

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2013 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	April 2013-APRIL 2014	
		Present	Absent
Heather Brinkworth, Chair	P	5	0
Chester Ludwick, Vice-Chair	P	3	2
Gregory T. Boardman	P	3	2
Dwight W. Berry	A	0	1
Idan Eckstein	P	3	2
Edna Elijah	P	5	0
William Exemar	A	2	3
Trisha Halliday	A	3	2
Susan L. Ledbetter	A	3	2
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	3	2
Wayne Neunie	A	2	3
Dr. Maureen Persi	A	3	2
Austin Scott	A	2	3
Lillian Small	A	2	3
Shelby Smith	P	4	0
Ben Sorensen	A	2	3

Appointed Members to the Board: 16

Needed to constitute a quorum: 9

Staff

Junia Robinson, Neighbor Support and Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)

I. Opening - Chair Brinkworth

Attendance by Roll Call – Staff Liaison David Soloman

At this time, there was no quorum.

Approve minutes (September 2013) – No action at this time

II. Student Member updates -

- Aya Ikematsu gave a report regarding her SAT exams and scores from the previous year. Aya also gave a brief explanation on the SAT/ACT scores for college entrance.

It was noted that a quorum was now present.

Motion by Mrs. Elijah, seconded by Mrs. Halliday, to approve the minutes of September 19, 2013. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Brinkworth suggested that student members should have the option to leave the meetings early, if necessary. She said she noticed student attendance has dropped and Aya is the only student present this evening.

Motion by Mrs. Elijah, seconded by Mr. Boardman that the students are permitted to leave the meetings at 7:30 p.m., after giving their student updates. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously passed.

III. **Current Business**

1. Review future goals and objectives

Chair Brinkworth began by reading the purpose of the Education Advisory Board (EAB). She also clarified that goals are broad and objectives are narrow. Chair Brinkworth asked that the Board goes over the list provided by Staff Liaison (Junia Robinson) to determine the overarching goals and objectives.

Dr. Persi said that these are not goals but are more for the Board of education.

Vice-Chair Ludwick said that he was not clear on goals and objectives but the thoughts on the list should be provoking enough for brainstorming.

Chair Brinkworth asks if there are any other comments from the board regarding the list of goals and objectives.

Mrs. Elijah addressed the board by saying she is pleased with the list. She said that she hopes one of the emphases will be the failing schools and the schools that are in jeopardy at the end of the year.

Mrs. Elijah continued by saying, the board should remain updated and involved as it relates to the status of these schools by working with school staff.

Chair Brinkworth supports Mrs. Elijah's comments by saying; one of the goals should be to remain updated on the status of the schools that are in jeopardy or those that are failing. Chair Brinkworth says one of the goals of the board is to remain updated. She says sometimes the board is not given the information in enough time to say or do anything.

Mr. Idan Eckstein said he met with his Commissioner who asked him what the board does. He said he was a bit embarrassed, because he was not sure what the board does. He continued by saying, he is part of the board because he likes the updates. Mr. Eckstein said, the Commissioner replied by saying "I am confused on what's your role". Mr. Eckstein said the Commissioner does not necessarily deal with education because he is a City Commissioner. Mr. Eckstein continued by saying, he wonder if the Board's purpose is to let the Commissioners know about things related to education. He asked for clarification to better understand this matter.

Chair Brinkworth responded by saying that when there is something related to education such as; concerns or accolades, the board should communicate this information to the City Commission. She continued by saying, if there is something that will benefit the schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale, then the board should communicate this to the City Commission. The board should keep the City commission updated on what's happening in the City schools.

Mr. Boardman asked if at the City Commission meeting if there was time set aside for advisory boards to give reports.

Ms. Shelley responded by saying, "not to give reports, but what advisory boards do, they include in their minutes, something that they are very much interested in and want the City Commission to review". She continued by saying, Commissioners receive all boards' minutes and review them. They can bring up the item up at the Conference or at Commission meetings.

Mr. Boardman suggested that the Board consider being on the Commission agenda on a monthly/regular basis to give at least a two minute update.

Mrs. Elijah remarked that when the Board has an issue that needs to be taken to the City Commission, it should go to David (or Staff Liaison) and through him information gets to the Commission.

She continued by saying, she does not feel it is a good idea to bring forth matters to the Commission on a monthly basis. Mrs. Elijah emphasized that there are a lot of advisory boards in the City and that would be a lot of information at a Commission meeting.

Mr. Shelby reiterated comments expressed by Mrs. Elijah that the Commission reads the minutes and the board should follow the procedures currently in place. He continued by saying “the board is simply here to gather and educate the Commission”. Mr. Shelby expressed that the board should communicate matters that are serious to the Commission.

Chair Brinkworth asked if the board should continue with the goals and objectives. She expressed goals and objectives are necessary for work to be done.

Mr. Wayne Neunie agreed with Chair Brinkworth that the Boards’ main goal is to advise the City Commission. He suggests that the Board should “keep it simple”. Vice-Chair Ludwick remarked that the goals and objectives are already established under the purpose of the Board. He continued by saying the board should focus on education and the problems and issues that are happening in City schools.

Mr. Boardman advised that he wanted to give the Board a bigger voice. He says has a lot to offer being that he is in charge of the facilities for all the schools.

Mrs. Elijah commented that too many schools are failing and the Board needs to find out why so many kids are not learning.

Dr. Persi suggested that Mr. Webster, Mr. Boardman and others with pertinent information should give their reports at the beginning of the meeting.

Chair Brinkworth corroborated by saying “students give their presentations then Mr. Webster and then Mr. Boardman or any other board member who has

attended an event that can bring back information regarding education in the City of Fort Lauderdale”.

Motion by Mr. Neunie, seconded by Mrs. Elijah to reorganize the agenda having the students make their reports first and may be dismissed, and then having Mr. Webster makes his report up front and then anyone else that has information to share with the Board send to Ms. Robinson to be included on the agenda. In a voice vote, the motion unanimously passed.

2. A. City Staff report – David Soloman – no updates to report

B. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association report – Betty Shelley

Ms. Shelley reported that the Council is very interested in hearing reports from the EAB. Ms. Shelley expressed that many neighborhoods were not aware of the failing schools.

C. BCPS report – Charles Webster

Mr. Webster thanked everyone who attended the ED Talk event hosted by BCPS at the Broward County convention center. He also announced upcoming meetings for State option plans priority schools. These are schools that have earned an F grade and needs some sort of intervention by the district. Mr. Webster says he understands that there are two Fort Lauderdale schools, Rock Island and Westwood Heights. Mr. Webster explained the various options given by the State for the school district. Some of these options include shutting down the school or turn it to a charter school. Mr. Webster will notify the Board when the meetings in the community will take place.

D. Communication to City Commission

Chair Brinkworth asked if the Board should ask the City to include the list of City schools in the City website. She shared that she was unable to find a list of schools on the City’s website and thinks it would be a good marketing tool. City Staff representative David Soloman expressed that the City is currently revamping the website and he could inquire about adding a list of City schools.

Mr. Boardman agreed to draft a Communication to the City Commission advising that the City include a list of accredited schools within City limits on the City's website.

Chair Brinkworth discussed the possibility for Board members to visit other City EAB meetings to "listen- in" on what they are doing. She continued by suggesting that Board members do tours at Schools in their neighborhood.

Chair Brinkworth announced that a new Board member was appointed by the Mayor at Tuesday's Commission meeting. The new member is Dwight Berry.

Mr. Boardman gave a quick update about the schools he is working on in the City: He noted new furniture is being moved into Fort Lauderdale high school and the administrators' site is being relocated to another building and three big buildings will be torn down. There will be major visible improvements within the next three to four months. The plan is to move everyone in by the Thanksgiving holiday. Stranahan High school had some new renovations a new track, a new score board and maintenance improvements. Over \$600,000 was spent on Stranahan high to spruce it up a little bit. At Harbordale, they are working on a single point of entry. There are a group of alumni's that are willing to donate a million dollars to Fort Lauderdale high school to build a stadium. The problem is the Middle river terrace neighborhood is very vocal and they do not want a stadium in their neighborhood.

IV. New/Future Business

V. Next Meeting and Closing

Location and Date:

City Hall: 8th floor Conference room

November 21, 2013