



APPROVED MINUTES
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue, 8th Floor
Thursday, January 17, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.

Administrative Note: Minutes Approved February 21, 2008

April 2007- March 2008
Cumulative Attendance

| Members | Attendance | Present | Absent |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Michael Bacigalupi | A | 4 | 3 – No Reappt |
| 2. Gilbert Borrero | A | 3 | 4 – Off |
| 3. Connie Christensen | A | 3 | 1 |
| 4. Laura Clark | NA – New Appointment | | |
| 5. Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Acting Chair | P | 7 | 0 |
| 6. Helen Hinton | A | 3 | 1 |
| 7. Kaola King | P | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Dr. Leola McCoy, Chair | A | 4 | 3 – No Reappt |
| 9. Shannon Prohaszka | A | 2 | 5 – Off |
| 10. Elaine Schulze | A | 4 | 3 |
| 11. Niara Sudarkasa | P | 4 | 3 |
| 12. Phaedra Xanthos | P | 2 | 0 |

Total Members Present: 4

Staff and Guests

Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus
Leslie Carhart, EAB Staff Liaison
Charmaine Eccles, EAB Staff Liaison
Julie Richards, City Manager's Office
Maureen Dinnen, School Board Member – District 3
Hilda Testa, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

A. Opening – Dr. McCoy/Dr. Hays

Acting Chair Hays gave the Board an update on Dr. McCoy's condition and some of the details of her hospitalization.

• **Attendance and Sign-In**

Acting Chair Hays called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. The attendance and sign-in sheets were passed around. As only four members were present, there was no quorum.

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 2

- **Introduce New Member(s)**

New member, Laura Clarke, was appointed to the Board at the last Commission meeting. Ms. Clarke will be attending her first meeting with the Education Advisory Board next month. Acting Chair Hays explained the attendance requirements of the Board.

- **Guest Introductions**

Members and guests introduced themselves and talked briefly about their backgrounds.

- **Approve Minutes (Oct & Nov) & Agenda (Jan)**

Since a quorum was not present, the minutes and agenda were deferred to next month's meeting for approval.

B. Current Business

1. Welcome Back

Ms. Maureen Dinnen, School Board Member from District 3, addressed the Board regarding new programs and information from the School Board.

The School Board's first conference for gifted students will be held February 1, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at a cost of \$25 per person and will be called The South Florida Gifted and Advanced Learners Symposium.

Dr. Joseph Renzuli and Terry Wilson, President of the Florida Gifted Network, will be speaking at the symposium and presenting a legislative update with regard to the categorizing and funding of gifted classes.

Ms. Dinnen had been speaking in a number of forums regarding class size, school funding, and property tax amendments. She reported the funding for public education has been in trouble for a number of years. In addition to being a low basis of funding, this year has seen two budget cuts and the School Board is currently experiencing sharp increases for Florida Power and Light charges, fuel costs, and insurance premiums.

Ms. Dinnen distributed a handout outlining the funding facts for Broward Public Schools and stated that Broward is the sixth largest district in the United States with more than 272 educational centers and schools, 258,000 students, and more than 1,200 buses.

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 3

The School Board is also the largest employer in Broward County and the second largest employer in the State of Florida. South Florida currently leads the nation in increases in the cost of living.

Ms. Dinnen stated that Broward is forty-ninth of fifty states for funding with only Mississippi having a lower base of funding. Between the years 2004 and 2006, school construction costs went up 49% from the previous year.

Cuts were made during a previous special session and another cut may be forthcoming at the next session of the State legislators.

The School Board previously received 60% of their funding from the State of Florida and 40% from local property taxes. This has since flipped and the School Board now receives 40% of their funding from the State and 60% from County taxes. The pending property tax amendment is expected to have a sizeable impact on the funding for the schools.

Over the next five years, the School Board estimates a loss of \$145 million. Cuts will have to be made in basic services provided and the number of teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and administrators.

Millions of dollars of construction money will be lost according to the School Board's Finance Department and this will adversely affect their ability to borrow money for new construction. The ratio of dollars available for construction loans and actual money on hand is approximately 10 to 1. If the School Board loses \$10 million, they will lose the ability to borrow \$100 million, which not only affects the schools, but will also affect the banking and construction industries in Broward County.

Raises for teachers will be reduced in an atmosphere where the cost of living is already higher than other areas of the State. This creates a situation where South Florida teachers are leaving the area for better paying jobs. The State of Florida reconfigured the funding formula and took out the "district cost differential" saying that it does not cost more to live in Broward than it does in other counties.

Ms. Dinnen distributed a hand-out to the Board regarding the Class Size Amendment. The School Board is not being funded to put the Class Size Amendment into operation. The amendment states, "No funds will come from the local level"; however, this has not proven to be the case.

Ms. Carhart stated that under the previous administration, the legislatures had attempted to undo the amendment to limit class size; therefore, the ramifications of the

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 4

amendment were never funded. There is now a proposal to make the amendment flexible in terms of class size. Ms. Dinnen felt if efforts to repeal the amendment were put on the ballot, it would not pass.

This amendment creates a hardship and will be difficult to implement due to the lack of funding. Additional personnel would need to be hired, in addition to the construction of additional classrooms.

Projected enrollment is expected to decline and will help reduce the budgetary disparity and assist the School Board to reduce class sizes. This projected decline is estimated to continue for three years and then an upswing in enrollment is expected.

The School Board is presently receiving 5% of the class size funding; however, Broward County has 10% of the State's students. The difference is being made up out of local taxes and is estimated to be approximately \$95 million.

Ms. Sudarkasa asked if the School Board is intending to publicly go on record with their position, as this information had only been brought to the attention of the public by the local media. Ms. Dinnen stated the School Board members may only give out factual information, but cannot ask residents to vote in a particular manner.

2. Acting/Co-Chair Election

Acting Chair Hays advised that without a quorum, elections would be deferred to next month's meeting. If Ms. McCoy continues her absence, Acting Chair Hays advised she would continue to act as Chair, unless there were any objections. The Members of the Education Advisory Board had no objections.

3. Discussion Item

a. EAB Goals, Objectives, Activities for 2008

This item was moved to later in the meeting in an effort to discuss Old and On-Going Business.

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Sunland Park – Update

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 5

Acting Chair Hays stated one of the objectives of the Education Advisory Board was to help three schools in the Fort Lauderdale area. Dr. McCoy works closely with these schools and the update will be postponed until after her return.

2. Arthur Ashe – Update

Ms. Carhart stated at the November Advisory Board meeting, there was some discussion about having a meeting at Arthur Ashe Middle School; however, until a consensus can be obtained, the decision to hold a meeting at Arthur Ashe will be deferred.

Ms. King asked if the Board could get the information from Ms. Kinika Fraiser regarding the newsletter her students had created. Acting Chair Hays expressed her desire to have Ms. Fraiser fill out an application to be appointed to the Board. Ms. King stated she would contact Ms. Fraiser on behalf of the Board.

3. Parent Association – Update

This item was deferred to next month's meeting. Ms. Carhart would like to attempt to create an opportunity for networking among the Fort Lauderdale schools, particularly focusing on opportunities for "best practices" as it relates to parental involvement. Dialog is encouraged among parents at different schools based on the fact that the students advance through the levels of those feeder schools.

4. Chair Report

Acting Chair Hays reported on a meeting held on December 6th, 2007 at Pine Ridge Education Center called the "Consortium of Education Advisory Boards" or CEAB. Efforts are being made to bring the various education advisory boards throughout the county together for best practices, sharing, etc.

At that meeting, the members had agreed to pursue several projects:

- A mini-summit for CEAB members and their constituents regarding the core processes of the School District such as budget, construction and facilities, legislative, and boundary issues.
- A best practice showcase bringing all the EABs together to share information regarding successful projects and programs, and Civic Engagement Programs for At-Risk Kids.

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 6

- Provide a list of meeting dates for all EABs and best practices shared in the past to all CEAB members. This would provide a history and record of results from the meetings and knowledge of when the Board Members' colleagues would be meeting.

Ms. Carhart stated that if this is going to be an on going initiative of the School District, it would be appropriate to have it on the School Board's website. Meeting minutes, attendance, and a calendar of future meetings could also be listed.

- Invite at-risk students to attend CEAB meetings and/or individual EAB meetings in order for students to inform the CEAB and EAB about needs from their own prospective.
- The idea of implementing and coordinating another best practices was appealing; a future book drive and ways to get books to children was discussed.
- Participation of the CEABs at the upcoming History Fair was suggested.
- Sunrise would like to implement a mentoring program. The City would allow employees time off from their jobs during the day to mentor children.
- Create more hands-on opportunities for students to experience entrepreneurship.
- EABs should have short-term, as well as long term goals such as student essay contests.
- Pembroke Pines now has a City-sponsored mentoring program and could offer advice to Sunrise.
- Lauderhill would like to see EAB Board Members visit each other's meetings.
- Work on web based communications for PTAs.
- Work with and involve at-risk students in local governments.
- Develop more cooperation between the School District, the City, and its citizens.

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 7

- The Elks Club suggested working with Title One schools on the FISH Program designed to assist with FCATs with regard to science education. The Elks Club will help by providing minor monetary contributions for the schools such as \$50 or \$100 for learning activities.
- The City of Lauderdale Lakes gave the EAB \$10,000 and Boyd Anderson \$50,000 to be used for scholarships and FCAT incentives.
- Lauderdale Lakes is trying to get kids more involved with school advisories.
- Strive to not duplicate services being performed by PTA and other groups.
- Need to identify gaps in services.

Acting Chair Hays will keep the Board Members informed of the date of the next meeting.

Ms. Carhart stated in Fort Lauderdale, there are three innovation zones or feeder zones that are predominantly within corporate Fort Lauderdale and would like to see each one of those zones have an appointment to the Board.

Ms. Carhart also would like to see students receive community service hours for being members of the EAB, as well as accommodating a student from each of the innovation zones. This would theoretically help students to show up for the City's Volunteer Core projects and go back to their schools to involve even more students.

5. Other Reports/updates/Discussion

a. BCPS Education forum – Sub-Committees

Acting Chair Hays stated there is a steering committee whose purpose is to “steer the boat” occasionally, with three additional committees formed to work on each of the individual aspects; parental involvement, community involvement and safety and security.

At the Education Forum, participants share information discussed at these committee meetings. Acting Chair Hays passed out a copy of the minutes from the Community Involvement Committee.

Ms. Carhart advised that when the forum was first created, meetings were held at the Fort Lauderdale High School media center and happened to be scheduled on the same night as the Education Advisory Board meeting. In order for the EAB members to

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 8

attend the forum and sign up to participate on sub-committees, the EAB meeting was cancelled.

Ms. Carhart reported to the Steering Committee that the School Board has a group addressing the issues related to parental involvement; however, that committee does not have any parents in its membership. Parental involvement had become bureaucratized with committees and rules and unfortunately, most families are not going to be able to participate in those traditional venues.

There is need for an expanded view of what constitutes parent involvement. Some examples would be delivering the child to school ready to learn, encouraging the child to do well, the importance of school, etc. The lowest order of being involved is participation in these groups; time is better spent helping children with their school subjects rather than going to a committee meeting.

The Board would like to put together a list of preferred behaviors and practices for families pre-K through college-prep and then across the Board for those matters that relate to home and family, then onto school activities such as talking to the teachers and attending meetings, with a more community-oriented focus.

Attempts are being made to put together materials to be distributed in family friendly language, pilot a program in a school, and work with various representatives. Interested persons are encouraged to get involved and give input.

Acting Chair Hays suggested the minutes of these meeting be distributed to the Education Advisory Board members by inter-governmental affairs.

Condolences were expressed for the passing of Jenny Brooks; her going home service was outstanding. The Parks and Recreation Board has approved a plaque in Civic Peoples Park for Jenny Brooks and William Dandy. The dedication of the plaques is scheduled for Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Acting Chair Hays was not sure of the date. Ms. Eccles will advise the Board of the date and time of the dedication.

Ms. Deaner reported progress in the Community Involvement Committee. There had been some difficulties accessing the Website. Community Involvement through the Realty Association had decided to create a user-friendly website to access throughout the country. People planning on relocating to the area would access information regarding neighborhood schools. The schools would then have an opportunity to list their attributes. It was suggested that the Parent Involvement Committee and PTAs could also have a link on their website to assist in this endeavor.

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 9

Ms. Carhart expressed concern that the broad goal of the Community Involvement Committee is to be at the forefront of the work currently being undertaken by the Board. The City Manager will be meeting with the principals and the information from those meetings may be useful to the Board.

Ms. Dinnen advised the report presented to the Steering Committee should be distributed to the Education Advisory Board in an effort to open up a broader community dialog. Efforts are still being made to have information regarding the area schools air on the Fort Lauderdale television channel. Ms. Carhart felt one member of the Education Advisory Board should be designated to also be a member of the Steering Committee in order to help create a bridge between the two committees.

Acting Chair Hays express her concern regarding the sparse attendance at the Community Involvement Committee. Ms. Dinnen would like to use the Beacon television system to generate greater attendance. Ms. Dinnen additionally suggested having a member from Partners in Education sit on the Steering Committee.

Ms. Dinnen reported on a meeting between the head of the Government Relations Department and the head of the County Social Studies Department. Discussion ensued regarding setting up a mechanism where teachers, legislators, and government officials would visit classrooms to discuss the "outside world" with the children.

Ms. Dinnen reported that a group of Fort Lauderdale High School students wanted to rename the street in front of their school after their mascot, which is the Flying L's. The students set into motion a plan that started with contacting the School Board for a resolution, going to City Council, then County and government agencies necessary to accomplish their goal. The process of renaming the street provided the students with a learning experience they could not have gotten in the classroom.

Ms. Deaner stated the students could also "shadow" city officials in addition to government staff visiting the schools.

Acting Chair Hays stated that the Security and Safety Committee has dwindled in size. There was discussion of joining this committee with the Community Involvement Committee; however, Acting Chair Hays felt the Community Involvement Committee was very busy in its own endeavors and there might be a way to revitalize the Security and Safety Committee.

Broward schools have been identified as having the highest rates of gang activity, specifically gang related crime. Steps need to be taken to ensure the aftercare and learning-to-swim programs are addressing the issue of children's drowning. School Resource Officers and environmental issues are also areas where the Security and

Safety Committee would be involved. Ms. Carhart pointed out that no one issue should over shadow another due to the number of issued to be addressed.

Ms. Deaner asked if the School Board has decided to put a police officer in the elementary schools instead of a School Resource Officer. Ms. Carhart advised the elementary schools only needed a contact within the police department that would be assigned to a specific school(s). A list is being provided to the schools as to their assigned officer.

b. City Commission/Manager Follow up

Ms. Dinnen advised the School Board has been getting letters from various municipalities stating their reluctance to provide crossing guards due to budget constraints.

Acting Chair Hays advised the principals will be meeting with the City Manager of Fort Lauderdale on January 30, 2008. The Education Advisory Board is looking forward to getting the results of that meeting. The next Steering Committee meeting will be on January 31, 2008.

On January 18, 2008, Ms. Dinnen and Judy Zinn will be meeting with the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Zinn volunteered to sit on the Steering Committee to help fill the void after Chair Pamela Brown vacated that seat.

c. Reports & Updates:

1) Staff Liaison – Carhart/Eccles

Ms. Carhart had presented her report earlier in the meeting.

2) Broward County School District – C. Webster

Mr. Webster was not in attendance.

3) Council of Ft. Lauderdale Civic Association – B. Shelly

Ms. Shelly was not in attendance.

D. New/Future Business

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 11

Ms. Xanthos asked for more information regarding the Partners in Education program. Ms. Carhart stated she would send her the information from the website. Ms. Dinnen advised she could also supply a brochure regarding the program to Ms. Xanthos.

Ms. Xanthos stated she is employed by a firm with the means to contribute and would be interested in a sponsorship program.

Ms. Carhart suggested neighborhood or business groups that solicit the City for incentives or matched grant funds be asked to partner up with local schools; the partnership could take many different forms. The members of the Board discussed numerous examples of corporate volunteerism in terms of monetary contributions, internship programs, mentors, etc.

Ms. Xanthos stated her employer is considering a program where the company will allow employees to do different types of volunteer work. Ms. Carhart advised schools are looking for companies willing to provide internships for students enrolled in business or law programs. These internships can sometimes lead to part-time employment for high school students.

In addition, the members of the Board also discussed ways to personally volunteer at schools in economically-depressed communities. Acting Chair Hays stressed the importance of reading to early grade children, as well as listening to the children read.

Ms. Carhart advised that Sunland Park Elementary was in dire need of adults from the community to volunteer their time for the benefit of the students. In addition to time, the school also needs monetary donations for school supplies as most of the teachers are continuously using out-of-pocket money to fund supplies for the students.

Other ideas included a gardening program from volunteers interested in this field. Discussion ensued regarding high school students spending time at the elementary schools in exchange for community service hours.

Acting Chair Hays suggested students at Arthur Ashe Middle School return to the feeder elementary schools as role models to participate in mentor programs.

Ms. King stated that career day would give her an opportunity to contribute to Sunland Park Elementary School. Ms. King also expressed interest in putting together a program to include feeder schools, Arthur Ashe Middle and Dillard High School, and offer an opportunity for students to receive community service hours for mentoring at Sunland Park Elementary School.

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2008

Page 12

Ms. Carhart advised that all of the 31 schools in the Broward District have corporate sponsors and some of these sponsors do provide in some manner to the schools; however, the real challenge is to get these corporate sponsors to focus on academic achievement in terms of donating their time and effort.

Ms. Carhart stated that Florida Atlantic University has set up an office to coordinate and facilitate volunteer opportunities for students. Acting Chair Hays advised community service hours are being credited for volunteer hours performed by students at local area schools for mentoring, reading, and learning activities.

Ms. Carhart stated one of the problems with schools that solicit for volunteers is once a volunteer has arrived at the school, the school is either not equipped or there is no staff available to assign volunteer duties or orient the volunteer about the opportunities to help. Ms. Carhart felt some of the corporations that are school sponsors could be a liaison to help coordinate some of the activities.

Acting Chair Hays stated she receives numerous invitations to attend luncheons and other social gatherings hosted by volunteer organizations; however, the efforts that show the most progress are the actual tutoring, mentoring, and reading, and volunteering of time which is spent with the students.

Acting Chair Hays thanked the Board Members for taking the time to attend the meeting and commented on the useful ideas discussed. The Education Advisory Board recognized Ms. Carhart for all of her efforts and hard work. The EAB made known to Ms. Carhart that her efforts have been extremely appreciated and a special thank you was extended to her for her work and dedication.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.