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EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011, 6PM  
MINUTES

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A meeting of the Education Advisory Board was duly called and held on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the auditorium, City Hall. Chair Lisa Conlon-Dodge called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Present at the meeting were: Chair, Lisa Conlon-Dodge; Vice-Chair, Gary J. Gorman; Felicia Anderson; David Brundage; Anne Culotta; Renee Grutman, Elizabeth Janzer; Diana Castejon-Morales; Melissa Megna; Helen (Kat) Pappas. Also in attendance were, Robert Becker Principal, Embassy Creek Elementary School and former chairperson Donna King.

Absent were William M. Erice and Pamela Sands.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of prior meeting were reviewed and required corrections. Upon corrections, motion duly made by Melissa Megna and seconded by Diana Castejon-Morales, it was unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chair Lisa Conlon-Dodge reminded members that the deadline for free books from Read Across American is February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Rally for Tally information was provided by Renee Grutman. She suggested our own rally at Cooper City High School in conjunction with the PTAs and PTOs to be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and will contact Principal Wendy Doll to see if date is acceptable. Planned date for Tallahassee is March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Lisa Conlon-Dodge discussed the e-mails received regarding the Broward County Public Schools Mentoring Office Fitness Program being piloted at Davie Elementary School.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resignation letter of board member Helen H. Cohen was received and accepted with regret and wishes for her continued involvement in educational issues.

Leadership in Government Student Program is to start on Thursday February 24<sup>th</sup> and a date for the City Commission Meeting recognition is being researched. Carol Adams has re-ordered the shirts for the students and payment will be from the Peace Bracelet Account. Funds for refreshments will also be from this account. It was noted that approximately 24 students are scheduled to start this session.

Renee Grutman suggested that we look into fund raising, since we continue to deplete the Peace Bracelet Account for the Leadership in Government program. She suggested a table at the Cooper City Garage Sale held biannually.

Chairperson Lisa Conlon-Dodge distributed copies of the memo by David M. Wolpin, City Attorney's Office on the Sunshine Law. She review how important it is for members to never discuss any business of the board unless it is during our public meetings.

Corrected EAB membership lists were distributed.

It was noted the members received copies in their e-mail from Carol Adams announcing the award of teacher of the year to Alvin Davis a music teacher from Miramar High School.

Member Felicia Anderson distributed copies of news articles about the Florida Textbook Action Team regarding possible biased textbooks. Chair Lisa Conlon-Dodge stated, and members agreed, that this is information only and not something that we would be interested in promoting since it may be political in nature and not within the stated purpose of our board.

Member Felicia Anderson also brought up the fact that there are organizations which provide updates on legislation but the the annual fee is approximately \$3,000 which is not in our budget. Some of the information she received noted that the proposed state budget includes a \$300 per student spending cut. Dave Brundage asked what we can do as a committee to prevent proposed budget cuts. Renee Grutman stated that there will be a training class at Piper High School on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 about how to become more effective in contacting our government officials and also the previously discussed Rally for Tally.

Melissa Megna informed members that computer based testing is being instituted in the schools for FCAT math and algebra. They will be piloting computer based testing for biology and geometry at Cooper City High School.

It was noted that March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day and Chair Lisa Conlon-Dodge will also be unavailable that day. It was proposed that the meeting will be moved to March 9<sup>th</sup> if that meeting room is available and Carol Adams will be contacted to arrange date and appropriate notifications.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next EAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6 PM, City Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made by Renee Grutman, seconded by Melissa Megna, and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

The foregoing minutes were submitted by Helen Kathleen Pappas and approved on

by  \_\_\_\_\_, Chair.