



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
100 North Andrews Avenue, 8th Floor  
October 18, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.

**Administrative Note:** Minutes Approved February 21, 2008

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>2007</b>	
		<b>Cumulative Attendance Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
1. Dr. Leola McCoy, Chair	P	4	1
2. Michael Bacigalupi	A	3	2
3. Gilbert Borrero	P	2	1
4. Connie Christensen	P	2	0
5. Kaola King	P	1	0
6. Dr. Elizabeth Hays	P	4	1
7. Helen Hinton	P	2	0
8. Shannon Prohaszka	P	3	0
9. Elaine Schulze	P	5	0
10. Niara Sudarkasa	A	3	2

Total Members Present: 8  
Current Membership: 10; Quorum: 8

**Others Present**

Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus  
Leslie Carhart, Staff Liaison  
Alexandra Grant, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**A. Opening – L. McCoy**

• **Attendance and Sign-In**

The meeting was called to order by Chair McCoy at 6:43 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheets were passed around.

• **Approve Minutes of August, 2007**

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Borrero, to approve the minutes of the August, 2007 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

• **Welcome New Members – Kaola King**

Chair McCoy welcomed new member, Kaola King. Ms. King introduced herself and spoke briefly of her qualifications and background. Ms. King also introduced guest, Mitchell Orr, a co-owner of her business.

**B. Current Business**

**1. Presentation – John Casbarro, Kids and the Power of Work**

Mr. Casbarro introduced himself and spoke of his company, Learning for Success, Inc., which manages a program called “Kids and the Power of Work” (KAPOW). Mr. Casbarro explained that KAPOW is a national network of businesses that partner with elementary schools to introduce young students to work-related concepts and experiences. The program brings volunteers into elementary schools and students into the workplace to see how learning material relates to the real world.

Mr. Casbarro stated the program recruits volunteer businesses who then recruit others to partner with the schools. All teachers in one grade level participate. Mr. Casbarro added that two employees from the City among others are volunteering with the program currently at Northside Elementary School.

Mr. Casbarro explained that he is pursuing contacts with the City’s Human Resources department and hopes to train more volunteers and teachers to deliver seven lessons provided in the KAPOW Curriculum book on career preparedness and workplace skills. Mr. Casbarro added that, later in the school year, students from Northside will go on a field trip – one group to City Hall, another group to a waste recovery company, and another group to BankAtlantic.

Chair McCoy asked how the KAPOW program fits into the standard school schedule. In response, Mr. Casbarro stated the program is taught during the school day in seven one-hour lessons over the school year, scheduled at the school’s convenience.

Chair McCoy asked what has been done with the program in Broward and Dade Counties so far. In response, Mr. Casbarro advised that 62 schools in Miami, Broward, and Boca Raton are participating in the program along with 82 partnering business and organizations. Some participating schools in Broward County include:

- Northside Elementary School
- Silver Shores Elementary School
- Pines FSU Charter School
- Mirror Lake Elementary School
- Larkdale Elementary School
- Lauderhill Paul Turner Elementary School

Chair McCoy asked how student success is measured. In response, Mr. Casbarro advised that a national program was started in 1991 by Brandeis University that studied the program's effectiveness over a two-year period. The study found the program was successful in accomplishing its stated goals. Mr. Casbarro added that a pre- and post-evaluation survey is given to students before and after the program. The responses are tabulated and statistics indicate student success in terms of goals accomplished. So far, the results have been favorable in the schools tested.

Ms. King raised the question of students' ability to comprehend career-related material at the elementary school level. Mr. Casbarro stated that some of the most successful partnerships are with second graders.

Ms. Deaner stated the program might be a good initiative, but needs to be reinforced by teachers during the remainder of the school year. Mr. Casbarro agreed and stated that additional activities in the curriculum book support ongoing cross-curriculum studies. He further stated that correlations are made with the State's educational objectives and standards.

Ms. Shelly asked who pays for the program. In response, Mr. Casbarro advised that grants from companies and sponsorships from participating businesses pay for the program. Costs that are covered include substitute teachers for the one-day trainings and buses for field trips.

Chair McCoy suggested that Mr. Casbarro also give this presentation to the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Carhart stated that any program that involved businesses in schools is great.

Ms. Schulze commended Mr. Casbarro on the KAPOW program and commented that it is a positive tool as too many students disconnect what they learn in school with the realities of the workplace.

Chair McCoy thanked Mr. Casbarro for his presentation.

Chair McCoy indicated that the following documents were distributed to Board members:

- Better Meetings Academy Booklet.
- Parks and Recreation Public Meeting Notice.
- 2007 EAB Goals from February 2007 Meeting.
- Steering Committee September 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes

**2. Discussion: BCPS Education Forum – Sub Committee Meeting**

Chair McCoy commented that the Board needed to peruse the sub-committee meeting minutes to see if anything needs to be addressed.

Ms. Carhart stated that predominantly School District representatives and parents of Fort Lauderdale High School students had attended the meeting.

Dr. Hays summarized the three actions taken at the sub-committee meeting while referring to the meeting minutes. She expressed hope that the Board will encourage meetings between the City Manager and principals. Dr. Hays also commented that there is limited television coverage of school related activities and expressed hope that the volunteer program will continue to grow.

Discussion followed with regard to topics covered at the BCPS sub-committee meeting.

Ms. Carhart advised that the sub-committee will meet again in November.

Chair McCoy commented that in her view, the meeting covered regular topics. She voiced concern about the issue of keeping children safe from physical and environmental threats that cannot be seen. Chair McCoy stated more average people need to be involved in this issue. She further stated that more than 600 classrooms have not yet finished inspections.

Dr. Hays asked for recent 20-day count statistics. Ms. Carhart indicated new numbers are out; however, she has not yet extracted the data for Fort Lauderdale schools. She will send this information out to Board members when available.

Chair McCoy voiced concern that, in some instances, inspectors are not properly qualified. She added that she will follow up and provide more information.

Ms. Schulze voiced concern that time cannot be found to properly inspect schools to avoid further jeopardizing children's well-being.

**C. Old/Ongoing Business**

**1. Sunland Park – Update**

Chair McCoy advised that generic inspections were done, but that the work was not very thorough. She advised that an air quality monitor had been custom built to measure air at Sunland Park. Chair McCoy stated she received an air quality report from the Broward County Environmental Protection Agency which revealed that the problem at the school was wrong filters. Chair McCoy stated that based on the air

quality survey, the biggest source of pollution affecting the school is traffic from Sunrise Boulevard.

Chair McCoy stated she received a report from FDOT that addressed traffic patterns on I-95. She also advised that based on her conversations with Paul Shelton and representatives from FDOT, the following suggestions were made:

- Add another layer of filtration
- Add another layer of buffering through trees or other materials.

Chair McCoy recommended retrofitting a HEPA filter custom designed for such schools located adjacent to the highway.

Ms. Carhart commented that another negative effect of pollution is that it affects the capacity to learn.

Chair McCoy commented on the culture of superhighways and the fact they tend to be constructed in lower socioeconomic communities.

Lengthy discussion followed with regard to the consequences of poor past decisions and their impact on future generations.

With regard to Carter Park, Chair McCoy advised that the wells were drilled and tested and came up clean on the west side. The park's water also tested clean.

## **2. Parent Association – Update**

No report was made.

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

Chair McCoy stressed the need for Board members to use their talents where they best belong.

Chair McCoy suggested convening the next meeting at Sunland Park. She added that Congressman Hastings' office staff is willing to help with data gathering. Chair McCoy added that she had contacted Tam English, Director of the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority, and asked for help coordinating a liaison to work on issues affecting the Sunland neighboring housing complex.

Ms. Carhart commented that Vice Mayor Moore may want to attend the November meeting to discuss Arthur Ashe School.

Dr. Hays asked what the Board will accomplish by meeting at Sunland Park. In response, Chair McCoy commented that in her view, the Board should be out in the community versus sitting at City Hall.

Ms. Deaner pointed out that items on the November agenda, such as the EAB Goals and Objectives Discussion, may be too complex to be discussed at the school.

Ms. Carhart stated the Board has accomplished a lot and has typically gone through the yearly exercise of re-articulating its goals and objectives.

Chair McCoy commented that community leaders are willing to come on board and help the EAB with this target school and its challenges.

Ms. Carhart stated that it might make sense to go back and advise Sunland Park School that it has been selected for partnerships to help improve conditions. She added that it might be better to ask first whether the school wanted such partnerships, and then offer assistance. Ms. Shelley pointed out that in the past, the Board held a meeting there but no one from the community attended.

Mr. Borrero commented that the Board needed a structured agenda. He felt the Board should advise the school officials ahead of time so the appropriate individuals will attend and provide substantive input.

Ms. Prohaszka suggested using the November meeting to articulate the Board's goals and objectives and set the agenda for a meeting at Sunland Park in December.

**D. New/Future Business**

**1. Co-Chair Elections**

Ms. Deaner advised that a co-Chair position is not a requirement for the Board.

**2. November Meeting Location at Sunland Park**

This item was discussed above.

**E. Next Meeting and Closing**

Dr. Hays announced Ms. Deaner will celebrate her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday the following day. The Board members wished Ms. Deaner a Happy Birthday.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.