

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013 – 6:30 P.M.**

| <b>Members</b>                       | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>April 2012-APRIL 2013</b> |               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
|                                      |                   | <b>Present</b>               | <b>Absent</b> |
| Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair           | P                 | 7                            | 0             |
| Gregory T. Boardman                  | P                 | 4                            | 3             |
| Heather Brinkworth                   | P                 | 5                            | 2             |
| Laura Clark                          | A                 | 4                            | 3             |
| Joseph Discepola                     | P                 | 5                            | 2             |
| Idan Eckstein                        | P                 | 4                            | 0             |
| Edna Elijah                          | P                 | 7                            | 0             |
| William Exemar (arrived at 6:35)     | P                 | 1                            | 0             |
| Elaine Fiore                         | A                 | 2                            | 3             |
| Trisha Halliday                      | P                 | 5                            | 2             |
| Susan L. Ledbetter (arrived at 6:43) | P                 | 4                            | 1             |
| Chester Ludwick                      | P                 | 7                            | 0             |
| Wayne Neunie                         | P                 | 4                            | 3             |
| Dr. Maureen Persi                    | P                 | 5                            | 2             |
| Austin Scott                         | P                 | 5                            | 2             |
| Angela Sebaly                        | P                 | 1                            | 1             |
| Lillian Small                        | P                 | 5                            | 2             |

**Appointed Members to the Board: 17  
Needed to constitute a quorum: 9**

**Staff**

Junia Robinson, Neighbor Support and Staff Liaison  
Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)

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

Mr. Discepola agreed to represent the Education Advisory Board (EAB) to clarify the Historic Preservation of trees (if necessary).

- I. Opening** - Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.
- II. Roll Call**

### **Determination of quorum**

As of this date, February 21, 2013 there are 17 members to the Board, which means 10 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

1. Motion by Mr. Eckstein, seconded by Ms. Smalls that the said minutes be approved. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Introduction of New Members:**

**Angela Sebaly** introduced herself to the board.

**William Exemar** introduced himself to the board.

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

1. No students were present to report

Staff Liaison, Junia Robinson addressed the board to provide an update on the status of the letters sent to school Principals for Student members. Ms. Robinson said letters were mailed and she has heard back from Stranahan, Dillard and Fort Lauderdale High Schools. Principals at these schools have committed to having sophomore and junior student representation. Letters were also mailed to Private schools but she has not heard back from them. Ms. Robinson will continue to follow up with the Private schools to gain student participation.

Chair Lewis asked for any suggestions or comments from the Board on how to gain interest in high school students.

Mr. Exemar suggested that physically going to schools and formally inviting students. He volunteered to be a Liaison and going to the schools and speaking to the Youth to spark interest.

Mr. Ludwick said students are busy and have a lot to do and suggests the board make contact with a school point person. This person can be an Assistant Principal or designee who can answer phone calls or respond to requests on behalf of the Principal. Ms. Elijah suggests the Board set up community service hours for students who attend the meetings. Ms. Smalls said community service hours were offered to students in the

past. She continued to say the suggestions made by Mr. Exemar and Mr. Ludwick to make personal contact with students at the school and having a point person at the school to specifically will work to stimulate interest.

Dr. Lewis asked for suggestions to develop student interest once they start attending the meetings. Dr. Persi suggests students could report out to some of the positive activities happening at their schools. The board can give students a time limit to give presentations.

Mr. Ludwick added to Dr. Persi's comment saying students can put together an email when they cannot attend and forward to Ms. Robinson to provide feedback from the schools. This will open the line of communication and the board will know on a monthly basis what is happening in the schools.

Mr. Eckstein brought up bullying and suggests that students can report about topics related to bullying.

Ms. Smalls suggests that board members be mentors to students which will provide a relationship/ kinship with board members and students, which could make them, feels more comfortable.

Dr. Persi commented that the board should not overstep their bounds and this should not be a gripe session. The board should not oversee the Principal or the Assistant Principal's job. The board should listen and suggest timely topics but should not go where it is not the boards' responsibility.

Ms. Elijah asked after hearing the various comments, what suggestions are going to be implemented? Ms. Elijah continued to suggest that any comments or thoughts be written and given to Ms. Robinson for Mr. Exemar to relay to the students/school.

Ms. Smalls says final analysis will be for Board members to send any comments or thoughts to Junia Robinson regarding the student member participation.

## **V. Current Business**

1. Ms. Edna Elijah provided an update on the Superintendents' meeting and the listening tour. Ms. Elijah gave a detailed account of the Student Success Opportunity Schools which includes the following City schools: Lauderdale Manors Elementary,

Sunland Park Elementary and Arthur Ashe Middle. According to Ms. Elijah's report, some of the options for these schools include:

- District-managed turnaround school
- Reassign students and monitor progress (closure)
- Close and reopen as a charter school (restart)
- Contract with a private entity to run the school (restart)
- Hybrid Model (combination of above models)

Ms. Elijah continued to provide an update to the Board on the various models mentioned and provided an explanation for each model.

Ms. Elijah also provided an update on the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting (1:30 PM) with Superintendent Runcie and Mr. Desmond Blackburn, who is in charge of performance for all of BCPS. Superintendent Runcie's office invited a representative from the Education Advisory Board to meet with him. The Board selected Ms. Elijah to attend the meeting with the Superintendent. According to Ms. Elijah the meeting was a follow up of the topics addressed above and the direction the BCPS is going with reaching out to the community. In the meeting, Ms. Elijah says the Superintendent said "I am all about the children. I would like to give the students an opportunity to progress in the school system". Ms. Elijah says Superintendent Runcie said "the children and teachers need to be able to better communicate".

Ms. Elijah asked Mr. Webster to clarify rumors circulating in the community that the school board has already sent the proposal to the State regarding the student success opportunity schools.

Mr. Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison addressed the board by saying he is not sure if the BCPS's proposal was sent to the state. He did say that the proposal has not gone in front of the School board. Mr. Webster said the Superintendent did express that if the school board is not ready, they would be late in submitting their proposal to the State. Mr. Webster continued to provide an update of the recent discussions in the school board. He also encouraged the Board to attend/participate in the design meetings with Ms. Elijah and others. He says this is truly a partnership collaborating with Children Service Council, Broward Health, and the Community. He continued to say, everyone is a stakeholder in working with our children.

Chair Lewis, thanked Ms. Elijah for attending the design meetings and other scheduled meetings in the community. Mr. Webster thanked the Board for attending the meeting at the New Hope Baptist Church.

Ms. Angela Sebaly commented that she attended the New Hope meeting and was very impressed with the meeting. She continued to say, systemically this approach is fantastic. Ms. Sebaly says she is excited to see what we are doing now to address this problem. Ms. Sebaly asked, what is the EAB's role in the design team meeting and what happens from here?

Ms. Elijah replied saying the design teams are split in different categories and are open for suggestions from the community to get input and feedback. She continued to say they have classes for transitions, grants and a variety of different things that will feed into what's going to happen when they re-start the schools.

Mr. Webster said, this entire process has been the Bobby DuBose, Dr. Osgood and the Superintendent show because they have been out in the community. The involvement for this Board is to make suggestions and the purpose of the design team (8), one for each school and one for staffing, is to bring folks in and provide input. These teams are taking nothing and building what these schools are going to be. He said all of this is new and is falling at one time, we need buy in and the purpose for the Design teams is to create something from nothing.

Mr. Boardman commended Ms. Elijah for attending all the meetings. He asked Mr. Webster if it's the Superintendents intent, should the schools get an A, would they still close. Mr. Webster replied, yes, this is going to happen regardless. Mr. Boardman also asked if Wingate Oaks (special needs school) and Sunset are slated to close?

Mr. Webster said they are going to close but will provide additional information at the next meeting.

Ms. Robinson read a letter from Ms. Brinkworth (who was absent). The letter encouraged the Board to attend and participate in the design team meetings. She attended the January 24<sup>th</sup>, design team meeting at Dillard High school. Ms. Brinkworth joined the team for grants and cooperate partnerships.

Mr. Webster encouraged the board to visit the School Board website which includes the redistricting changes.

Ms. Betty Shelley gave an update on the Council of Civic Associations' announcements and meeting.

#### **VI. New/Future Business**

Mr. Boardman asked the Board if he can have 5 minutes at the next meeting to give an update on the status of the New Fort Lauderdale High School.

#### **VII. Next Meeting and Closing**

Location and Date: City Hall, March 21, 2013