asked about progress of the charter schools compared to public schools. Ms. Perry said there was parity in relation to the success of the instructional program. Some are in "differentiated accountability" status; they are having issues with particular subgroups. However, that is found throughout the State of Florida in District and/or charter schools.

Dr. Persi wondered if the financial status was in parity with the public schools, and Ms. Perry replied that the charters have more flexibility in staffing and facilities, and sometimes funding is not at the same level. It depends on how many students are at the school, as that is the determining factor in funding. She added that if a student leaves a public district school system to go to a publicly-funded charter school, the funding goes with the student.

Ms. Small wondered if the charter schools have to adhere to the rules/regulations that exist in the public schools for reading materials/textbooks. Ms. Perry said they are not required to have the same adopted curriculums as long as they follow the Next Generation Sunshine State standards. Some of the schools do use the same curriculum materials however.

Vice Chair Leach noted that charter schools are keeping special education subjects such as P.E. and music, whereas they are being cut at public schools. Ms. Perry recommended that parents ask detailed questions about curriculum and staffing and find a program that is best for their child. The programming at a charter school may be different than what they think.

Mr. Persi (from the audience) asked Ms. Perry to speak about:

- The overall purpose of the charter schools
- Selection process (in terms of diversity)
- Number of charter schools that have failed in the past five years

Ms. Perry answered that the purpose of the charter schools is to give parents more choice and to have flexibility in some of restraints put on traditional schools due to legislative action. Educators hoped that they would be able to put on some innovative programs.

As far as the selection process, Ms. Perry said all children have the ability to go to any charter school within the jurisdiction. A municipal charter can choose to have a system whereby students within their boundaries are "preferentialed in." If there are more students wanting to attend than there are slots for them, the schools can go to a lottery system and/or a waiting list.

Mr. Ripple wondered what the criterion is for a charter school to receive a grade from the State. Ms. Perry said it was based on a number of students per grade, and she thought it was 10 per group.

Vice Chair Leach was curious if there is a difference between the performance of a charter school run by municipalities as opposed to those that are privately-run. Ms. Perry replied that there is not - it depends on the infrastructure of the governing body.

Vice Chair Leach also wondered if a local municipality typically kicks in additional monies to the FTE that is received, and Ms. Perry said that sometimes happens.

Vice Chair Leach asked about IEP plans at charter schools, and Ms. Perry said they are mandatory. The charter school does not have the right to refuse a child based on needs, but they can convene an IEP committee where the appropriate placement would be discussed.

Vice Chair Leach wondered what happens when a charter school begins to fail. Ms. Perry responded that they fall into "differentiated accountability" and the district goes in as a sponsor and tries to assist and monitor to help them bring their scores up. Ultimately, if the school does not succeed, there are contractual provisions for closure if they are not meeting the children's needs.

Ms. Small questioned the need for and usefulness of charter schools. Ms. Perry commented that some are very good, but ultimately the answer lies in the community and if there is a need for the school in the community.

Mr. Foulkes noted, for Mr. Persi's benefit, that Ms. Rodriguez was formerly the Coordinator and Director of the District's Diversity and Cultural Outreach Department. Additionally, he remarked that charter schools are part of the capitalistic society, which provides competition with the established public schools to see who can offer the best education for the best price.

Mr. Foulkes wondered what the steps are for a municipality to establish a charter school. Ms. Perry said the process is coming to the School Board with an application and a proposal. She added it is an involved process that takes two years. The State has a website which explains the elements involved in chartering a school. The completed application packet is reviewed by a committee composed of people from the curriculum department, the arts, finance, budget, and safety among others. The

committee will recommend approval or denial to the Board. She said very few are denied, as some choose to “self-withdraw” during the vetting process.

Chair Lewis inquired about the rate of charter high school graduates who go on to post-secondary school. Ms. Perry replied that is one of the things the monitoring committee looks at, and there are very successful charter schools where the students go on to a post-secondary institution. Mr. Foulkes had read that the entire graduation class at Somerset Academy was accepted to four-year colleges.

Ms. Cirillo wondered if someone had approached the City about having a charter school, as she wondered how this became a topic for the Board. Ms. Richards said that she had communicated with the Board that this was brought up at a City Commission meeting where the City Commission asked that the Education Advisory Board debate the topic. She added that she did not recall the specific City Commissioner who brought it up, but said it had been by consensus that this item was sent to the Board.

Mr. Foulkes spoke about the complexity and thoroughness of the application process for charter schools. He thought the criteria were very similar to that which would apply to a public school.

He wondered what amount of the total (up to \$350,000) a charter school can receive for state-awarded implementation grants. Ms. Perry explained that the implementation grant is competitive, and not every charter school receives that funding. It does not happen every year, but may be for the initial three or four years. Mr. Foulkes confirmed that funding then comes from the FTE.

Mr. Cella asked what the criteria are for the grant, and Ms. Perry responded that the District is not involved in that, as it is set by State criteria. Mr. Cella also asked how many charter schools have closed in the last five years, and Ms. Perry said three in the past 2 ½ years.

Ms. Perry clarified a question about the application process – she said that the applicants have to go to the School Board, but go to the State only to appeal denial. Ms. Perry said that in her tenure, the State has not overturned any Broward County denial.

Mr. Ripple stated he had to leave the meeting and asked for a moment of personal privilege. He said that on p. 12 on the last meeting’s minutes, he had sought consensus from the Board to discuss the co-applicability of the School Board’s Codes of Conduct and the second set of school-specific set of rules under the site-based management system. He asked to place it on the August agenda and to have a School Board official present to discuss it with them.

Chair Lewis asked the Board if there was consensus to put that item on the agenda for the August meeting, and the Board agreed by acclamation.

Mr. Foulkes asked for a moment of personal privilege. He said that seven of the nine Commissioners submitted a letter delivered to the School Board detailing the issue of school-based policies, and requesting that it be placed somehow where parents would have knowledge of what their particular school's policies are about certain behaviors. He said that by August, the Board should have a response to that.

**Motion** by Mr. Ripple, seconded by Ms. Small, that at the August meeting, there be a member of the Broward County School Board and staff present to discuss the co-applicability of the site-based, school-based management system along with the Broward County School System's own Code of Conduct and Policies. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Ripple left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.]

Mr. Discepola asked Ms. Perry to comment on the difference in the cost of operating a municipal charter school versus a public school in the City. Ms. Perry answered that all costs need to be considered, but there is no way to really know the costs.

Ms. Rodriguez added that it depends on the number of students and the kind of facility. Charter schools do not need the traditional type of facility that one sees at a public school. In addition, she said that not all employees of a municipal charter would have to be municipal employees. The municipality could have an agreement with an educational management organization and have human resources go through that company rather than the City. She added that all schools are different and their costs are different.

Vice Chair Leach noted that charter schools and magnet schools provide choices for parents.

Ms. Perry stated that the municipality oversees adherence to codes for the charter schools, such as those in storefront facilities.

Mr. Foulkes thought the Advisory Board was being asked to make a recommendation to the City Commission regarding having a municipal charter school, and wondered if the speakers would recommend that in light of the economy.

Chair Lewis acknowledged Mr. Foulkes' comment and asked for a list of pros and cons of starting a municipal charter school to assist the Board in making an educated decision. She asked the speakers to communicate additional points to the Board via the Liaison.

Ms. Perry recommended that the Advisory Board look at the State's website for parent choice, the other municipalities that have chosen to go ahead and some that have chosen and then changed their mind, look upon the peers and District schools that are



within the jurisdiction and determine if the Board feels there is a need to pursue it or if the energies would be better served working with the District schools.

**Motion** by Ms. Small, seconded by Mr. Cella, to discuss this further at the August meeting, and after receiving any more literature through Ms. Richards from the speakers. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Foulkes mentioned that the guidelines they had set up for inviting student members require that a letter goes out about this time to school principals to identify student members to serve next year. He wondered if the Board needed to vote on this matter.

**Motion** by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Vice Chair Leach, that the Education Advisory Board follow the guidelines established last year to have the Chair send letters of invitation to the three high school principals asking for student nominations (rising juniors, ideally) to serve on the Education Advisory Board for the year 2011-2012 academic year. The motion was called for a vote, but interrupted by Ms. Small. The vote was not completed.

Ms. Small stated she was not ready to vote since she thought the student members on the Board needed to “go the same way” as the school adoption program. She said it has not worked and they have spent too much time on it. Vice Chair Leach acknowledged Ms. Small’s frustration, but thought they were a stronger group now and thought there was success, but that the Board could minimize the amount of discussion spent on the topic. She said these are the students’ schools and she would like for them to be heard. Ms. Small thought they did not have sustained interest from the students nor from the schools.

Ms. Richards noted that they have six students on the Board, and suggested that the Board look at how they will address those six students (with the exception of one student) who have not responded to attending the meetings, even though they have been included in all communications.

Mr. Foulkes noted that their new process is less than a year old. He suggested doing more as a body to make them feel welcomed and wanted. Mr. Cella said he would like to leave the program in place so that the onus is not on the Board that they did not allow them to participate. Ms. Cirillo offered to be a contact for Fort Lauderdale High and thought that several of the students had graduated. She suggested filling the spots with juniors so that there is a two-year continuity.

Mr. Foulkes restated his motion as follows: **Motion** by Mr. Foulkes (seconded Vice Chair Leach), that the Chair following guidelines established this year, send a letter of invitation along with the application to the principals of each of our high schools to identify and send to the Board’s attention six (two per school) rising sophomores so that

they will serve through their junior year. In a vote by roll call, the motion passed (9-1) as follows: Mr. Cella, yes; Ms. Cirillo, yes; Ms. Clark, yes; Mr. Discepola, yes; Mr. Foulkes, yes; Ms. Halliday, yes; Dr. Persi, yes; Ms. Small, no; Vice Chair Leach, yes; Chair Lewis, yes.

Dr. Persi brought up the deadline for application, suggesting August. Since schools do not start until late August, Ms. Small said they could not expect them sooner than September. Dr. Persi also suggested that the students' concerns be put on the front of the agenda, so that they can be allowed to leave.

Chair Lewis stated that there would be a particular member of the Board to reach out to the students and to greet them. Ms. Cirillo repeated her offer to take Fort Lauderdale High. Mr. Discepola and Ms. Halliday also volunteered. Mr. Foulkes said he would contact the Student Government Associations of the high schools and see how they can encourage the student representatives.

Mr. Webster noted that the individuals going to the high schools may need to have a background check and be fingerprinted, and he will research that.

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

Chair Lewis remarked that this item is on "the back burner" for now.

Dr. Persi brought up the outstanding issue with Roomservice Amenities and the toiletries. She reminded the Board that there needs to be a point person for that, and she does not want to be that person.

Chair Lewis wondered if it was permissible to send the toiletries on to the schools since they had already accepted them, and send a thank you letter to Roomservice Amenities. Ms. Richards clarified that the Board did not actually request the toiletries and reminded the Board that what the City Commission did was to send a letter to Room Service Amenities to thank them for the toiletries that they had indicated they would donate.

Mr. Foulkes suggested having the toiletries go directly to the identified schools without the intervention of the Board. Dr. Persi mentioned they were going to go to the three adopted schools plus Dillard.

Ms. Richards confirmed that no toiletries have been received at this point. Ms. Richards recalled that the Board had concluded that when the toiletries are donated, they would be donated to the Education Advisory Board to be distributed to the principals of the schools of interest for the students that are in need.

Chair Lewis said since the City Commission has already thanked them (via a letter), that the Board should await the arrival of the toiletries, distribute them and put it to rest. Ms.

Richards pointed out that per the City Attorney, the letter was a thank you letter, not a request (the City cannot actually “request” a donation).

There was a discussion recapping the entire sequence of events leading up to the thank you letter.

Mr. Discepola pointed out that the company probably does not know where to send the items.

**Motion** by Mr. Discepola, seconded by Mr. Cella, to follow up with the company that was willing to donate the toiletries to confirm if the offer is still on the table. If so, advise them how they may distribute the toiletries for the specific schools that the Board initially recommended. Mr. Discepola accepted a friendly amendment to appoint Ms. Clark to be the point person. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

### **a. Reports & Updates**

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

No report.

#### **2) Student Members (absent)**

No report.

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

Mr. Webster mentioned that the School Board appointed an interim Superintendent, Mr. Carter, currently the Chief Operations Officer. He reported that the consultant held meetings with the community on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on Monday will present to the Board the profile for the promotional materials and application form for the Board to approve. Another key date is August 16, the deadline for all application materials to be received, and on the week of September 12 they will interview the candidates.

Mr. Webster reported that there is a Parent Community Involvement Task Force that has met three times.

Ms. Richards asked to amend her report to note that the new City Manager is Mr. Lee Feldman. Chair Lewis asked Ms. Richards to invite him to drop in at the Board’s meetings if he so desires.

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

Ms. Shelley said there have been several discussions regarding Broward Health going public.

The State of Florida Neighborhoods Conference will be July 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency, and she will be attending.

She mentioned that it is time for neighborhoods to apply for NCIP grants. The first meeting to work on that will meet on July 13 from 6-8 p.m. at Bayview Park. There will be another meeting on July 25 at George English Park.

Ms. Shelley announced the July 4 Wade-In at Las Olas and A1A.

#### **E. New/Future Business**

Mr. Webster said that he and Vice Chair Leach had the opportunity to attend a meeting at Plantation High School and go through a list of qualities they are looking for in a superintendent. The consultants are combining all of the responses online, and a hard copy will be presented to the School Board on Monday.

#### **F. Next Meeting and Closing**

- **Location and Date: City Hall, August 18, 2011**

Hearing no further business, Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

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