

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	APRIL 2011-APRIL 2012	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	10	0
Vice Chair Franco Ripple	P	7	3
Heather Brinkworth	A	2	1
Theresa Bucolo	A	8	2
Vincent Cella	A	5	5
Catherine Cirillo	A	8	2
Laura Clark	A	6	4
Joseph Discepola	P	7	3
Edna Elijah	P	8	2
Roland Foulkes	P	7	3
Nancy Green (arr. 6:41 p.m.)	P	5	5
Trisha Halliday	P	8	2
Cici Kelly	A	3	4
Chester Ludwick	P	5	0
Wayne Neunie	P	2	0
Dr. Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	7	3
Austin Scott (arr. 6:30 p.m.)	P	3	2
Lillian Small (arr. 6:39 p.m.)	P	8	3

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

Staff

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

Students

None.

Communication to City Commission

Motion by Mr. Discepola, seconded by Ms. Elijah, to accept the reworded language of the January 19, 2012, minutes regarding the Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Determination of quorum

As of this date, March 15, 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 6:31 p.m.

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

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

- **Approve Minutes (February 16, 2012) - No action at this time**

Vice Chair Ripple thanked the Board for their work on his letter last month. He also commended Mr. Ludwick for his suggestions regarding Board direction.

[Mr. Scott arrived at 6:35 p.m.]

It was noted there still was no quorum, so no vote could be taken at this time.

- **Guest Introductions: Sharon Brooks, Director of Education, Broward Center for Performing Arts**

Ms. Brooks distributed an Education Report for the prior school year. She noted there was an insert that showed some statistics for the current academic year.

Ms. Brooks began a PowerPoint presentation at 6:37 p.m., which she described as a “thumbnail” of the booklet she distributed.

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

[Ms. Green arrived at 6:41 p.m.]

Ms. Brooks concluded her PowerPoint presentation at 6:49 p.m.

In response to a question by Mr. Scott, Ms. Brooks said they have had SEAS Concerts at auxiliary venues including Parker Playhouse, Miramar Cultural, and Aventura Arts and Cultural.

Mr. Foulkes asked Ms. Brooks if she would give the same presentation to the Diversity Committee from the School Board. Ms. Brooks said they would be starting a Bullying program through the Arts piece.

Vice Chair Ripple complimented the SEAS program and asked about students who have gone through the Cappies program. Ms. Brooks said some go on to journalism and some go into the performing arts. She said they are having a performance May 15, and she would be happy to have the Board members attend as special guests.

Vice Chair Ripple was curious what programs were most popular from the student perspective and from the faculty perspective. Ms. Brooks responded that Little Monster Tales is very popular with the children, but she said it is difficult to pick a most popular program. She added that the programs are set up so that the children want to go to the library afterwards to get more information.

- **Approve Minutes (February 16, 2012)**

It was noted that a quorum was now present.

Motion by Vice Chair Ripple, seconded by Ms. Elijah, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012, minutes as read. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Student Members to the Education Advisory Board

None present.

C. Current Business

1. Feedback from Boundary Meeting at Plantation High – Chester Ludwick

Mr. Ludwick said there was low attendance, and the agenda indicated in advance there would be few changes made. He said they went through each level and Virginia Truman Young was the only school affected – Bennett would be taking just a few of their students. There were no changes at the middle or high school levels.

Mr. Ludwick felt that the Superintendent had done the right thing in letting the schools know they have one year to bolster their PTAs and get their information together.

2. Discuss/Prepare questions for Superintendent

Mr. Foulkes asked about the origin of the list of questions in their packets, and Mr. Ludwick said that was his list (of five questions) and was presented as an idea.

Mr. Ludwick said that his questions #1 and #2 were based on comments and questions from teachers. Questions #3 and #4 reflected concerns of community members. He mentioned that his concern about #4 was that the ineffective staff are moved to other schools. Mr. Ludwick said that Question #5 was his personal question, and he wanted to know how Superintendent Runcie would address that issue.

Mr. Foulkes was curious how the word “ineffective” would be defined in Questions #3 and #4, and thought that should be clarified in the question. Mr. Ludwick said it referred to students who do not perform well, and teachers who are not producing as they should in their schools. He added that the School Board has a specific process to remove teachers from the classroom. Mr. Foulkes asked that those explanations be added to the two questions.

Ms. Elijah thought the principals would be documenting teachers’ performance as part of their evaluation. Chair Lewis said sometimes principals overlook the ineffectiveness of teachers.

Mr. Neunie asked how the questions would be posed and what the Board was trying to accomplish. Chair Lewis responded that they plan to pose these questions to the Superintendent when he attends a Board meeting.

Mr. Discepola asked if this would be a document submitted to the Superintendent prior to his attending a meeting, or if they are collectively agreeing to ask these questions when he is attending. Chair Lewis said that will be decided at this meeting. Mr. Discepola commented that if the questions are submitted to him in advance, the questions should be refined. If they are just for topics for discussion, he did not feel there was a need to examine them that closely.

Mr. Foulkes agreed with #5 and had a proposed #6: “What is the District planning to do to close suspension and arrest gaps between black and white students?” He explained there is an “inordinate number” of black students being arrested and suspended, and many of them being arrested for things for which they should not be arrested.

Mr. Discepola wondered if there was well documented evidence to support Mr. Foulkes statement, and Mr. Foulkes said there was.

Mr. Scott had a proposed question about athletic facilities, noting that the Broward County Parks and Recreation does not have much land in the eastern part of the County and those Capital Improvement Projects are the first to get shelved. Mr. Scott said that sometimes partnering works well to answer this problem. His question was: “What role does he see for the schools partnering with Parks and Recreation departments in various cities, and what are his plans for school athletic facilities?”

Mr. Ludwick wondered if they could get information from the people working on those projects. Mr. Scott suggested finding out what the Superintendent might be missing in the process and offering to help.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned that the Facilities and Construction Department would be involved in handling the matter, and the Superintendent is going to be making changes in that area due to problems in that department. He suggested asking what that Department would be doing to open up the facilities for public use.

Mr. Scott clarified an earlier comment, saying that the City has not owned an artificial all weather surface rubber track since they removed the one at Lockhart Stadium 15 years ago. There are discussions underway to install one at Carter Park.

Vice Chair Ripple was concerned that many of the questions apply to not only Fort Lauderdale schools, but also to area schools. He felt that since they are a City board they should come up with questions pertaining specifically to Fort Lauderdale. He said he had some questions, but noted they also could pertain to surrounding schools:

- Effective use of affordable technology in classrooms
- Ensure with fiscal accounting that teachers will not be laid off
- Bullying prevention program as it relates to race, gender, sexual orientation and all manners of bullying
- Profile of where schools stand as related to coastal and tidal inundation

Discussion ensued about how many questions they should ask the Superintendent.

Ms. Robinson clarified that she had sent an email invitation to the Superintendent's office, and she spoke with his assistant earlier on this day. The assistant confirmed receipt of the invitation, but said that he has received invitations from all of the Education Advisory Boards and it is not known when he will visit. She suggested that when he does visit, they should clear the agenda for that meeting and try not to overwhelm him so he will look favorably upon returning.

Vice Chair Ripple suggested reminding the Superintendent that this Board is in the County Seat. He also suggested consolidating questions into topic areas. Mr. Ludwick added they could develop a list of concerns or questions and email that to Ms. Robinson, who would, in turn, email it to the Superintendent's office. He thought some of the questions could be addressed in an email reply. Ms. Robinson suggested waiting to do that until they hear back from the Superintendent.

Ms. Elijah noted they should review the suggestions from Ms. Brinkworth.

Ms. Robinson reminded the Board that the Budget Director from the School Board will be speaking at their April meeting.

Mr. Discepola thought they should notify the Superintendent in advance of the topics, so that he can come prepared to the meeting.

Mr. Foulkes wanted to know his findings from all the schools the Superintendent has visited, and the status of his strategic plan. He will also have a new organizational chart coming out in June or July. Mr. Foulkes thought those three topics might answer all of their specific questions, and, if not, invite him back for a second meeting. He added that if the Superintendent could not make a second meeting, then perhaps his Chief of Staff could attend.

It was suggested that all principals and the City Commission should be invited to the initial meeting.

Vice Chair Ripple reviewed that they would send a list of questions to the Superintendent for written response in advance of the meeting, and then when he visits, it would to provide updates on the three specific areas mentioned by Mr. Foulkes. Perhaps also there would a short list of topic-based questions to ask him.

Chair Lewis commented that the Superintendent may have things he wants to talk about, and the Board would like to hear those comments. She did not know if there would be time to ask him further questions.

Mr. Foulkes now said to forget the second meeting, and concentrate on getting the Superintendent there once and focusing on the three topics he mentioned earlier. Following that meeting, he suggested the Board devise a final list of questions to send on to him.

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Ms. Small, to invite the Superintendent first as an introductory piece, with the focus on 1) his findings from his District schools tour, 2) the status of his strategic plan, and 3) the status of the reorganization that he is currently undertaking. Vice Chair Ripple put forward the following amendment: In addition to inviting him to address the Board on those topics, that the Board submits a list of questions for his consideration in answering. Mr. Foulkes accepted the amendment. In a vote by roll call, the amended motion passed unanimously as follows (11-0): Mr. Discepola, yes; Ms. Elijah, yes; Mr. Foulkes, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Ms. Halliday, yes; Mr. Ludwick, yes; Mr. Neunie, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Small, yes; Vice Chair Ripple, yes; Chair Lewis, yes.

Chair Lewis commented it would be beneficial if they would let him know some of the Board's concerns in advance.

Mr. Ludwick said that budgetary issues need to be addressed foremost.

Ms. Robinson asked Board members to send their questions/comments via email or fax to her to categorize in a list. She will then email that back to the Board. If there is something they want changed, she asked the members to email it back to her, not another Board member. Ms. Robinson said she will make those changes and then resend the list to the Board members.

Ms. Robinson reiterated that budget questions can be addressed next month to the Budget Director. Mr. Foulkes offered to email any budget information he obtains to Ms. Robinson.

3. Reports/Updates/Discussion

a) Reports & Updates

1) City Staff Liaison – Junia Robinson

Ms. Robinson announced Rebecca McMann, Director of Budget, has accepted the Board's invitation to speak at the April meeting.

She also mentioned that the EAB meeting for May 17 will be cancelled due to the Broward County Public Schools Redistricting public meeting. The meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers.

Mr. Foulkes elaborated that the Redistricting Steering Committee will be convening public hearings in each of the seven districts and will also hold a series of mapping workshops for the public to be involved in the map making in setting up new districts for the School Board. He had recommended that the EAB should host one of these hearings and that is what is happening in May (the hearing is for District 3). Mr. Foulkes explained that the District has taken steps to avoid past mistakes in the redistricting process. He continued that the Steering Committee will make their recommendations to the School Board in November or December, and then the Board will make the final decision.

Ms. Robinson announced that Ms. Leach will be visiting at the April Education Advisory Board meeting, and asked for just a few minutes to speak. She will not be making a presentation.

Ms. Robinson also announced that due to budget cuts, the City has decided to cut most of the Advisory Boards' minute taking, including this Board. This meeting will be the last meeting with minute taking by Prototype. She clarified that minutes will be taken, but not through Prototype.

Mr. Barnes clarified also that minutes will be taken, and the tapes will be maintained. The tapes will be the primary record keeping vehicle insofar as discussion that takes place. The minutes will be very limited: they will follow the agenda, motions and votes will be documented, but discussion will be referred to very briefly.

Mr. Foulkes wished to recognize Ms. Chiappetta for her work with the Board.

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Vice Chair Ripple, that the Education Advisory Board of Fort Lauderdale recognizes Ms. Chiappetta for her longstanding service as the minute keeper of this body, and wishes her the best of luck and best success in the future. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2) Broward County School District – Charles Webster (not present)

3) Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – Betty Shelley

Ms. Shelley mentioned that Gene Dempsey, who is the City Forrester, gave a good presentation at the Council meeting on the White Fly, which is destroying the Gumbo Limbo. He said not to use anything dangerous to get rid of them, but to just wash the leaves off. For further information on that issue, send an email to gdempsey@fortlauderdale.gov.

Ms. Shelley also announced that Ms. Leach spoke to the Council and answered many questions about the School Board.

Ms. Shelley reported that the Police Department said there have been many car thefts and break-ins throughout the City. They said, "If you see something, say something." Suspicious activity should be reported to 1-855-FLA-SAFE.

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

E. New/Future Business

- **Announcements**

Ms. Elijah said the Chief of Police has scheduled meetings with communities all over the City.

Mr. Scott was curious how many students in their high school years have dual enrollment with programs connected with FAU and Broward College. He was also concerned about the School Board's relationship with Broward College, especially in the NOVA area. He mentioned that he had read a newspaper article which said they may be tearing down a high rise FAU-Broward College shared building. He wondered if they could get an update on that.

Vice Chair Ripple said they should be concerned with that issue, as their mission is not restricted to K-12 education.

Mr. Ludwick commented that the minutes are very easy to read, and commented to Ms. Robinson that he felt they are part of a business and liked the way the meeting has been run.

Mr. Foulkes announced there are bags on the table for each Board member from the 2012 Broward County Youth Summit held last week. The guest speaker, Dr. Geoffrey Canada, was from the Harlem Children's Zone in New York. There is interest in Broward County in replicating his successful schools. There is information about that and also the Broward's Children's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned another youth summit to be held March 22-24 at the FAU campus in Davie.

Mr. Foulkes announced in January the Superintendent's CCC annual update was published and workshopped by the School Board. The Diversity Committee is now writing their response to it, which should be workshopped in May or June.

Mr. Foulkes brought up the digital issues and said by 2015 all textbooks will be online. The District's Technology Advisory Committee set up a Digital Divide subcommittee and it has been meeting to determine outcomes for students whose families cannot afford internet access. In order to graduate, all students must complete one online course. He will share updates with this Board.

D. Communication to City Commission

- **Approve Communication to Commission Jan 19th minutes**

Mr. Barnes noted they have to approve the minutes of the January 19 meeting. He clarified that the City asked for an administrative revote on the letter that went to the School Board. The City Commission addressed the letter March 6, and approved the letter to move forward. However, the language in the Communication was not clear as far as to what the City Commission was being asked to do, so he took the liberty just to rewrite the Communication, which was emailed to the Education Advisory Board. Mr. Barnes summarized the new Communication: the Board would draft a letter, send it to the City Commission, ask the City Commission to review the letter and if they agree with it, to forward it on to the School Board under their authority and recommendation. He reiterated that the letter has been sent to the School Board, but they need the vote for administrative recordkeeping.

Motion by Mr. Discepola, seconded by Ms. Elijah, to accept the reworded language of the January 19, 2012, minutes regarding the Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barnes announced that the Board's Communication inviting the City Commission to visit the schools will be heard by the City Commission on March 20, 2012.

E. New/Future Business (already addressed)

- **Announcements**

F. Next Meeting and Closing

- **Location and Date: City Hall, April 19, 2012**

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Lewis at 8:29 p.m.

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