

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>April 2014- APRIL 2015</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Edna Elijah, Chair	P	8	1
Austin Scott, Vice, Chair	P	8	0
Gregory T. Boardman	A	7	2
Towana Bonaparte	P	4	2
Dr. Ciara L. Bostick	P	1	0
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	5	4
W. Jason Dunne	A	1	1
Rochelle Horowitz	P	6	3
Deniece Jones	P	7	1
Jennifer L. Kimmey	P	8	1
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	1	8
Wayne Neunie	A	2	7
Dr. Maureen Persi	A	5	3
Shelby Smith	P	9	0
S. Carey Villeneuve	P	5	0

**Appointed Members to the Board: 15
Needed to constitute a quorum: 8**

Staff

Junia Robinson, Neighbor Support and Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison

Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association

I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – Chair, Edna Elijah

II. Attendance by Roll Call – Chair, Edna Elijah

Determination of quorum

As of this date, January 15th, 2015 there are 15 appointed members to the board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

III. Approve minutes (December 18th, 2014)

Motion by Dr.Persi, seconded by Mrs. Kimmey, that the said minutes for December 18th, 2014 be approved. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Current business

A. Board discussions/member updates

Chair Elijah opened the discussion by thanking Mr. Boardman and Ms. Robinson for coordinating the tour at Fort Lauderdale High school. She said the school was magnificent and the meeting location was wonderful. Chair Elijah mentioned how impressive the schools courtroom, cooking and fire rescue class rooms were and she hopes the students have great learning experiences.

Chair Elijah recognized Mrs. Jennifer Kimmey who recently became a teacher at Fort Lauderdale High school. Mrs. Kimmey said she recently got her teaching certificate and is teaching world history. Chair Elijah congratulated Mrs. Kimmey and wished her luck during the school year. Chair Elijah asked the board to review the letter from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association to Superintendent Runcie regarding the school board oversight committee. She wanted to recognize the Council for supporting the resolution that the Board made at the December 18th meeting to Commission.

Ms. Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association representative said that the President of the Council, Marilyn Mammano also sent an email to Superintendent Runcie and the Mayor/Commissioners supporting the EAB's communication. She also said that Mrs. Mammano received a return call from Superintendent Runcie acknowledging receipt of the letter however; they have not received as yet details on the board make- up. Ms. Robinson, Staff Liaison said she spoke to Mrs. Mammano who contacted her about this matter specifically asking for a list with names of the people individuals selected to serve on the oversight committee as well as a link on the School Boards' website that explains the Board oversight committee's role and description. Ms. Robinson said she was not able to

reach Patrick Sipple, BCPS to provide a response; but will inquire with Mr. Webster for direction.

Chair Elijah also added that an upcoming meeting at the K.C. Wright building is scheduled for January 21st to discuss this committee. She asked Mr. Webster is the meeting a “go” or will there be more discussion before a decision is made. Mr. Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison responded by saying “absolutely, the board meeting is next Wednesday the 21st and it was posted a few minutes ago”. He said Mr. Sipple was directed to add at the workshop, a technology group, “I believe it’s the South Florida technology group” and the County Fire Chief Association.

He said the board meeting is at 10:15A.M and this is “item A-1” and should be fairly early. Mr. Webster said the board can discuss it and do whatever they like, they can start over again, and they can add other groups and organizations as they so choose. He said he “we are encouraging you to do what you exactly did, share with the board and Mr. Runcie your concerns”. Mr. Webster said “In terms of the questions about the individuals, at this point the organizations proposed have not been approved by the board, it would be premature of them or by anybody to start to vet any individuals until after a decision is made”. He said the organizations will select the individuals to sit on the committee.

Mr. Webster said this information is available on the BCPS website. Ms. Shelley said that “once again we are looking at organizations and not the public as educators as far as we can see. She continued by saying “that’s actually why the council is interested in this, to possibly include past educators, not anyone currently working for the school board”.

Chair Elijah said “as of now we don’t know who this group will consist of and what will be discussed regarding this committee and the suggestions made by the Council and the EAB to the school board.”

Mr. Shelby Smith suggested that the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association attend the school board meeting to voice these concerns. Mr. Smith reiterated that his concern is that the school board has an excellent construction group to oversee the \$800 million dollars however; “our concerns is as much as they have asked for

people from different associations, whether it be the architect, building or contractors association; the concern I have is, let's assume that I'm an architect and I've been chosen and I'm the whistle blower that says that the other architect is doing something wrong or whatever, I may have back lash so I may not be as aggressive as say someone from education".

Ms. Dinnen commented that it would be better for specifics to be suggested here, "two things we are hearing is public education background, not currently in the system but some familiarity with; and it does say in the letter, local community representation". Those are two items that need to be emphasized.

Mr. Austin Scott asked Mr. Webster about the prioritization of school board projects and he responded by saying "the projects have all been prioritized by the board".

Ms. Smith commented that his concerns are "the good old boys" in construction projects and the need for the community to be more involved in the process.

Ms. Dinnen asked Mr. Webster "the money allocated is not going to replace Stranahan high school; it's prioritized in needs across the district like single point of entry or putting a new roof on, those parameters have been put in place thus far. So what this committee's going to do is to make sure that those funds are spent in a suitable manner".

Mr. Webster responded by saying "absolutely, the windows that are supposed to be replaced and cost this much are within budget".

Mr. Villeneuve commented that he is concerned that "the construction people might say this is how it always is and a bunch of technical terms". He suggested hiring an independent auditor that has no ties to Fort Lauderdale with subpoena authority.

Dr. Persi commented that "I would think that the board is aware that they are being scrutinized and they have so many strides in Fort Lauderdale and they don't want to slip up now, they have a very large opportunity to make some really great progress, wouldn't you think they would have a clerk of the works in charge of each project?"

Ms. Dinnen responded that the school board has an in-house project manager, like Greg Boardman.

Ms. Horowitz commented that there is a certain amount of technical expertise required for matters such as this. She continued by saying “I wouldn’t consider myself qualified to even question because I just don’t know enough”.

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Webster for an update on new magnet and the repurposing of the schools in the City.

B. BCPS updates – Charles Webster

Mr. Webster said “what I found out especially with the Virginia Shuman Young (VSY) issue and the areas around is that they are amending the suggestion or that portion involving the east side Northside and Walker elementary and reviewing the C19 from last year”. He continued by saying “ the Superintendent makes his recommendations on the 23rd of this month and I think they are trying to pull together a public meeting prior to that to discuss this with the community, sometime in the middle of next week.

Mr. Villeneuve commented on the meeting he attended at the school board regarding saying that the board was not happy with Staff proposals on various schools throughout the County including Walker elementary here in the City. The staff boundary proposals were not well received, in regards to the four community proposals there was only one that was related to Fort Lauderdale and that was VSY proposal.

Ms. Deniece Jones asked Mr. Webster if he can take this information back to the K.C. Wright building “I work with special needs students and me and my administration are seeing a specific population in middle school where these kids are not performing and they are not going to get through high school, by the 10th grade they are going to drop out. My Assistant principal suggested that they start a trade/technical program in the middle schools which might motivate them to keep going. The students are not engaged, they need something technical to start working on like automotive, painting or plumbing. I have kids now who are not going to get passed the 9th grade because right now they are not coming to school and failing.

These are kids that are in 6th and 7th grade. The programs in high school should begin in middle school and that might get them to keep going”.

Chair Elijah asked “do the kids have to be a certain age or category before they can go into those fields”? Mr. Webster responded saying “I believe the State mandates that they get exposed to the work force issues in middle school”. He said he will look into it and get back to the board. Ms. Jones said these kids are “falling through the cracks already”. Mr. Webster said at Stranahan high there is a gentleman working there to improve students “soft skills” and expose them to employers so that when they graduate from high school they have an opportunity to go and get a job. These skills include interview, phone, customer service etc...that employers are looking for.

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Webster if he can provide an update on the perception of security at the schools. Mr. Scott asked if someone from the school board can give a presentation including hard data on security issues, whether they are realized issues or perceived.

Mr. Webster responded by saying “our kids are safe, we have to make sure they’re safe, luckily most of our communities we have school resource officers, deputies and other programs to make students safe”.

C. City Staff update

Staff Liaison, Junia Robinson shared that she has reached out to School board member Dr. Rosalind Osgood’s Staff to check her availability for next month meeting to present on the SSOS schools and other updates in her district.

She also announced the Neighbor support night event scheduled for Thursday, February 12th here at City hall in the parking garage.

D. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association – Ms. Betty Shelley

Ms. Betty reported that Ms. Mammano, President of the Council received a call from Superintendent Runcie after he received the letter supporting the EAB’s communication regarding the Board oversight committee. She is waiting to get more information about the oversight committee before returning his call.

Education Advisory Board

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Ms. Betty shared that the Council is here to support the Education Advisory Board.

Chair Elijah thanked Ms. Betty for representing the Council and providing updates on their behalf.

V. New/Future Business

VI. Next Meeting and Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015

City hall, 8th floor conference room