

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	April 2013-APRIL 2014	
		Present	Absent
Heather Brinkworth, Chair	P	6	0
Chester Ludwick, Vice-Chair	P	4	2
Dwight W. Berry	A	0	2
Gregory T. Boardman	A	3	3
Idan Eckstein	P	4	2
Edna Elijah	P	6	0
William Exemar	A	2	4
Trisha Halliday	P	4	2
Susan L. Ledbetter	A	3	3
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	3	3
Wayne Neunie	A	2	4
Dr. Maureen Persi	P	4	2
Catherine Pliess	P	1	0
Austin Scott	A	2	4
Lillian Small	A	2	4
Shelby Smith	A	4	1
Ben Sorensen	P	3	3

Appointed Members to the Board: 17

Needed to constitute a quorum: 10

Staff

Sheri Roberts, Neighbor Support and Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)

I. Opening - Chair Brinkworth

II. Attendance by Roll Call – Staff Liaison Junia Robinson
At this time, there was no quorum.

Introduction of new member: Catherine Pliess

III. Approve minutes (October 17, 2013) – No Quorum

IV. Student Members updates:

- Jazzmyne Pearson – Westminster Academy
- Kent Haeffner – PineCrest School

V. BCPS update – Charles Webster

- Mr. Webster announced the weekly updates to include a Principal and an Assistant Principal who are finalist for the State Principal and Assistant Principal of the year.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held this week for Dillard 6-12 at Dillard high school. Dillard high school for the first time, made it to an A school this year.
- Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness presented a proclamation to Mr. Chris Dorsey, Dillard high school jazz music Director.
- BCPS will be partnering with Code.org, National organization for coding, encouraging students to get involved and start writing code.
- NEWS: BCPS met with the League of cities for a joint legislative program. This was a good meeting; it gives the Board and the Executives the opportunity to share visions and concerns that impacts Cities and mandates regarding the quality of education.

Principal updates: Lisa Mays, Principal, Walker elementary school

- Walker elementary has about 560 students and is located on 4th street and 11th avenue, down the street from Mount Olive church.
- The school serves kids from 3 years old all the way to about 11 years old.
- One of 4 visual/performing arts schools in Broward County. They do many things in the neighborhoods such as the Saint Patrick's Day parade and Las Olas festivals.
- The school is 97% free and reduced lunch.
- Principal Mays invited the board to come visit the school.

Mrs. Elijah asked Principal Mays if there were students coming from the schools that were closed to Walker, specifically students from Lauderdale Manors and Sunland Park elementary.

Principal Mays responded by saying her school was impacted, about 50 children from both schools came to Walker. Most of the students were in the 4th and 5th grades. The kids have acclimated really well to the school.

Mr. Sorensen asked Principal Mays what are some of the challenges Walker faces right now.

Principal Mays responded by saying the School grade, Walker is currently a D school and took pride in the past of being a C school. Due to the change of the writing criteria, the school lost about 40 points. They are really trying to get the kids up to par with reading. Trying to increase literacy in the homes and putting a system in place. Working on getting mentors in the schools, specifically for the boys. Making sure the boys and girls have positive role models.

Walker elementary has an excellent partnership with their sister school Virginia Shuman Young who has adopted the school. The schools have book swaps where the kids turn in their gently used books to Walker. They donate the books to the school and for the past 3 years, Walker is able to give their students 3 books to take home to read.

Chair Brinkworth asked Principal Mays, what can the City of Fort Lauderdale do to assist Walker elementary?

Principal Mays replied, Walker has great partnerships with the City. She says Commissioner DuBose gave the school a brand new playground, with canopies and everything. The playground makes a huge impact because the kids have a safe area for recess. Principal Mays says the Principals of the zone use to meet with the City Manager to address whatever issues or concerns they had. She says this was very useful and served as an exchange of information between the City and the zone schools. She says she does not know why but they have not met in a while.

Junia Robinson, staff liaison says she will speak with the City Manager to inquire about the Principal zone meetings.

Chair Brinkworth offered to assist high school student volunteers through her job's reading mentoring program. She said this program is funded by the Department of education and material which includes: a mentor guide specifically designed for teenagers and a mentee workbook. Through the program they get free scholastic books. Chair Brinkworth offered to train Westminster students and inquire about getting them all the mentorship material.

Ms. Mays thanked the Board for having her and she looks forward to returning to another meeting.

VI. Member updates –

No member updates.

Mr. Webster announced the next Student Success Opportunity School meeting is scheduled for January 23rd at Arthur Ashe middle school at 6:00PM.

VII. Current business

Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison announced the upcoming Neighbor Support Night scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th from 6:00 PM – 8:30PM.

Chair Brinkworth asked the Board for a volunteer to draft a communication to Commission for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Ben Sorensen volunteered to prepare the communication draft.

Chester Ludwig asked when the City's website was going to be updated and completed.

Ms. Robinson says she will find out and get back with him.

Chair Brinkworth said at last month's meeting the Board discussed acknowledging a teacher for her 55 plus years of service at a Bayview elementary school.

She also mentioned Mrs. Elijah's point to acknowledge all teachers with years of service.

Mr. Webster reported that 5 teachers were found with 50 plus years' experience however; 3 of the teachers had service outside Broward County.

He said that leaves 2 teachers, according to the criteria that have 50 plus years total at Broward County schools.

Mr. Webster says the research has expanded to include not only teachers but all BCPS staff. He says his office will be working on this and will coordinate a meeting with Ms. Robinson and the City's Public affairs folks.

VIII. New Future Business

IX. Next Meeting and Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th, 2014
City Hall, 8th floor conference room.