



**MINUTES FOR BOARD – Approved Oct  
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.  
Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Eighth Floor Cafeteria

<u>Members</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>2007 Cumulative Attendance</u>		
		Total Present	Total Absent	Meetings To Date
1. Michael Bacigalupi	P	5	2	7
2. Pam Brown, Co-Chair	P	7	0	7
3. Gilbert Borrero	P	2	3	5
4. Connie Christensen	P	1	0	1
5. Elizabeth Hays	P	6	1	7
6. Helen Hinton	P	1	0	1
7. Leola McCoy	P	5	2	7
8. Shannon Prohaszka	A	2	3	5
9. Elaine Schulze	P	5	2	7
10. Niara Sudarkasa	P	4	3	7
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
<b>Total Members Present</b>		<b>9</b>		
Composition: 15 – Membership: 10 – Quorum: 8				
Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus	P			
Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	P			
Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison	P			
Betty Shelly, CFLCA Liaison	A			
Recording Secretary:				
<b>Guests</b>				

\*Note: Paula Haliczner, Janice Olsen, Harriet Mc Michen have Resigned/Declined Reappointment

**A. Opening - P. Brown and A. Bass**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brown at 6:50 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheet was passed around.

**B. Approve Minutes of April 2007, May, 2007 and June 2007.**

**Motion** made by Ms. Hays, seconded by Mr. Bacigalupi, to approve the minutes of the April, May and June 2007 meetings, pending final corrections to be made by Ms. McCoy and Ms. Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Welcome New Members - Hinton; Christensen**

Ms. Brown welcomed new Board member Connie Christensen. Ms. Christensen introduced herself and spoke of her background and qualifications.

Self introductions followed. New Board member Helen Hinton also spoke of her background and qualifications.

Ms. Brown welcomed new members and spoke briefly of the Board's goal to better educate the community's children. She explained that the Board is currently pursuing two main goals:

1. Improving parent involvement
2. Focusing on three specific schools inside the City - Sunland Park, Lauderdale Manors and Arthur Ashe.

Ms. Brown stated this Board was giving special focus to schools struggling with socioeconomic issues.

**B. Current Business**

**1. Co-Chair Elections**

Ms. Hays nominated Mr. Bacigalupi for Co-Chair. Mr. Bacigalupi declined the nomination.

Ms. Schulze nominated Dr. McCoy. Ms. McCoy accepted the nomination.

Mr. Borrero and Ms. Hays both volunteered to serve as Co-Chair.

Ms. Brown asked that each nominee speak briefly on what he/she would bring to the position of Co-Chair.

Mr. Borrero spoke of his involvement with Bennett Elementary School and Lauderdale High School.

Dr. McCoy spoke of her background and qualifications. She stated the Co-Chair must go after potential partnerships and use the Board's talents in the proper places.

Ms. Hays spoke of her consistency in serving on many subgroups and many projects carried out by this Board over the past 10 years.

Votes were cast by paper ballot and collected by Ms. Deaner. Ms. Deaner announced that Ms. McCoy had received the majority of votes for Co-Chair.

Ms. McCoy accepted the position of Co-Chair and thanked the Board for its confidence in her.

## **2. EAB Background Presentation (WIMG Conference – MLE)**

Ms. Carhart briefly ran through the PowerPoint presentation she had prepared for a workshop at the Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) Conference.

Copies of "Education in the City of Fort Lauderdale," and the WIMG presentation were distributed for the Board's reference.

The presentation was highlighted by following:

- The City's long history with public education
- Current elected officials who are alumni of the City's schools
- 80's – 90's background of the City's schools
- The efforts of education Committees to bring attention to schools
- The 1995 American Assembly focus on education which led to the creation of the City's Education Advisory Board
- History and early accomplishments of the Education Advisory Board
- The general history and information about the City's schools
- Highlights of the City's participation in the National League of Cities "Municipal Leadership in Education" project.

Ms. Carhart acknowledged that the City's schools were majority-minority. She referred to slides depicting the contrast in conditions and facilities between the City's struggling schools versus the suburban schools during the 70's-90's. She commented that while there was growth and rapid building of schools in the west, there had been a lack of (re) investment in schools in the east.

Ms. Deaner commented on how the City of Fort Lauderdale was chosen for this study and commended Ms. Carhart for her efforts. Co-Chair Brown commended Ms. Carhart for compiling the extensive data provided on the City's schools.

**C. Old/Ongoing Business**

**1. Sunland Park – Update**

Dr. McCoy spoke of a meeting held on July 24 at Carter Park with various City and state officials, the area Superintendent and the City's Assistant Chief. She reported that permission had to be received from the state to test wells in the City. She advised that as of one week ago, Carter Park was being retested.

Dr. McCoy spoke of recent efforts to address environmental challenges at Sunland Park School. She reported that an investigatory process was in place to look at old galvanized pipes that might still be in place. She reported that a state team had visited the school to determine levels of contamination at the site.

Dr. McCoy reported that her daughter had organized a reading group for the Sunland Elementary School.

Dr. McCoy commented that various schools had not been environmentally tested. She advised that the state had assured her of funding to clean up and test wells on the west side of Sunland Elementary School. Dr. McCoy advised she had spoken with Paul Shelton from the Department of Environmental Protection, who would provide air control data to her by the week of Labor Day.

Dr. McCoy commented that children from Sunland Park usually went on to Arthur Ashe Middle School. She stressed the need to address the cultural environment in these struggling schools along with improving the soil, water and air quality. She also spoke of the importance of family involvement in curing socioeconomic issues affecting this student population. Dr. McCoy wanted the Board to be very clear on its goals to help these schools.

Ms. Carhart distributed a spreadsheet handout entitled, "Fort Lauderdale Public Schools Enrollment." (2006 School Enrollment Data and 2007 School Grades)

Ms. Schulze stated she was at the meeting at Carter Park and commented on the impressive turnout of dignitaries and attentive community members in the audience.

Co-Chair Brown commended Dr. McCoy for her excellent work. Ms Deaner also thanked Dr. McCoy for her efforts concerning this school.

## **2. Parent Association – Update**

With regard to the parent association website initiative, Mr. Bacigalupi reported that both the City and the School District stated they could not host a website or provide links to their websites due to fear of inappropriate content. He suggested that Mr. Webster help move this forward where possible.

It was requested that Mr. Webster work with the School District to move this forward.

## **3. Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown**

### **a. 2007 School Grades**

Co-Chair Brown requested that this item was moved to the next month's Agenda.

It was requested that at the next meeting, Dr. McCoy lead the Board in a discussion on how it could move forward with Sunland Park.

## **4. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion**

a. City Commission/Manager Follow-up: None

b. Liaison Reports and Updates:

1. Staff Liaison Report - L. Carhart

2. Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster

Mr. Webster spoke of a national initiative called the "Million Father March" to encourage fathers to take their children to school on the first day of school.

Mr. Webster announced that Mrs. Hope will host a meeting for small minority and women in business owners doing business with the School Board on September 12 from 6-8 p.m. at KCW.

Mr. Webster advised that business owners can now contribute the 2.5% tax preparation fee back to local schools.

3. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – B. Shelly

**D. New/Future Business**

**E. Next Meeting and Closing**

Agenda Items: TBD

Location and Date: City Hall, September 20th, 2007

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.