



Mayor's Asian American Advisory Board

**Behavioral and Human Services Division
1809 Art Museum Drive, Suite 100, Large Conference Room
Monday, August 12, 2013 at 6:00 PM**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Sophal Archard, Ed Callao, Radwan Chowdhury, Jay Gogaliya, Bala Govi, Mai Dinh Keisling, Johnnetta Moore, Lorelie Papel, Sunyoung Providakes, and Rajat Sharma

Board Members Excused: Pastor Do In and Dr. Jasper Xu

Board Members Unexcused: None

Prospective Members/Guests/Volunteers Present: Rafael Caldera, Palash Chowdhury, Christine Dahnke, Bangquan Huang, Sang Phouansouvanh, Wen Raiti, Yvonne Shaffer, Anna Marie Siegel, and David Tran

Ed Callao called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions were made around the room.

II. Approval of Minutes

Jay Gogaliya made a motion to approve the March 11, 2013, April 8, 2013, May 13, 2013, and July 8, 2013 minutes. Radwan Chowdhury seconded, the motion passed with changes and no further discussion.

III. Christine Dahnke, Chief ESOL Department, Duval County Public Schools

Christine Dahnke worked with the Creole/Haitian/Hispanic community in Miami and moved to Jacksonville to work as Chief of English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Department for the Duval County Public Schools. Duval County has moved from 400 to 4,400 non-English speaking students with Spanish, Arabic, and Burmese as being the top three participants.

Students who attend ESOL classes do not feel that they are part of the schooling experience. Ms. Dahnke wants to move from the Center model to allowing students to attend classes near where they live. Students who attended regular classes outperformed students who attended the Center School.

Ms. Dahnke had a meeting last week to discuss some ideas from the Grass Roots Group how to improve. One idea was to create logo or color that was specific to the ESOL program. One participant suggested the slogan "What is better one language or

two.” In addition, a suggestion was made to create a list serv for anyone in the community who wanted to mentor.

The Center for Language and Culture offers classes on how to speak English, computer and Driver’s Ed classes. The Center helps students with homework, reading, and English proficiency.

Please contact Christine Dahnke at (904) 390-2202, (904) 390-2481 or by email at dahnkec@duvalschools.org for any further information or if you would like to volunteer.

IV. Anna Marie Siegel, Director of International Student Services, FSCJ Downtown

International Student Services offers Scholarships for Education and Economic Development (SEED). The SEED program focuses on seven countries (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Haiti) to train business leadership and English to take back to their countries to educate others in their country. Participants live with a host family to learn the culture (still in need of host families). A stipend is given to the host family for expenses and to the participant for personal items. SEED encourages participants to return to their country to re-develop their communities.

Participants are females ages 19 – 25. Host families must live near a bus line, so that students can ride the bus to school. Participants will live with the host family for one year and then they will live one year alone to learn to be independent.

If interested in becoming a host family, please contact Anna Marie Siegel at (904) 632-3248 or by email at asiegel@fscj.edu .

V. Yvonne Schaffer, Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board

Yvonne Schaffer, representative from the Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board (MHAAB), is requesting MAAAB and MHAAB to work together on various projects. By working together, outreach can be made to help more people. Ms. Schaffer stated that it was important to get involved in programs like ESOL to help the communities grow. Ms. Schaffer also invited everyone to attend the MHAAB meeting that is held every second Tuesday of the month in the Mayor’s conference room.

Yvonne Schaffer asked if anyone had experience with FASA forms. Rajat stated he would forward the information.

Board members discussed combining efforts with MHAAB. Ed Callao stated that the information received during MAAAB meetings is forwarded to the various countries each member represents. Mr. Callao suggested the topic of education and mentoring is one of the topics at the Leadership Forum. Board members agreed. Mai Keisling agreed that combining forces was a good idea and suggested a common list so that both groups could get together. Radwan Chowdhury suggested a shared calendar and Jay Gogaliya suggested a list with everyone’s expertise.

VI. MAAAB Letter to the Better Business Bureau

Lorelie Papel passed around the draft letter to the Better Business Bureau for approval. Board member reviewed the letter; Mai Keisling made a motion to approve, Jasper Xu seconded, and the motion passed. Ms. Papel stated that Board members would need to fill out a notarized affidavit to submit with the letter. The approved letter will be forwarded for further approval.

VII. Proposed Leadership Forum

Board members discussed when to have the Leadership Forum. Due to various other events and the holidays, it was decided that January would be the best time. Ed Callao said that he would email committee members to start the process.

VIII. International Group Meeting

Members of the Board attended the International Group meeting at the University of North Florida. Focus of the meeting was to get everyone working together. The outcome of the meeting has not been posted.

IX. Other News, Announcements, Comments

Sopha Archard announced the Sima Ceremony is a three day event starting on Friday, November 29, 2013. The temple's official ribbon cutting will be on Saturday, November 30, 2013. The Great Supreme Patriarch, King of Monk of Cambodia and the Royal Ambassador of Cambodia will be in attendance.

X. Meeting Adjourned

Jay Gogaliya made a motion to adjourn, Radwan Chowdhury seconded, and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. Next meeting will held on August 12, 2013.