



Education Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Sunrise Civic Center Art Gallery

Address: 10610 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Sunrise, FL 33351

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Call to Order

1. **Roll Call - Present:** Dawn DaCosta, Eileen Davis, Erncy Dumornay, Cheryl Levy, Ingrid Morgan, Lindsay Ostroff, Brittany Ross, Kevin Sawyer, Rona Somers, Dr. Carolyn Stewart. **Absent/Excused:** Jacqueline De Ferrari. **Not Excused:** N/A. **Staff Liaison:** Christine Pfeffer.

II. Open Discussion

The floor was open to visitors to provide a brief update of their schools as follows:

1. Rachele Boggan, Media Specialist, Discovery Elementary – As part of the District-wide *Hearts for Heroes* program, students are writing letters to Veterans; those letters will be sent to the V.A. clinic on Commercial Boulevard. The school is still working on academic checkpoints and is hosting Saturday camps to provide students with extra assistance.
2. Deondre Sims, Bair Middle – There will be an Honor Roll Assembly to recognize approximately 400 students – which is an increase over prior assemblies. Presenting *Literacy through Black History* programming February 24-26, featuring students' original artwork and artifacts in an interactive, museum-like setting.
3. Stephane Monereau, Assistant Principal, Piper High – The school is focused on one of its largest events, *Piper Pathways to Success*, which helps students as they prepare to advance to the next grade level (example: students moving from Freshman to Sophomore). Like other BCPS schools, will observe A Day of Service and Love on February 14. Next SAC Meeting is February 11.
4. Carol King-Roberts, Assistant Principal, Banyan Elementary School – Hosted *Granola For Grandparents Read-In*; grandparents came to the

school to read to the students. Upcoming events include a *Vocabulary Parade* on February 6 and a *Sweetheart Dance* on February 14. BSA (Broward Standards Assessment) testing is now complete.

III. Approval of Minutes

Rona Somers made a motion to approve the January 2, 2020, minutes as transcribed. The motion was seconded by Eileen Davis. There was no opposition from the board.

IV. Old Business

1. Discussion of School Liaison Assignments

Christine Pfeffer previously sent out emails to the principals regarding their EAB liaisons; Mr. Gomez was copied on these messages. Christine introduced Dawn, virtually, to Mrs. Haynes at Village Elementary School. Next, Brittany Ross will get connected to Banyan Elementary; Lindsay Ostroff stated that she would reach out to Welleby Elementary; and Erncy Dumornay stated that he will visit Franklin Academy to speak with Mr. Delgado.

Brittany Ross handed out the updated yearly packet with the roster of Advisory Board Members and the amended EAB ordinance. The list of Liaison relationships needs to be finalized.

V. New Business

1. Guest Speaker: Broward County School Board Member Laurie Rich Levinson

SBM Rich Levinson's focus is on providing engaging, hands-on curriculum for students. She is especially proud of the District's debate program, which is the largest in the U.S. Over 15,000 students participate; there is a debate competition team in every high school and middle school, and in 100 elementary schools. Participating Sunrise elementary schools include Sawgrass and Nob Hill. Rich Levinson is also supportive of gifted education and universal screening in second grade.

Goals of the BCPS 2019-2024 strategic plan include high-quality instruction; a safe and supportive environment, which encompasses social-emotional learning and school safety; and effective communication. There is a focus on prevention/intervention with the goal of being proactive. BCPS continues to do the best it can with the funding it receives.

Teacher recruiting/retention continues to be a challenge, and fewer college students are studying education. BCPS is interested in having professional development opportunities for a week in the summer, before

school begins. Since the 2018 Tax Referendum passed, the District was able to put 72% into giving teaches an average 7% raise.

BCPS strives to provide personalized pathways that tailor a student's education to their interests. This includes career and technical education, as well as traditional academics. The District is increasing industry certifications for students, especially pertaining to computer skills.

BCPS and school websites have been redesigned; they are an improvement, but still a work in progress.

Regarding physical safety, BCPS has installed 10,000 advanced, analytic-type cameras in schools. They have also increased the number of security personnel in schools to over 500. The State has released a small portion of the \$30+ million earmarked for school safety, but it's important to continue investing.

Q&A covered the importance of parent involvement (Parent Involvement Task Force); coding/emerging technology education (Code.org-trained teachers in BCPS schools, AP coding classes, Week of Code); mentoring (Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Take Stock in Children, Mentoring Tomorrows Leaders, Latinos in Action); and early learning (Gulfstream Early Learning Center in Hollywood, Early Learning Coalition).

SBM Rich Levinson gave an update on Nob Hill Elementary, as there is no EAB liaison currently. They have a program called *I-Units* that promotes inter-disciplinary learning. They did a unit on hospitals and transformed classrooms into "hospital rooms" where students "operated," learned about organs, etc.

Brittany Ross asked how the Board can best support the District. Per SBM Rich Levinson, the best way is to engage more parents to get involved. The more they know, the more successful the children will be. Work to open the lines of communication.

Ingrid Morgan mentioned that she started a grandparents' program when she was involved in the schools in NY. SBM Rich Levinson said that the District partners with the Foster Grandparents program to get that generation engaged in schools.

SBM Rich Levinson added that she is passionate about students learning languages at an early age. There are now 41 District schools with dual-language programs, including Sawgrass Elementary.

SBM Rich Levinson concluded by providing her email address: laurie.richlevinson@browardschools.com

2. Discussion of topics/speakers for 2020

Mr. Angel Gomez discussed the importance of the 2020 Census, and Christine Pfeffer confirmed its significance to the City of Sunrise. Mr. Gomez asked the EAB members to remind their liaisons at school about the Census. Children age 0-5 are the hardest to enumerate. Christine Pfeffer mentioned that she was hoping to bring in a Census speaker for the March meeting. Mr. Gomez recommended Mark Swanson, who is the Census representative who works with BCPS. Per Mr. Gomez, there is a Census icon on the BCPS website, www.browardschools.com, which links to Census information in four languages.

EAB members also recommended guest speakers from the *South Florida Institute on Aging* (regarding the Foster Grandparents program and a possible strategy to connect grandparents with Sunrise schools), and the BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement.

3. Miscellaneous

Christine Pfeffer mentioned that on February 25 the City will host a *Government Career Fair* for students at Piper and Plantation high schools, to raise awareness about job opportunities that don't require an advanced degree.

Christine also presented a flyer to the Board members regarding the *Outstanding Citizenship Scholarship*. The application process is being streamlined, in keeping with recommendations from Claudette Lavoie at the Broward Education Foundation (BEF). Claudette is planning to host an application workshop at Piper. Christine will send the application PDF to the Board.

Per Christine, there will be a Village Art Plaza Kickoff event next to City Park (Sunset Strip) on February 29. The City is requesting programming feedback from local residents.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Carolyn Stewart made a motion to adjourn. Rona Somers seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be held on March 3, 2020.

Transcribed by: _____

Karen Lawrence, Board Secretary