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The School Board of Broward County, Florida
Representing District Seven Broward County, Florida

Serving on the School Board of Broward County, Florida since 1986

Supporting Students, Parents, and the Community to further Educational Goals – Creating Educational Policy – Ensuring Excellence and Equity in Schools – Focusing on Continuously Improving Education for All Students Building Partnerships to Sustain Innovative Programs – Ensuring Accountability in Financial and Budgetary Controls – Effectively Communicating District’s Mission and Accomplishments

School Board member with over 35 years experience in education. Create educational policy to support strategic initiatives to improve opportunities for student success. Focus on partnership opportunities to raise necessary revenue for capital growth and operations. Sound leadership experience in effective organizational planning process of the District.

- **Leadership** – Directed various task forces to establish district level departments of Research and Evaluation, and Grants Administration.
- **Team Building** – Initiated the establishment of the Broward County Education Consortium that provides institutions of higher education and the Broward Public School District the opportunity to work collaboratively to address specific needs of the District.
- **Innovative Program Development** – Collaborated with the District and higher education to create the Teaching and Leadership Center at Florida Atlantic University to meet the challenges of attracting, preparing, and retaining qualified educators in Broward’s urban schools.
- **Dedicated Education Ambassador** – Chaired the Management Standing Committee and the Special Projects Committee of the Council of Great City Schools to promote innovative student and teacher programs for urban school districts.
- **Focused Community Service/Community Relations** – Secured funding for the design and implementation of Community Initiatives for Families, Family Resource Centers, and Training Employment Programs for Physically Impaired students to meet the challenges of educating students and families in an urban setting.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Member, School Board of Broward County, Florida 1986-Present

Establish educational policies that impact over 260,00 students and over 35,000 employees and served three times as Chairperson. Initiate the design of programs that have made significant advancements in student achievement, professional development, district reforms, school-based reforms, urban education, and community engagement.

- Created the establishment of the **Teaching and Leadership Center at Florida Atlantic University** in 2001, a collaborative initiative joining the forces of Florida Atlantic University and the School Board of Broward County, Florida in an effort to meet the challenge of attracting, developing, and retaining qualified, competent educators. Its mission and primary function is to support student achievement by identifying, recruiting, and developing teachers and school leaders to meet highly effective standards for quality.
- Initiated the **Urban Teacher Academy Program**, a district-wide program that engages high school students in a rigorous four-year plan of study to prepare them for teaching in urban schools, has grown to national recognition. This program received initial support from the Council of Great City Schools and Recruiting New Teacher, Inc.

- Secured over \$100,000 in funding for scholarships for the **Broward Teacher Fellowship** project that provides a four-year college tuition scholarship to successful high school graduates of the Urban Teacher Academy Program. This scholarship program helps deserving students pursue careers in education. These students are committed to becoming teachers who upon completion of their degree will teach in Broward County Public Schools.
- Designed the **Innovation Zone**, which calls for cohesive, family-centered learning strategies and a continuum of services within school feeder patterns. This concept proved so successful that Broward County was awarded Chapter 2 funding for \$125,000 to sustain the initiative and provide support under the Title VI Program. The Panasonic Foundation awarded additional monies for the expansion of this initiative.
- Wrote the **Professional Pathways Policy**, which directs schools to develop a comprehensive, systemic process for professional development based on their school improvement needs and also addressed the professional development of school-based administrators. Through the innovative design of Professional Pathways, Broward County earned national distinction as the recipient of the National Award for Model Professional Development, granted by the United States Department of Education in 2001.
- Initiated the **Technical Support and Business Training for Minority Contractors** to ensure an equitable distribution of School Board business. This initiative provides technical support and business training to minority subcontractors through an agreement with Nova Southeastern University and the Association of General Contractors. The program facilitates minority participation in the school construction arena.
- Developed the **Community Initiatives for Families** that provides services for students and their families through the establishment of **Family Resource Centers** throughout Broward County. Secured initial funding for Family Resource Centers through a Pew Charitable Trusts' family support grant.
- Collaborated with various business and community organizations, to establish "**Commit 2B Fit**" an educational, grassroots youth fitness and nutrition program designed to promote healthy eating and physical activity for both parents and children.
- Launched **The School Board Web Site** in 1996 to provide additional avenues of communication to respond to inquiries about schools and leading initiatives. It also provides links for parents, community partners, and highlights employment opportunities, and future programs.
- Authored the **Communication and Public Engagement Policy** to streamline the communication process used to provide consistency throughout the district for all stakeholders in developing major changes, programs, procedures, and policies.
- Served as the **State Legislative Liaison** for Broward County Public Schools, **District Director of the Florida School Boards Association**, and member of the **Board of Directors for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)** and instrumental in Broward County seeking district-wide accreditation.
- Initiated the **Digital Education Teacher Academy (DETA)**, a standards-based professional development program designed to assist teachers in transitioning their classrooms into digital learning environments and providing access to technology that facilitates bridging the digital divide. The DETA model is replicable, research based, student oriented, and consistent with the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Teachers in Broward receive three-hours graduate credit from Florida Atlantic University for completing DETA at no cost to them. An evaluation report conducted by University of Miami has concluded that DETA has created a favorable impact on daily classroom activities and the pedagogical approaches used by teachers.
- Initiated the **Digital Learning Environment Study (DLES)** to empower students to become lifelong learners capable of using technology for critical thinking, problem solving, virtual learning, and enhancing student achievement. The study has been established at four urban school sites, with 5200 laptops having been assigned to students. Parents and students have received training in the use of a laptop as a learning tool. Initial findings indicate an increase in student learning gains.

- Collaborated to create the **Education Summit on Teacher Shortage in Urban Areas** comprised of business and community leaders, K-12 educators, university and college presidents and professors, college students, local government officials, and state legislatures.
- Worked with **WorkForce Housing** on a multi-million dollar joint initiative with Bank of America and the School Board of Broward County to create a “Teachers Village” that will provide fifty residences for Broward Teachers that work in high need schools.

Director, Teaching and Leadership Center, Florida Atlantic University, College of Education 2001–2006

Increased program offerings for alternative certification administered through Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education, to meet the challenges of attracting, developing, and retaining qualified educators for Broward’s urban school district.

- Increased collaboration and initiatives with higher education partners to secure funding to implement alternative preparation and certification programs for prospective and current teachers in Broward County.

Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University, Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education 1998–2000

- Coordinated staff development opportunities for audio bridge, compressed video, online, multi-media and customized format to deliver courses.
- Increased student enrollment in teacher web-based courses for the College of Education.
- Designed and developed web-based courses for the Teacher Education department.

Program Professor, Nova Southeastern University, Division of Education and Behavioral Sciences and Graduate Teacher Education Program 1985-1998

- Directed college students in innovative programs in urban schools including the Alliance of quality Schools, and Family Resource Centers/Full Service Schools.
- Created teacher intern programs and evaluated results of program as Chair of the Graduate Teacher Education Program’s Curriculum Committee
- Supervised graduate interns in urban schools including the Alliance of Quality Schools and Family Resource Centers

Other positions held – Lobbyist for the National Education Association Congressional Contact Team, Social Studies Department Chair for the International Baccalaureate Program at Boyd Anderson, High School Teacher for the American Institutions Program

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education, Education Leadership, University of Miami, Florida 1995

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida 1985

Masters in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida 1970

Bachelor of Arts in History, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina 1967

AFFILIATIONS

National School Boards Association
The Council of Great City Schools
American Diabetes Association
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
American Association of Colleges for Teachers
Phi Delta Kappa
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Florida High Schools Activities Association

PUBLICATIONS

Kaplan, A., Knight, K., and Parks, R. “*Effect of the Urban Academies of Broward County, Florida, Teacher Preparation, Supply, and Satisfaction.*” Educational Research Services, Winter 2008, Vol.26. No.1, pp. 11-22.

Parks, R. ‘*Growing*’ *Our Own Teachers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, 2004.

Parks, R. *School Board says to the community it serves: “We hear you”*, Miami Herald editorial, May 1996

McDonald, G. and Parks, R. *Highly Gifted Elementary Pilot*, (Fort Lauderdale: Unpublished Document), 1996.

Parks, R. *For the Benefit of Children: Family Resource Centers*, (Louisville, Kentucky: Unpublished document), 1995.

Broward County Public Schools: *Professional Pathways*, 1995

Parks, R. *The Influence of a Family Literacy Program on Low Socioeconomic Families and Their Children*, (Dissertation: University of Miami), 1995.

Status Report - *Community Initiatives for Families*, June 1995

Position Paper - *Integrating Societal Issues into the Textbooks and Curriculum Materials*, presented at the Legislative and Policy Conference of the Council of the Great City Schools, March 1994, Washington, D.C.

Pew Charitable Trusts - *The Children Initiative: Making Systems Work* - the Final Florida Implementation grant proposal, Broward section, December 1993

Blasik, K., Masters, P., and Parks, R. *Enterprise Ambassador Program: A Link Between Business and the Schools*, THE CLEARINGHOUSE. September/October, 1993, 67 (1), p. 35-36.

Board Agenda Item and Supporting Position Paper - *Innovation Zones - A Vision for a Community of Learners*, February 2, 1993

Challenge 21: A Plan for Reinventing America's Schools to meet the Challenge of the 21st Century, a proposal, submitted to the New American Schools Development Corporation, February 1992

Pew Charitable Trusts - *The Children Initiative: Making Systems Work* - Florida's Development Planning grant proposal - Broward section, September 1992

Creating a Design Plan for Reinventing Broward's Schools to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century, September 1992

Broward County Public Schools: *Teacher Education Alliance*, 1991

Parks, R. *Without Proper Funding, Broward Kids Would Suffer*, *The Miami Herald*, 1991.

Pew Charitable Trusts - *The Children Initiative: Making Systems Work* - the Broward Operational Test Site grant proposal, August 1991

Shared Decision Making Project - Grant Proposal to Citicorp, 1991

Broward County Public Schools: *Elementary Teacher Effectiveness*. 1990

Broward County Public Schools: *Shared Decision Making*, 1990

PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, Council of Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference, October 2004, Las Vegas, Nevada, "Teaching and Leadership Center's" innovative initiatives in working with its partners to secure funding, develop and deliver alternative certification programs to enhance the pool of secondary and exceptional education candidates, develop an urban educator training program for high school and college graduates, and to assist in the development of leadership activities and benchmark assessments.

Presenter, The First Annual Statewide Symposium on Educator Preparation, September 2000, "Strengthening Educator Preparation through School/Community College/University Partnerships-The Broward Education Consortium."

Keynote speaker, First Annual Staff Development Conference, School Board of Broward County, Human Resource Development Inservice Training, January 2000.

Facilitator, MOP (Management of Programs) I Study Area, "Political Advocacy", Nova Southeastern University, 1997. The basic purpose of MOP I is for students to develop their management and leadership competencies.

Panelist, 1997 Summer Institute, School and Community, Roots for Democracy, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, topic: "Community Collaboratives That Work", parent, students, teachers, school administrators, school board members, higher education, cultural and community organizations, government and the business working together to change the way we educate our children.

Presenter, "Report to the Stakeholders" (A Conversation with Dr. Robert Parks, Broward County School Board), Nova Southeastern University, April 1997.

GTEP (Graduate Teacher Education Program - NSU) Faculty Committee, 1996-97 - Field Experiences - to develop recommended systems and procedures for the implementation of required field experiences, including student teaching. To review and coordinate the incorporation for Florida and Nevada competencies requiring field experiences into the curriculum.

Presenter, Panasonic Foundation Restructuring Roundtable IV, San Diego, CA, November 1996

Panelist, "Professional Issues in Family Support" Nova Southeastern University Summer Institute on Leadership Management, 1994

Position Paper - *Integrating Societal Issues into the Textbooks and Curriculum Materials*, presented at the Legislative and Policy Conference of the Council of the Great City Schools, March 1994, Washington, D.C.

Plenary Session Presenter - National Conference on Family Literacy, School Reform and Family Literacy, 1993

Nova Southeastern University Summer Institute - panelist - Professional Issues in Family Support, 1993

Presenter, Technology and Learning Conference, October 22-24, 2003, "Digital Education Teacher Academy" (DETA): A K-12 University partnership to deliver standards-based professional development in technology integration.

Program Coordinator, National School Boards Association Site Visit, Broward County Public Schools, March 2004. "From the school house to your house: A virtual pathway."

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Recipient of the **2005 Valor Award presented by the American Diabetes Association** for efforts toward improving public awareness regarding adolescent diabetes. Worked to combine school district resources and community contributions to implement initiatives such as the “Walk for Diabetes” and the awareness of insulin pumps for students.
- **Chairman's Award** for participation in the Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce to raise funds for local charitable organizations.