

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012 – 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	9	0
Vice Chair Franco Ripple	A	6	3
Heather Brinkworth	P	2	0
Theresa Bucolo	P	8	1
Vincent Cella	A	5	4
Catherine Cirillo	P	8	1
Laura Clark (arr. 6:35 p.m.)	P	6	3
Joseph Discepola	P	6	3
Edna Elijah	P	7	2
Roland Foulkes	A	6	3
Nancy Green	A	4	5
Trisha Halliday	P	7	2
Cici Kelly	A	3	3
Chester Ludwick	P	4	0
Wayne Neunie	P	1	0
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	7	2
Austin Scott	A	2	2
Lillian Small	A	7	3

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

**Staff**

Hal Barnes, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison  
Junia Robinson, Neighborhood Support  
Betty Shelley, CFLCA Liaison  
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Students**

Hayley Gearheart  
Rebecca Jules

**Communication to City Commission** (Pending Approval by Clerk)

**Motion** by Ms. Cirillo, seconded by Mr. Discepola, to invite the City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale to make an appointment to visit all of the schools in their respective districts, and to visit the Education Advisory Board during the year. In a voice vote, the motion passed 9-1, with Mr. Neunie opposed.

## **Determination of quorum**

As of this date, February 16, 2012, there are 18 appointed members to the Board, which means 10 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there was no quorum.

## **A. Opening**

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

Following roll call by Ms. Chiappetta, it was determined there was not a quorum in attendance.

- **Approve Minutes (January 19, 2012)** (not addressed at this time)
- **Introduce New Member: Wayne Neunie**

Mr. Neunie said he is an educator, having been an Assistant Principal and Principal. He currently works for the YMCA.

[Ms. Clark arrived at 6:35 p.m.]

\*At this time, there was a quorum.

- **Guest Introductions**

Ms. Brown, Hayley Gearheart's mother.

## **B. Student Members to the Education Advisory Board**

- **Report from Student Members**

Ms. Gearheart reported that their Assistant Principal was nominated AP of the Year, and noted the Award Ceremony is March 1. She also reported that students are working on a Dance-a-thon, which will be a charity event that students can use for community service hours. The recipient charity is Juvenile Diabetes.

Ms. Jules reported on HOPE, a group which helps troubled girls "get back on track." She also said that Stranahan High's boys' soccer team went to Regionals.

Chair Lewis then returned to the agenda.

- **Approve Minutes (January 19, 2012)**

Ms. Halliday noted the following corrections:

- On p. 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, "September 2012" should be "September 2011."
- On p. 7, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, "Vice Chair Whipple" should be "Vice Chair Ripple."

**Motion** by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Ms. Halliday, to approve the minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **C. Current Business**

### **1. Continued Discussion on Charter Schools – Lillian Small**

Chair Lewis noted the absence of Ms. Small and delayed the item.

### **2. Continued Discussion of Letter Regarding Co-applicability of the Site-based, School-based Management System; Broward County School System's Code of Conduct and Policies – Franco Ripple**

Vice Chair Ripple was not present, but Ms. Robinson stated that she received the letter from Vice Chair Ripple around 4:00 p.m. on this day and then forwarded it to the Board members. She noted it had not been sent to the Commission yet. Mr. Ludwick read the letter aloud.

Mr. Discepola recalled they were going to prepare the letter to be addressed to the School Board to be sent on behalf of the City Commission. He said that was why the signature was omitted.

Ms. Robinson reviewed that the letter would be submitted as an attachment to the Communication to the City Commission (from the previous meeting).

Ms. Bucolo brought up the last sentence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, stating that she did not know if it was factual in its reference to all schools not publishing their rules.

Mr. Discepola commented that they could approve a minor edit or two, although other members thought Vice Chair Ripple should approve the changes. Ms. Brinkworth noted that the letter is not coming from Vice Chair Ripple, but from the Board.

Ms. Brinkworth suggested changing the last sentence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph to read: "...sent home with students, we feel that it is equally as important that each school's individual site-based rules...."

**Motion** by Mr. Discepola, seconded by Ms. Halliday, to adopt that change to the letter. In a vote by roll call, the motion passed (8-2) as follows: Ms. Bucolo, yes; Ms. Cirillo,

yes; Ms. Clark, yes; Mr. Discepola, yes; Ms. Elijah, yes; Ms. Halliday, yes; Mr. Ludwick, no; Mr. Neunie, yes; Ms. Brinkworth, yes; Chair Lewis, no.

Ms. Robinson said that staff will make the necessary changes to the letter and forward the letter and the Communication to the City Commission.

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

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

##### **1) City Staff Liaison – Junia Robinson**

Ms. Robinson said that she contacted someone from the Broward Center for Performing Arts who will speak at the Board's meeting in March. Specifically, they will address the programs they have for the schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Robinson said she also contacted the Vice President (Ms. Bernie Schulz) from the Broward Teachers' Union (BTU), who will speak either at the April or May meeting.

Regarding the Superintendent visiting the Board, she remarked that on February 13, she went to the Coalition of Education Advisory Board meeting and spoke with the Superintendent. The Superintendent's Administrative Assistant expressed the desire for an email from the Board inviting the Superintendent and they will then advise.

Chair Lewis asked what the BTU would discuss, and Ms. Robinson responded that the Board had discussed having someone from the BTU talk about their organization. Mr. Ludwick suggested delaying the BTU representative's visit until closer to the end of the year due to more pressing issues.

Ms. Robinson noted she would take care of emailing the Superintendent's Assistant regarding a visit to the Board.

##### **2) Broward County School District – Update of Broward County Public School Budget Presentation – Charles Webster**

Mr. Webster reported that he has attended some of the Listening Tours and thought they were very good. He explained their origin. The Superintendent will take comments from his tour and incorporate them into the Strategic Plan he is creating.

Secondly, Mr. Webster spoke highly of the CEAB (Coalition of Education Advisory Boards) meeting. Representatives from all the Education Advisory Boards meet and share best practices, and hope to meet every quarter.

Mr. Webster provided the Board with printed copies of the "Take your Sales Tax to Work" cards.

Mr. Webster also had information about the numbers of computers: the District standard is a one:six computer to student ratio in every school. There are mobile, wireless laptops that can be used throughout the school on a wireless mobile card. Also, there may be computer labs and/or computers located in every Media Center. All Media Centers are also wireless enabled. One of their priorities is upcoming exams, which will be taken via laptops. He noted that the "Take your Sales Tax to School" revenue can only be used for technology and for teacher training to enable the technology.

Mr. Webster commented that a Redistricting Committee has been formed, and the first public meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, at the Casey Wright building.

Regarding the budget update, Mr. Webster said that the Budget Director noted that any speaker coming to the meeting will not address items that are awaiting approval from the Board. Therefore, the Director suggested that April might be a better time, as there would already have been one workshop with the School Board. Another issue is that the School Board cannot get started until the legislature has approved their budget.

Mr. Webster said that the School Board will partner with the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Fort Lauderdale on a project called Full Sales Fort Lauderdale 2012-2013. One hundred local artists will be commissioned to decorate two sailboats to be displayed and then auctioned off. Two schools will be involved, and the students will work with the artists.

Mr. Webster remarked that they are sending out a lot of information to the media, because the public had commented that they do not hear enough about what is happening.

Ms. Elijah had heard there was more money for "No Child Left Behind," and Mr. Webster said that he will look into it. There is also a change in requirements: the District was given a waiver on some of the requirements, which could be significant. The District will have to come up with some effective ways of measuring progress.

Ms. Clark asked if the District would be hiring more teachers, and Mr. Webster responded that was a major issue on the Listening Tour. He said the Superintendent would like to bring teachers back, especially on the specials, and he also hopes to fix the class size issue.

Ms. Clark emphasized the importance of books in children's lives, and the importance of having librarians at the schools.

Chair Lewis asked where the School District stood with the building of charter schools. Mr. Webster explained that they do not have a lot of say in the matter. He said that cities often do not know very far in advance if a charter school will be opening in their city, and subsequently they have problems such as traffic. He said that as soon as the County knows of an impending charter school, they now notify the appropriate city. Mr. Webster did note that Pembroke Pines is an example of where charter schools are doing very well.

Ms. Elijah asked how many School Board members would be up for re-election in August, and Mr. Webster said there would be probably six or seven. He noted that the appointed members do not fill the term, but serve just until the next election. Ms. Elijah wondered if that would be affected by redistricting, and Mr. Webster said that the redistricting is based on the census. It will not impact this election, but go into place for 2013.

Ms. Cirillo was curious how many new charter schools would open in the next year, and Mr. Webster said they are now at 76, and it will go up to 120. Ms. Cirillo said her school was only affected by two students leaving for charter school, but there are schools that might lose over 150 students. She felt it was not good for the County as a whole in terms of the budget impact.

Mr. Neunie remarked that the charter school students are still considered public school students. Ms. Cirillo understood that, but said that the funding for those students would no longer be with Broward County Public Schools.

### **3) Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – Betty Shelley**

Ms. Shelley remarked that she had attended the EAB Coalition meetings in the past when she served on this Board. She encouraged this Board to participate.

Ms. Shelley announced the following:

- Celebration at Carter Park for Black History Month.
- St. Patty's Day Parade March 10 - neighborhoods are being asked to march in the parade.
- Elections on March 13 for the District 1 and 4 Commissioners.

She invited Board members to attend CFLCA meetings on the second Tuesday of every month to see what different neighborhoods are doing.

Chair Lewis said the members of the Board need to get out in the communities and schools and be seen.

Ms. Elijah asked about the mission of the EAB Coalition besides sharing ideas. Mr. Webster answered that it is a “non-group group” that meets quarterly. It was intentionally unstructured and the agenda is very loose. He said it has fostered communication within the group, which is the overall purpose.

Ms. Halliday said she attended the last Coalition meeting and members were asked to bring a report (to the next meeting) of what each EAB had been doing. She said it was a very good meeting.

Ms. Elijah remarked that the City had been discussing “visions for schools,” and she asked Mr. Webster if he was aware of any direction on the suggestions from the School Board. He was not aware of anything, but Ms. Robinson will look into it.

Mr. Webster mentioned on February 28, the Parent Community Involvement Task Force will report to a School Board workshop.

Mr. Webster announced that Broward County beat Miami-Dade County at the Miami Heat Black History Month Rainbow Competition and that on February 23, those students will be recognized at the New York Knicks game.

Mr. Barnes informed the Board that Ms. Robinson is taking over as of tonight as staff liaison for the EAB, and he will sit in periodically.

#### **D. Communication to City Commission** (not addressed at this time)

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

- **Announcements**

Mr. Ludwick commented he assembled some ideas (in an email) that he would like to share with the Board for brainstorming and stimulation. He mentioned that the School Board will meet on February 29 at Plantation High School and consolidation is present in the minds of the principals. Mr. Webster said that the Board’s recommendation should be on the website under Departments/Boundaries.

Mr. Ludwick then distributed a list of bullet points for consideration:

- School marketing within the City
  - No budget for that
  - Obtain corporate sponsors
  - Mentoring
- Provide a link on the City’s website enabling principals of the City of Fort Lauderdale only to send updates and accomplishments of students and teachers by schools within the City boundaries
- Prepare a list of schools that have consistently shown improvement (focusing on reputation building)

- Change perceptions of years ago and make citizens aware of what is happening today
- Encourage constituents to attend boundary meetings at Plantation High
  - Eastern schools likely to be affected
  - City Commissioners need to communicate to constituents about the schools in their areas
- City vision plan must have an education component to develop in the 20-year plan
  - Perhaps the Board can come up with recommendations
- Questions for the Superintendent
  - Each member come up with four or five questions and funnel them to Ms. Robinson

Chair Lewis asked each member to add their thoughts to Mr. Ludwick's list.

Mr. Barnes commented that there is "Neighbor Support" on the City Manager's website, and any links can be easily added as desired. Regarding the Vision Plan, he said there will be an education component and Ms. Robinson will do research on the existing conditions of the schools. He said that this Board's input will be important to the Visioning Plan. He added that they are trying to coordinate the City Manager's Strategic Plan with the Visioning Plan.

Mr. Barnes continued that Board members are allowed to individually email Ms. Robinson at any time with suggestions, questions or ideas and those can be assembled for the next meeting if desired. He reminded the Board members that they cannot email each other due regarding Board business to Sunshine regulations.

Chair Lewis asked about the Board's minutes, and Mr. Barnes said they are not posted online until the Board votes on them, and then it takes 24 hours.

Ms. Elijah asked if they could discuss the questions for the Superintendent at their next meeting. Ms. Robinson said there will be a 30-minute presentation on the agenda, but they can still have an agenda item for the questions.

Mr. Ludwick asked for other agenda items. He suggested a report on the February 29 meeting of the School Board.

Ms. Shelley asked for a list to be sent to Board members of all the schools and principals in Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Cirillo emphasized how important it is for this Board to keep abreast of what is going on in the schools. She thought the marketing piece is very important, and noted that all schools were required to develop brochures, which are now done. She commended Mr. Ludwick for addressing the subject.



Mr. Ludwick reported that Ms. Robinson had sent out a list to the Board members called "The City of Fort Lauderdale Municipality Enrollment by Schools" (based on the 20<sup>th</sup> day terms enrollment). He urged all members to study it.

Ms. Elijah remarked that all 600 students at her community's school walk to school – there are no buses. She said that information would be important for parents moving into the community. Mr. Ludwick said the magnet students are not on the list, because it only lists students who have Fort Lauderdale addresses.

Ms. Halliday brought up mentoring, and said people have not been able to get approved for it. Mr. Webster responded that there had been procedural issues that have now been fixed.

Ms. Elijah asked how often the School Board sends updates regarding sex offenders in the different communities, and Ms. Cirillo said they get instant notification from the Sheriff's Department into the school's database. Mr. Webster said that fingerprinting may have to be done multiple times due to sharing limitations between different states.

Ms. Cirillo asked why mentors have to be fingerprinted every year, and Mr. Webster believed it was state law. He added he will find out.

Ms. Cirillo brought up one of Mr. Ludwick's points about changing perceptions, and said they used to invite realtors and members of the City Commission to tour the school. She said the Mayor has been to Bennett many times. She thought the City Commissioners should visit the schools often so they can see how good the schools are and be able to share that information.

Mr. Ludwick mentioned that he had invited the Chief of Police and staff who worked in the area where his school was located, and said that was one of the best things he ever did. He emphasized making it easy and welcoming for them.

Chair Lewis said she would also like the City Commissioners to attend a Board meeting.

Chair Lewis asked the Board which two items from Mr. Ludwick's list that they want to address at the next meeting. The following were suggested:

- Questions for superintendent
- Boundary meetings report from Mr. Ludwick

Ms. Robinson advised Mr. Ludwick to contact her with any information he wants to share with the Board. She would then forward it to the Board. Ms. Robinson reviewed that for the next meeting, they have the 30-minutes presentation from the Broward Performing Arts and the two items from Mr. Ludwick's list.

Ms. Cirillo asked for the procedure to submit links to the Fort Lauderdale website. Mr. Barnes suggested she send links to Ms. Robinson for review, and if appropriate, they will set up a link to the Neighbor Support website.

**Communication to City Commission (Pending approval by clerk)**

**Motion** by Ms. Cirillo, seconded by Mr. Discepola, that the Board invite the City Commissioners to visit the schools in their districts openly at any time before the month of April, and then attend the EAB meeting in the month of April. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Webster noted that the elected officials need to schedule with the principals prior to visiting. He clarified that elected officials have to get approval from the Superintendent's office according to an old policy.

Ms. Clark remarked that April is a "rough month," as they have FCAT.

Ms. Cirillo withdrew her motion.

**Motion** by Ms. Cirillo, seconded by Mr. Discepola, to invite the City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale to make an appointment to visit all of the schools in their respective districts, and to visit the Education Advisory Board during the year. In a voice vote, the motion passed 9-1, with Mr. Neunie opposed.

Mr. Neunie verified that "all schools" also referred to night school, charter schools, etc. He thought that would be a burden for them to make appointments for all of the schools. Mr. Webster said there may be a more efficient way of handling that, and he would try to get a blanket pre-approval.

Mr. Discepola mentioned that they had previously tabled a discussion regarding charter schools for the March meeting. He suggested putting it back on the agenda.

**F. Next Meeting and Closing**

- **Location and Date: City Hall, March 15, 2012**

Ms. Bucolo noted that the next meeting will occur during Spring Break and Chair Lewis asked if anyone wanted to change the date, but Chair Lewis decided to keep the regular schedule.

Hearing no further business, Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.