



**Semi-Annual Advisory Board Meeting  
Zoo Explorers South / Explorers University  
Brevard After School Academy-Central  
Brevard After School Academy-North  
Thursday, February 19, 2016 – 9:00-11:00 AM  
Brevard Zoo-Mural Classroom  
8225 North Wickham Road  
Melbourne, FL 32940**

**Present**

Brevard Public Schools – District Personnel: Debi Embry, Todd Forschino, Brenda Wright, Kelly Sarria, Terri Bagby, Theresa Cavanaugh, Ashley Cabral

Zoo Explorers South: Deanna Baughn, Kim Lietz, Heidi Jacobson, Kathleen Francisco, Deanna Gwin, Leanne Marriott, Carla Hilliard

Explorers University: Stacy Cirino, Jenifer Lopez, Daisy Perez, Susan McCrea, Angie Lizek, Olga Robinson, Elena Owens, Lydia Reynolds, Alicia Gillaspie, Carol Bonhamer, Angela French

Brevard After School Academy Central: Durcelia Thomas, Marilea Pittenger, Deborah Yosheda, Veronica Ordanez, Heather Champion, Diana Stephans

Brevard After School Academy North: Tavin Manley, Elias Quintana

Brevard After School Intern Coordinators: Dru Woodard, Lawanda Council, Celeste Rotan, Brian Andreasen

Partners: Lisa Lehmann (Brevard Zoo), Vanessa Spero-Swingle (UF/ IFAS Ext 4-H), Mary Westerfield (BCH), Cecilia Scott and Katy Schindler (Girls Scouts), Sally Richardson (Boy Scouts), Zac Bell (United Way), Lenard Harrison (Melbourne PAL)

**Welcome/ Introduction**

Debi Embry welcomed and thanked everyone for attending then proceeded by introducing the BAS District Personnel. She then briefly discussed the outline of today's meeting.

**Parent Open Forum / Collaboration**

- Susan M, a Jupiter parent of two, a third grader who was struggling in reading and a kindergartener. She stated "The program is wonderful, my child has been struggling in reading, and because of the tutoring offered he has gone up in his reading score".
- Veronica Ordanz, a parent of four at Cambridge, shared "I love that my daughter wants to do the activities at home that she learns in the aftercare".



- Deanna Baughn, a Sherwood parent, has two children that attend Zoo Explorers South. Her daughter LOVES girl scouts, she is thankful for the opportunity to participate. When Sherwood started their culinary arts piece her son actually became excited about going to school so he could participate in the program.
- Heather Champion, a parent at Golfview shared her appreciation for the snack program. Her daughter doesn't eat during the day due to medication. When she arrives to aftercare the medication has worn off and she is starving. She also shared her joy in having most of the homework done when she picks her daughter up, it allows her daughter and family some downtime when they get home.
- Debi Embry shared that currently, three (3) schools: Cambridge, Golfview and Saturn are piloting a "Dinner Program" through food services. It has been highly rated by the families at these schools so Debi is meeting with Kevin Thornton in food services to discuss expansion to all 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites.
- Dee Stephens, coordinator at Golfview, shared a variety of things on the menu with support from Marilea, the coordinator at Saturn, who stated "the program listens to the feedback and responds by sending meal components that the students actually want".

## **Pick-ups**

Early/Late Protocols - Debi explained that we cannot change the time from 6:00 PM pick up, if we move the close time to 5:30 pm then we would have to close our program at 5:30 PM and this would negatively affect our parents who work past these times. However, she did share some alternatives:

- **Creating a parent table**; Marilea, Coordinator at Saturn, shared her success with doing this. "It allows my parents to sit down with their children) and reflect on the day's activities. Doing this has decreased the line during checkout and allowed the opportunity for the parents to spend a little bit of time with their children and see what they are doing in the program".
- **Allowing sign out close to 5:48**; this would allow parents a little more flexibility making the checkout process quicker.

Mary with Brevard Cultural Alliance, explained the effects of early checkout from a partner's perspective. "When you pick the students up early it affects the projects the students are working on, some students won't get the chance to even finish the projects".

Some of the coordinators shared their experiences with inviting parents in to the program prior to check out time. Daisy Perez at Jupiter said that when she invited her parents in some students would try and leave early or not even check out at all. She felt this was not one of her



favorite ideas. Lydia Reynolds, at Harbor City, highly suggests this idea. She exclaimed “get creative with the parents and students”!

### **Partners Feedback**

- Brevard Cultural Alliance: Mary shared that her instructors, who work with the students, incorporate cross integration in their arts projects.
- UCF/ IFAS Extension/4-H – Vanessa shared the success of the garden activities. The students really enjoyed making their own garden beds and adding the compost.
- Girl Scouts of America- Katie invited the parents to become volunteers and share the experience with their daughters whom have showed great interest in scouts. Katie shared that they continue to work on activities with the girls that will promote social skills and bring academics where they can.
- Boys Scouts of America- The boys have really enjoyed this opportunity, being able to get ranks, and even offering out-of-school activities to participate in at no cost to families. The Pinewood Derby seemed to be of high interest to the boys, they were able to build the cars and set up the tracks.
- United Way- Zac currently has 4 sites working with the Rolling Readers program, “our goal is to have access to technology” he stated. Zac also has volunteers registered through United Way at some of the schools working with iPads and using the MyON platform while reading with students. Sites that do not have volunteers yet still have access to the iPads to have student reading clubs within the program.
- Brevard Zoo- Lisa is currently at 4 schools (Zoo Explorers South) and working on Science investigation. The kids really seem to enjoy the experiments we do especially working with the snakes, she shared.

Debi shared over the 12 years Brevard has had 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs, the programs have had the opportunity to service children with many different opportunities that they normally would not be offered, and this is all with the help of our community. The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs services nearly 1000 students through this program.



**Mid-Year Evaluation Process-**

BAS submitted all the mid-year performance data (reading, math, science, art, wellness, behavior and family workshops) Monday to Tallahassee. When results come in we will meet with the sites and create a plan to address any needed improvements or mid-year changes

**RFP/RFA's-**

Debi presented information for the two RFPs for the 2016-2017 school year. These RFPs would include services to the schools in the Zoo Explorers South program that sunsets at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**2016-2017 School Year Meetings:**

Thursday, November 3, 2016 9:00am-11:30am  
ESF Board Room

Friday, February 10, 2017 9:00am- 11:00am  
EFS Board Room

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Arnott, Director

Adult and Community Education

Approved: Debi Embry 3/2/16  
Debi Embry, District Coordinator

After School Programs and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers