



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**Sunland Park Elementary School**  
**November 15, 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	A	4	2
2. Michael Bacigalupi	P	4	2
3. Gilbert Borrero	A	2	2
4. Connie Christensen	P	3	0
5. Kaola King	A	1	1
6. Dr. Elizabeth Hays	P	5	1
7. Helen Hinton	P	3	0
8. Shannon Prohaszka	A	3	1
9. Elaine Schulze	P	6	0
10. Niara Sudarkasa	A	3	3
11. Phaedra Xanthos	P	1	0

Total Members Present: 6

Current Membership: 10; Quorum: 8

**Others Present**

Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus

Kinika Fraiser, Teacher

Andrew Luciani, Principal, Arthur Ashe Middle School

Christopher Gates, Partnership Liaison, Arthur Ashe Middle School

Pete Munez, Assistant Principal, Arthur Ashe Middle School

Iris Jones, Teacher

Mr. Dawkins, Principal, Sunland Elementary

Charles Webster, School District Outreach Coordinator

Leslie Carhart, Staff Liaison

Hilda Testa, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**A. Opening – L. McCoy (Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Acting Chair)**

- **Attendance and Sign-In**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Hays at 6:40 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheets were passed around. As only six members were present, there was no quorum.

Mr. Munez read an announcement regarding the hospitalization of Dr. Leola McCoy.

- **Approve Minutes of October, 2007**

As there was no quorum, minutes could not be approved.

- **Welcome New Members – Phaedra Xanthos**

Acting Chair Hays welcomed new member, Phaedra Xanthos. Ms. Xanthos introduced herself and spoke briefly of her qualifications and background. The Board members and guests also briefly introduced themselves.

**B. Current Business**

**2. Presentation – Andrew Luciani, Arthur Ashe Middle School**

Mr. Luciani was introduced and stated that the Vice Mayor, Carlton Moore, and Perry Thurston, State Representative, are on the school's Advisory Board. Mr. Luciani explained that the school had been struggling with academic achievement, rated by the Florida A+ Plan as a low performing school over the past five years.

Mr. Luciani noted that the school is currently working with the State Department of Education and the County School District to implement a variety of programs and plans to improve the students' overall performance.

Mr. Luciani announced that the Citizen's Volunteer Corps would be doing some landscaping at the school. Mr. Luciani also discussed the following ongoing initiatives at the school.

- Magnet program to attract more students. Due to declining enrollment, the facility is being under-utilized. The theme of the magnet would be Center for Instruction of Talented Youth (CITY). A learning system has been brought in from the University of Connecticut for educating high-achievers. Mr. Luciani emphasized that in the socialization of education it is important for lower achieving students to interact with higher achieving students. CITY would utilize

community learning environments such as environmental, industry, and performing arts through a variety of field trips.

- Rock Island Elementary School is attached to Arthur Ashe, but the children attending Rock Island live in different communities. Arthur Ashe is rated F by the state of Florida, and Rock Island is rated A. Mr. Luciani proposed a boundary change to draw Rock Island students into Arthur Ashe instead of to William Dandy Elementary. Mr. Luciani explained that he had submitted a boundary change proposal to the school district, and that proposal was being studied.
- Make the Arthur Ashe complex a K through 8 school. All national research shows that K through 8 schools have fewer discipline problems and higher achieving students. The same learning strategies can be used all the way through, and the children become familiar with the program.
- The Advanced Academic Department has been moved to the Arthur Ashe campus. These academic experts will be utilized for advice and assistance to improve performance.
- Form a partnership between a local health care facility and the school district to provide a community learning or wellness center, offer recreational activities, adult education, and technology training.

Acting Chair Hays commented that helping Arthur Ashe was one of the three challenges taken on by the Board, and was pleased with the progress and proposals being made.

Ms. Carhart stated that Pembroke Pines has a unique relationship with Florida State University, and questioned why this same thing wasn't being done with Arthur Ashe. Ms. Carhart suggested that Florida Atlantic University (FAU) could be a partner, bringing in students as interns, tutors, and research assistants.

Mr. Luciani explained that the Broward County School District has a partnership with FAU with the Urban Academy, which guarantees eighth graders interested in an education career a full scholarship if they keep up their grade point average.

Mr. Luciani noted that other major corporations in the community would be brought in to offer a variety of learning environments to the students.

Mr. Luciani emphasized that teacher and principal turn-over is an ongoing problem in the school.

Ms. Fraiser noted that students need tangible motivation and incentives to work harder. The seventh grade team tried last year to create community partnerships to provide incentives, but had not been able to secure the funds to continue the program.

Ms. Fraiser stated that the school does have exemplary students, but they are not being recognized. Ms. Fraiser explained that the students had participated in dinner and a movie, and the students created a newsletter to summarize their experience. The newsletter has generated excitement throughout the school for the program.

Acting Chair Hays noted that the Board had helped Sunland Elementary in the past to identify community support for outside activities for the students. Ms. Christensen added that her veterans group would be interested in being sponsors for school activities. Mr. Luciani stated that Arthur Ashe would make a list of resources that would be helpful to the school.

Mr. Munez shared that the State has provided a set of criteria for Arthur Ashe, and the school is working to comply with those criteria. Mr. Munez provided a School Improvement Plan written by the staff to comply with the State requirements. Highlights of the Plan included:

- Math scores have improved currently at 28%, with a goal of 50%.
- Reading scores – 22% of eighth graders are on level, so a lot of work needs to be done in reading, with a goal of 50%.
- Attendance has improved from 82% to 87% in the last year.
- Safety and security of the building has been improved.
- Highly qualified teacher retention.
- Focus calendar – teacher training, and daily instruction for new teaching strategies.

Acting Chair Hays suggested that the Arthur Ashe presenters return for the January meeting.

**1. Presentation – Mr. Dawkins, Principal, Sunland Elementary**

Mr. Dawkins stated that some of the Sunland students would be attending Arthur Ashe, and explained the advanced placement plan for exemplary students. Mr. Dawkins stated that students were required to re-qualify each year to remain in advanced placement, and those advanced placement children were not currently going on to Arthur Ashe. Mr. Dawkins suggested that he work with Arthur Ashe to host parent meetings and help direct those children to Arthur Ashe.

Mr. Dawkins emphasized that educators need to understand the home situations of their students and the emotions involved. Mr. Dawkins continued by describing some of the difficult situations his students faced outside of school, and reminded the Board that these students need to be evaluated differently than those in other schools.

Mr. Dawkins explained that schools like Arthur Ashe and Sunland couldn't be fairly evaluated by FCAT and other standardized testing because they were dealing with a different population of students.

Mr. Dawkins stated that the teacher retention rate at Sunland is 98%, and the average intelligence level for teachers, based on GPA performance, is 3.75.

Mr. Dawkins discussed what he would like to see accomplished in the school, including:

- Community volunteers in the school.
- A partnership between the school's Advisory Board and the Chamber of Commerce for career days and role modeling.
- Recognition program for teachers in the Fort Lauderdale area.
- Achievement awards for students.

Mr. Dawkins summarized for the Board that the students were improving, with average assessment scores increasing from 10 to 47.

**C. Old/Ongoing Business**

**4. Broward County School District Report – Charles Webster**

Acting Chair Hays introduced Mr. Charles Webster, the Outreach Coordinator for the School District, and explained his role in providing communications between the Board and the School District.

Mr. Webster made the following announcements:

- The last strategic goal meeting with the Board members would be held Monday, November 19, 2007.
- The EAB meeting would be December 6, 2007.
- A series of bus tours is being organized to schools throughout the area. Mr. Webster provided schedules for the tours.
- Dinner for Dads would be held on November 29, 2007 to encourage fathers to get involved in PTA and other school activities.

**E. Next Meeting and Closing**

Acting Chair Hays announced that there will not be a December Board meeting. The next meeting will be January 17, 2008.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.