

Education Advisory Board (EAB)
Wednesday, April 2nd 2012, 6:00PM
Minutes

A meeting of the EAB was duly called and held on Monday, April 2nd, 2012, in the auditorium, City Hall. Chair Lisa Conlon-Dodge called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Present at the meeting were:

EAB Members

- Lisa Conlon-Dodge (Chair)
- Gary Gorman (Vice Chair)
- Anne Culotta
- Tevis Jones
- David Brundage
- Melissa Megna
- Elizabeth Janzer
- Pamela Sands
- Renee Grutman
- Fernando Lopez

Non Members

- Robert Becker (Principal, Embassy Creek Elementary)
- Rae White (Davie EAB, student in Cooper City Schools)

MINUTES:

The minutes from the February minutes were not distributed, therefore not reviewed. Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Megna distributed a plan for collecting Box Tops. Following the plan, Melissa was designated the Coordinator of the effort. Locations are to be the Rec Center, City Hall, Police and Fire departments along with Water Dept and at the Optimist. Melissa will register with the Box Tops program and the next steps in the plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Conlon-Dodge provided an updated on Burger Kings cards, commenting that the program is not doing very well. And that we'll try and gear up for the next school year and will hopefully be more successful.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Conlon-Dodge discussed the Education Showcase of Excellence, sponsored by the League of Cities. The event will be held at the Sunrise Civic Center on April 19th from 5:30 to 6:6- pm, the mayor encouraged the EAB to provide a display, and all are encouraged to attend.

Mrs. Conlon-Dodge discussed the redistricting; noting that there will be no change at this time, due to elections and will be held off until 2013. There are additional redistricting meetings on May 5 (Dillard High) and May 19th (Monarch High)

Mrs. Conlon-Dodge noted that there are proposed dates for the Renaissance Charter School meetings on Tuesday April 17th at 6 & 7 PM and on Saturday April 21st at 11am, at the Cooper City Community Center. There is an outstanding question to the City Commission on whether or not the charter schools within Cooper City will be included in City affairs, including the EAB.

Mr. Robert Becker, Principal at Embassy Creek Elementary commented that there is an Open House on May 15th, at Pioneer Middle school, for Cooper City to talk about the accomplishments with the Cooper City schools.

Mr. Becker then commented on the Charter Schools, indicating that Broward County schools are starting to campaign, or otherwise market themselves in an effort to retain students. Letting parents know of the educational opportunities within the public schools in Cooper City. He commented that he had attended an information session on charter schools and found that many parents were most concerned with School Uniforms and extended school days, which reduces the aftercare expense.

Mr. Fernando Lopez (Charter School principal in Miami-Dade County) provided some information on charter schools, at least as it pertains to Miami-Dade County, such as that the charter schools also comply with assessments as dictated by their Sponsors, which is usually the county making the accountability, in essence, the same as public schools. And, that the children are considered part of the public educational system.

Mr. Becker then commented that the principal from Pioneer Middle school would be visiting the elementary schools with 6th graders that came from each elementary school to meet with the 5th graders to discuss any concerns or doubts about entering middle school. May 1st, 1012 is an information session for the parents of 5th graders whose kids will be entering the 6th grade next school year.

There was a question posed, that someone heard that the Franklin School charter had been pulled. This was unsubstantiated and it is unclear as to whether or not the charter was placed on hold or revoked.

Ted Sander was not present to discuss grants, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Renee Grutman will discuss the pass program at the next meeting.

Mrs. Pam Sanders discussed some new information she received about the Exxon programs and will share with the EAB by e-mail. Exxon has programs around workforce readiness, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and has programs that encourage women to pursue jobs in

engineering. And that Citrix was forming an alliance with Broward College, as Citrix is based in Ft. Lauderdale.

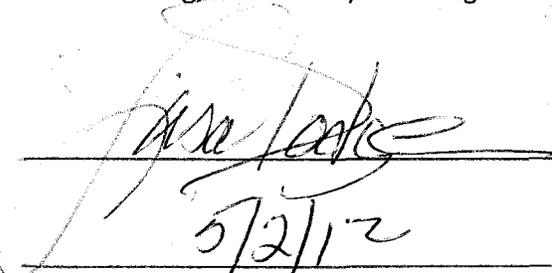
Mrs. Sands also discussed, McGraw Hill's (provides text books) summer program to employ educators that are not working over the summer.

There was general discussion around fund raisers and whether Cooper City schools should form their own foundations, similar to the Charter Schools to raise funds for each school. Additional discussion was held around using the Broward Education Foundation, which allows funds raised by each school to be maintained in an account where the school has discretionary ability to spend, but the Foundation holds the funds.

Mrs. Grutman will conduct an informational training session for the principals of copper city schools on working to develop partnerships with local businesses in an effort to partner with the schools to provide funding.

There was a question as to whether or not the Cooper City EAB would host a debate for the upcoming school board election. It was noted that Davie was already sponsoring an event and that the Cooper City EAB would look to participate with the event.

Mrs. Grutman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Megna and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.



5/2/12
