



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019–6:30 PM-8:30 PM**

**July 2018 – April 2019**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Austin Scott, Chair	P	7	0
Dr. Allen Zeman, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Robert Audet	P	5	3
Linda Barnett	P	4	3
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	3	5
Amy Ellowitz	P	5	2
April Jeff	P	2	1
Deniece Jones	P	5	3
Terry Large	A	5	3
Jennifer Lovell	P	7	1
Vickie Melus	P	1	0
Dr. Heather Munns	P	4	4
Sarah Owen DelNegri	P	4	3
Lincoln Pasteur	P	5	2
Dr. Maureen Persi	A	3	5
Christopher Relyea	P	6	2
Betty Shelley	P	3	5
Lillian Small	A	1	7
Dr. Michele Verdi Knapp	P	6	1

**Staff/Guests**

Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison  
City Commissioner Steve Glassman  
City Clerk Jeff Modarelli  
City Manager Chris Lagerbloom  
Police Chief Rick Maglione  
David Earle Harbin, Jr.  
Lori Canning, Executive Director of Early Learning and Language Acquisition for Broward County Public Schools  
Leslie Brown, Chief Portfolio Services Officer with the Broward County School Board  
Dr. Angela Exum, Broward County School Board  
Jamie Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.

**I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Austin Scott, Chair**

This meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**II. Attendance by Roll Call, 19 appointed members; 10 needed for quorum**

As of this date, January 10, 2019, 16 of the 19 appointed members were present, which constituted a quorum.

**III. Presentation: Allen Zeman, Vice Chair, Task Leader of “Gap Analysis of Quality of Education in Fort Lauderdale”**

Dr. Zeman indicated that this Board is the City’s largest group working for the City regarding education. The Board’s job is to advise the Commission of efforts on things that should be considered as well as the pros and cons of policies. It was decided to do a Gap Analysis on education for Fort Lauderdale residents a year ago. Dr. Zeman recognized Lincoln Pasteur and Jennifer Lovell for conducting interviews with Principals, Robert Audet, and Chris Relyea, who teaches at Nova High School. Other information provided came from 200 students at Nova High School, who work for Mr. Relyea. Michelle Verdi Knapp also helped gather fundamental data. This has been a collective effort and what has been learned about the gaps in education are being shared. Dr. Zeman also thanked Leslie Brown and her team who work for Superintendent Runcie and helped in gathering data. This Board feels an obligation to share some of this analysis and at the same time, bring potential solutions to the gaps found. A series of gaps will be seen as well as a lot of data about Fort Lauderdale education and ten recommendations the Board has for the City to consider. The idea is to generate ideas and share recommendations that make sense to close, mitigate, or eliminate the gaps. The Board would like to partner and put ownership, budgets, laws, and authorities aside and say this group is here because they care about the quality of education. The subject is about Fort Lauderdale residents and the 19,060 kids that attend public schools every day. No data was available relating to kids homeschooling and attending private schools within the time-period set aside.

The analysis and recommendations will be shown in the Power Point. The following facts were noted:

- 13,700 kids go to schools in Fort Lauderdale, but a lot of others go to schools in Lauderhill all the way to Lauderdale Lakes.
- School grades are both a measure of what is learned and probably the most significant thing that influences perception of education.
- Over the past five years, four schools are always a grade “A”; nine schools have not improved or had a lower grade but stayed the same; seven schools have gotten better; and three schools declined. More schools are doing better than

declining.

- There is a significant gap, almost a 2:1 gap in the average letter grades in schools west of Andrews Avenue as opposed to grades east of Andrews Avenue. GPA's are getting better on the west side and schools on the east side are doing very well and have stayed about the same. When breaking down the schools in Fort Lauderdale and taking the average over five years, the numbers are 1.7 for west, which is in between a "C" and a "D", and between an "A" and "B" for the schools on the east side.
- Some schools are low in utilization and there might be an opportunity to consolidate schools or to think about the structures available and the way education is delivered.
- Five years ago, graduation rates were up from 88.9% to 93.8%. Five years ago, schools exceeded the State average, but in the past five years, schools are under the State average.
- Many parents like to talk about existing school programs.
- More fifth graders are going to sixth grade in public schools and more are going from eighth grade to ninth grade.

It was noted that the City of Sunrise publishes a 25-page pamphlet yearly that highlights everything offered to the kids.

In two days, Mr. Relyea's students at Nova High School found a list of things a handful of Cities are doing to support education.

In Dr. Zeman's opinion, having a Police Officer in school is a contribution to education.

Ideas previously discussed by this Board are as follows:

- Summer programs.
- Holiday camps and programs for out of school days.
- Consolidating schools. It was noted that there are 22,000 empty seats in Public Charter Schools in Broward County, much more than the unused capacity at Broward County Schools.
- Expanding boundaries of "A" schools with 20% capacity.
- Expanding use of K-8 schools.
- City of Fort Lauderdale volunteer programs in schools.
- Establishment of City of Fort Lauderdale standards.
- The City hiring a Chief Education Officer.
- Coaching and mentoring school leadership teams.
- Pros and cons of Public Charters to identify specific gaps found.

**IV. GUEST SPEAKERS: Robert W. Runcie, Broward County Public School (BCPS); BCPS Senior Staff, Heather P. Brinkworth, School Board Member, District 3; and BCPS, School Board, City of Fort Lauderdale and other invited guests.**

Discussion of Gap Analysis of Education in Fort Lauderdale to develop list of opportunities for further consideration for City and BCPS partnership to enhance education for City K-12 students.

Ms. Brinkworth thanked the Board for their work. As a resident, parent and former teacher, it was always frustrating that the City did not seem to pay more attention to public education or education in general. That was discussed when she sat on this Board and it was brought to the Commission as something of importance. Ms. Brinkworth welcomed the opportunity for the Commission and this Board to work together with the School District and with all the schools, whether they are traditional public schools, public charter schools, public schools, etc. People coming to the City of Fort Lauderdale need to have options and the information must be easily accessible. Ms. Brinkworth requested that the Board push for that to occur. She was curious about the idea of expanding "A" school boundaries and noted that she was not aware of the capacity at the "A" schools within the City of Fort Lauderdale. Regarding graduation rates, Ms. Brinkworth asked if graduations were looked at just in the City of Fort Lauderdale or if it was for the entire County. She noted that the City of Fort Lauderdale graduation rates are incredibly higher and increasing every year; Fort Lauderdale High School is over 98%. Ms. Brinkworth was happy to hear there would be conversation regarding the east/west line. There must be a way to partner to deliver better services to all students served within the City.

Superintendent Runcie stated that the only way to eliminate and reduce gaps associated with poverty is with the School District working in significant partnership with the community. There are a lot of factors but the will of a community working with the School District can drive that in so many ways. Having the same level of information and knowledge and sharing that throughout the community can create a different perspective in terms of how schools are looked at. From the School Board's view, it is not necessarily about the school grades; it is about the quality of education, the lives in the schools, and what can be done to help the kids have a better future. The School Board would like to make this ongoing until it is fixed. Chair Brinkworth and the entire School Board staff are committed to working with this Board to bring about that change.

Commissioner Glassman advised that he has a passion for education and encouraged the Board not to be disheartened by any previous lack of action and to bring recommendations to the Commission, which will be taken seriously. In the first nine months in office he has spoken to many groups including real estate groups and there is a perception that our schools are not good.

City Manager Lagerbloom concurred that it is important to partner with the School District.

Ms. Dinnen mentioned that the City can help improve the perception of the schools with marketing and public relations. Another party involved is the State Legislature and Representatives should ask what they are doing for education. In looking at the statistics for school counselors, the American Counselor Association says there should be one counselor for every 250 students and Florida has one counselor for every 485 students. State Legislators provide funds for those types of things and if the base student allocation is not given, the full compliment cannot be brought into the schools. City lobbyists, School Board lobbyists, and the community can advocate for public education.

Ms. Lovell requested the status of letters received by the City in reference to radios and video surveillance.

Superintendent Runcie indicated that the School Board will discuss the agreement with the Broward Sheriff's Office next Tuesday to allow remote real-time access to video cameras in the District; a meeting will be scheduled to provide that to the City as well. Mr. Feldman's letter was regarding the Guardians. Everything will be worked out and staff is trying to coordinate that with the City.

Ms. Lovell stated that another concern was that Virginia Schuman Young Elementary School had non-working outdoor speakers.

Superintendent Runcie advised that inter-school communication is being worked on. There are several initiatives in place and first on the list is expanding the number and use of radios within the schools to make sure whenever staff is in an area where there may not be an intercom system that they are equipped with a radio so there can be effective communication. In August, the School Board approved an item to add and upgrade intercom systems within the schools. Initially, high schools and some of the Centers were being done, which would take a couple of years and is expensive, with an estimate of \$40 million to \$50 million. Repeaters are also being installed at the schools to make sure signals are at optimal capacity for staff radios.

Chief Maglione indicated that radios can be purchased from the County; however, permission is needed from the Broward Sheriff's Office to access Police frequencies.

Superintendent Runcie advised that staff is contacting and working with the Broward Sheriff's Office to see if, under the funds made available through the State for safety, that the School Board can purchase those radios.

Mr. Scott questioned if there was an updated target date for single point of entry progress.

Superintendent Runcie stated that the intention was to have single point of entry functionality in place at all Broward County Schools by the end of March or early April. That does not mean all single point entry projects will be finished, but the functionality will be there. Several schools may need some major changes, which would take longer, probably until the end of the school year into the summer. Prior to the start of the next school year, every school will have their single point of entry completed. The Referendum that recently passed had many safety components. About \$18 million was included that the School board would have annually to increase the number of School Resource Officers. It was the School Board's intent to ensure that there is not just a single Officer or Guardian at a school, but that the ratio should be one for every thousand. A Workshop will be held in the future to determine what the criteria would be to firm up those numbers. The challenge is the capacity in the market place; there are vacancies for Officers throughout Broward County; the number is as high as 300, so they will have to work around that. At the elementary level they will be able to add security specialists and campus monitors, which do not exist at that level, and they will be able to provide support on the grounds to school staff. Those people will be hired sometime late in the spring, so they will be ready for the start of the next school year. Funds from the Referendum do not go into effect until the 2019/2020 school year, which starts July 1, 2019.

Ms. Dinnen questioned if there was any data on the single point of entry situation in the City of Fort Lauderdale schools. It was noted that the names of schools with projects have been removed and she was concerned if the list was narrowed to just the City of Fort Lauderdale, so they would be easily identifiable.

Superintendent Runcie advised that the single point of entry was over 80% complete across the County. The original timeline to complete all those from when the Bond was passed in the Fall 2014 to 2021 was a seven-year effort. In the Fall 2017, the School Board decided to accelerate anything related to safety; therefore, the single point of entry projects were pulled out of other projects and the timeline was accelerated so they would all be done at some point in 2019, a couple of years ahead of when they were originally planned.

Chief Maglione supports a certified sworn Police Officer being in every school from elementary through high school. The issue is that there are not enough Officers on staff; therefore, Guardians are being used. Chief Maglione questioned where the Officers are supposed to come from.

Dr. Zeman stated that Miami and Palm Beach have School Police Forces, which has been discussed by this Board.

Superintendent Runcie advised that the School Board would look at any ideas. Whether the School Board has a Police Department or they contract with the City of Fort Lauderdale, it is not going to change the actual supply problem. Five or six out of every 100 applicants qualify to be an Officer. There is a tremendous amount of value in Cities having their Officers connected to the schools; they know the community and it is a very different type of relationship; it is a positive relationship that needs to be continued and developed. Superintendent Runcie's preference is to work with the municipality, the Law Enforcement Agencies, and collectively determine how the supply issues can be dealt with and try to get to these goals over time. The School Board will still look at what it would take to do their own Police Department; the pros and cons and the costs.

Chief Maglione indicated that there are requirements and concerns. Some Cities have no schools of their own, so the School Board, being a Countywide taxing entity, could equitably distribute the additional funding required throughout the entire County.

Superintendent Runcie stated that one model could be that the School Board pay for additional Officers and they would not have to absorb the capital infrastructure and associated logistics. He did not think there was just one way to do this and believed that several scenarios should to be considered.

Chair Scott commented that this Board frequently does not know the next thing to advocate for and questioned how the School Board comes up with a creative plan for re-tasking a school or a new school. If this Board knew the specific answers there would be an actionable goal to advocate for.

Superintendent Runcie advised that schools are repurposed.

Dr. Zeman stated that he is optimistic about funding because a couple of attractive schools in Miami Dade County are in urban areas that were not trendy for condos ten years ago.

Mr. Relyea mentioned that people think education is County driven and not City driven. It comes down to what the City's domain is, what it could affect and possibly do in partnering with the County. Perception is big, and Mr. Relyea thought a huge opportunity was being missed to partner with the bigger real estate agencies in the community that could drive the community and work on land swaps or developments, and the perception would go through them. Once they become partners, pamphlets could be put together and when the question of where the children of CEO's are going to go, a pamphlet could be provided. Force the businesses the City gives tax breaks to

and obligate them to offer internships as a swap for the tax break. Getting the City to partner with the real estate community would drive the will of the community, solve the redevelopment program, fix the perception problem, and show off the City's Innovative Programs; eight things could be solved through one venue and it would not be expensive.

Dr. Zeman requested that Commissioner Glassman share information with people who are busy in the real estate enterprise, developers and businesses.

Commissioner Glassman stated that he would be meeting with over 100 real estate agents at the Chamber Office at the end of February and agreed to distribute whatever the Board wants.

Superintendent Runcie indicated that his staff would like to be there.

Mr. Pasteur mentioned the two interviews he conducted with Principals and noted that the main concerns of teachers and parents was gentrification. Kids come from apartments in the neighborhood around the school and parents fear their kids are going to be displaced because of gentrification. Both principals mentioned that the teachers cannot afford to live or rent in most neighborhoods in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Pasteur welcomed the real estate community coming aboard so this could be discussed specifically to resolve the issue.

Superintendent Runcie stated that is a big issue in South Florida. It was noted that this area was probably the most cost burdened in the country when looking at the average income and the percentage of income allocated towards housing. The City of Fort Lauderdale could create a competitive advantage by working with developers to set aside a percentage of affordable housing specifically earmarked for teachers.

Mr. Audet commented that marketing and public relations were mentioned and questioned if the City of Fort Lauderdale has ever attempted to create a positive perception on a bigger scale.

Ms. Brinkworth was not aware if the City had ever worked on perception in connection with the School Board.

Mr. Audet questioned if there was an opportunity to start creating a positive perception with marketing and public relations.

Ms. Brinkworth stated that as a School Board member who talks to the Administrators of their schools, a lot of the burden from marketing and public relations for a school is laid with the Principals. She thought there was a huge opportunity for some type of partnership between the City and possibly some of the people who are making a lot of

money within the City to work to help the District market the schools within the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Superintendent Runcie mentioned the Education Advisory Board and relationships with the community to secure some type of marketing advertising firm who could come up with a nice campaign that could be launched.

Mr. Relyea stated that no one can champion a school better than kids at the school and there are a lot of kids that are marketing geniuses. Perhaps those kids could work as internships at firms.

Chair Scott mentioned Chaz Adams of the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Information Office and suggested using the City's social media.

Ms. Dinnen suggested going to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Real Estate Organization; there could be a coordinated effort between the City and the Organization. She also suggested meeting with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance.

Superintendent Runcie stated that there needs to be some type of information session with major realtors in the area and open houses to follow up.

Dr. Zeman commented that the community feels excluded from the schools and to the extent that open houses could be done, that would solve some of that feeling. The Sunrise Education Advisory Board has 12 members and 12 schools, and each member gets a school and they write a publicity piece, which creates the pamphlet. This Education Advisory Board has 20 members and 20 schools, so each member could be a liaison to a school. Dr. Zeman questioned how to take kids that start two letter grades behind in first grade and accelerate them so they are up to performance level by fourth or fifth grade.

Leslie Brown, Chief Portfolio Services Officer with the Broward County School Board, advised that the kids in the east schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale start two years behind when they go to Kindergarten and the kids in the west are ahead.

Superintendent Runcie indicated that learning gains and growth need to be considered. There are "A" rated schools all around the County but the quality of instruction in the schools is another role.

Dr. Zeman questioned what the City could do for the residents of West Fort Lauderdale, so the kids do not start two years behind in first grade.

Superintendent Runcie replied that it is about a Citywide effort early learning. As a School District, they have a partnership with Centers and can help support them as well. There could be an effort; they will work with the Education Advisory Board and the City to connect to early learning providers in a very significant way. The School Board can provide professional development resources and support as well as work to establish a Center of Excellence like the one in Gulfstream by repurposing a facility; an infrastructure could be laid out to make that happen. With the right type of school that gap can be closed.

Dr. Zeman commented that he visited Ms. Canning's school. It is a community-based model, but it offers hope and a practical solution to catching kids before they get too far behind. Dr. Zeman questioned how much of the resources come from the City.

Lori Canning, Executive Director of Early Learning and Language Acquisition for Broward County Public Schools, stated that there are some physicians and SRO's that come from the City and there are programs in place by the City. Funds come from County and Federal for children's services and there are also not-for-profit organizations located on the campus who provide services. They oversee partnerships with the early childhood providers. There are over 800 child care providers, 100,000 children from birth to age five. The City of Fort Lauderdale was one of the first Cities to join the Broward Needs of Children's Services Counsel; to impact the child, the whole family must be impacted as well as the community.

Dr. Zeman questioned where and how many early learning centers would solve the issue. Perhaps the model could be done with a classroom or two per school.

Mr. Pasteur mentioned that all the Principals in the red area on the chart had ideas about things that could be done that would affect early learning; however, most of them cost and they do not have the budgets to do many of the things needed.

Mr. Relyea commented that the unique advantage the City of Fort Lauderdale has is a higher concentration of businesses per student.

Mr. Pasteur stated that those children are not reading on grade level; we are not a reading culture and that effects critical thinking skills.

Ms. Canning suggested joining the Broward Reads campaign.

Mr. Pastuer stated that the Broward Sheriff's Office will create a reading space for kids if space is available.

Commissioner Glassman indicated that the City Fraternal Order of Police has a reading program. It would be great if this Board would find some synergy with the City's Economic Development Advisory Board; Michael Chen is the liaison.

Chair Scott mentioned that he attended the afternoon session the other day and a comment was made about brand slogans the City pushes out and how often they stick or not stick. Branding depends on core volunteers. Any kind of volunteers are welcome, mentors, coaches, donors, people with creative solutions, and alumni. Perception does not match reality, so anything that can be done to bridge that perception gap would be huge. Chair Scott questioned if there has been a spike in the number of families that do not speak English in the home.

Ms. Brinkworth stated that the diversity is different depending on the school. There are pockets within schools across the City of Fort Lauderdale as there are across the County.

Superintendent Runcie advised that continues to grow in Broward County; there are now over 40 dual language schools where young students are taught in English and there is a target language, typically Spanish. Teachers are paired, and they go back and forth.

David Harbin was impressed with the actions taken regarding safety in the schools. Students always know what is happening or going to happen before the Principal or teachers, so he suggested that the focus be on building relationships with students, so they can snitch anonymously. Mr. Harbin referenced the east and west sides and stated that Carol Dweck and Angela Duckworth, with Growth Mindset, could get teachers and students believing that no matter where the kids start they can develop to a higher level.

Chief Maglione mentioned Safer Watch, a free app, which allows anonymous tips to be sent to Law Enforcement and alerts can be sent out.

Dr. Angela Exum, with Broward Schools, mentioned mental health issues and stated that not enough is being done. As far as issues with the Police Officers and not having enough staff, she questioned if there has ever been any consideration about training some of the students through a program.

Ms. Melus mentioned the perception and making people aware of available programs and noted that she gets students that come to her with concerns about bullying, suicide threats, etc. on a weekly basis. There needs to be a place where kids can report things within the school, similar to the Safer Watch. Parents need to be educated on how to help their kids learn; helping parents help their kids is key.

**V. Approve minutes (December 20, 2018)**

Minutes were not approved and will be placed on the next agenda.

**VI. Current Business**

**A. Board discussions**

Dr. Zeman indicated that this room is not available for the Board's next normal meeting date and stated that Dr. Osgood is available to attend the meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Dr. Osgood has offered to meet at the Wright School Board building in the School Board's Chambers and Dr. Zeman suggested that the Board meet at that location. He questioned if the Board wanted to have a meeting on February 27, 2019 when this room would be available.

Chair Scott did not believe the Board would be ready at that time, but would be ready at the March meeting, because that is the final preps when the 20 Principal interviews would be read, and the 25 ideas would be selected down to a list that could be distilled for the Commission that would solve the biggest gaps. Two weeks after the March meeting is when the Board goes to the City Commission for a two-hour Workshop meeting.

**Motion** by Dr. Zeman, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to move the February meeting to Thursday, February 7, 2019 at the Wright School Board building in the School Board's Chambers at 6:30 p.m. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (17-0)

Ms. Dinnen distributed a reprint of an editorial Superintendent Runcie wrote about arming teachers.

Chair Scott welcomed Vickie Melus, new member.

**B. Staff updates – Junia Robinson – None.**

**VII. Closing**

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

[Minutes transcribed by C. Guifarro, Prototype, Inc.]

Attachments: