



**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
KATHLEEN C. WRIGHT
ADMINISTRATIVE BLDG.
600 SE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019–6:30 PM-8:30 PM**

| Members | July 2018 – April 2019 | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Attendance | Present | Absent |
| Austin Scott, Chair | P | 8 | 0 |
| Dr. Allen Zeman, Vice Chair | P | 8 | 0 |
| Robert Audet | A | 5 | 4 |
| Linda Barnett | A | 4 | 4 |
| Maureen S. Dinnen | A | 3 | 6 |
| Amy Ellowitz | P | 7 | 1 |
| April Jeff | A | 2 | 2 |
| Deniece Jones | P | 6 | 3 |
| Terry Large | P | 6 | 3 |
| Jennifer Lovell | A | 7 | 2 |
| Vickie Melus | P | 2 | 0 |
| Dr. Heather Munns | P | 5 | 4 |
| Sarah Owen DelNegri | A | 4 | 4 |
| Lincoln Pasteur | A | 5 | 3 |
| Dr. Maureen Persi | A | 3 | 6 |
| Christopher Relyea | P | 7 | 2 |
| Betty Shelley | P | 4 | 5 |
| Lillian Small | A | 1 | 8 |
| Dr. Michele Verdi Knapp | P | 7 | 1 |

Staff/Guests

Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison
Joseph Beck
Jill Young
Angela Gomez
Melanie Hemphill
Leslie Brown, Broward County School Board
Dr. Rosalind Osgood, School Board Member, District 5
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, February 7, 2019, 10 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 advised that gaps have been identified from the data directly related to schools within their district. Several Board members have conducted interviews with Principals and next month the Board will discuss what to do in preparation for a Workshop with the City Commission in May. This is a system legally run, administered, led, selected, and funded by the Counties. At the same time, Cities have a strong and vested interest in education being great within their City. Many people have said you cannot have a great City without having great public education. The City of Fort Lauderdale does not have great education everywhere, but there are processes in place preventing them from doing so. The gap analysis shows there is an opportunity to change the fundamental metrics. For the City to achieve their goals, fingers cannot be pointed at the County. The relationship between the City and County can change and could be a partnership. This Board wants to find ways to make education better and a gap analysis is appropriate because a standard is set. Attention is going to be drawn to the data.

Dr. Zeman provided a brief Power Point presentation and mentioned the following:

- There are 14 recommendations at the end of the presentation; none are final; all are part of a list that will be discussed at the next meeting and perhaps during the second half of this meeting. The recommendations are ideas that have come up and have not been advanced as an Educational Advisory Board recommendation. There has been discussion about reducing the 14 recommendations down to a handful that are the best five recommendations with five specific outcomes related to them, so the City could be asked to consider those five things rather than a long list.
- 19,060 Fort Lauderdale residents go to public schools from the City of Fort Lauderdale. Most of them go to a school in Fort Lauderdale, but a lot of Fort Lauderdale residents go to schools in other Cities. One-third of Fort Lauderdale residents go to a school in other Cities and many residents of Pompano, Plantation and other Cities that go to schools in Fort Lauderdale.
- The bottom line for the school system of Fort Lauderdale is that there are four “A” schools, seven that have gotten better over the past five years, nine that have not gotten better, but stayed at the same level, and three that have gotten worse. The idea, according to school grades, is that everyone is having high quality education in the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- In reviewing the data, there is a geographic disparity between schools in East Fort Lauderdale versus schools in West Fort Lauderdale. Grades for schools in West Fort Lauderdale are almost exactly half of grades in East Fort Lauderdale.

- The graph shows a gap in the middle, which has been persistent.
- There are other gaps regarding utilization of schools. There are schools that have different capacities and enrollments. Some schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale are 50% enrolled to 50% of their capacity, some are geographic regions where there are more schools than students, and some areas are just over 100%. There are a couple of schools at 101% and 102%, with one at 107%, but eventually boundaries will be changed. There are also three schools that are closer to 50% than 100%, which presents an opportunity to consider making a change to the existing physical infrastructure.
- Another way to think about the gap in education is high school graduation ranks. The City of Fort Lauderdale used to be 2% points higher than the State of Florida average high school graduation and now it is lower than the State average.
- There are many programs and many magnet schools. One way to change the practice of the school is by creating a magnet school or program that offers a special incentive education.
- There are 24 schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale and 19 interviews have been done. The remainder of the interviews will be done and distributed prior to the next Educational Advisory Board meeting.
- Dr. Verdi-Knapp asked the Board to consider flows. A flow between middle and elementary and middle and high school is not where we would like it to be; there are people who get to those decision points and are opting to homeschool, public charter, private schools, or moving to Weston or elsewhere where there is a perception of higher quality schools. Data suggests that there is a large gap between those that finish elementary school and a feeder that is supposed to go to middle school and those that show up at that middle school.
- The anchor on the charts is middle schools and elementary schools and who feeds those schools. A lot of schools break up their population before going to another school and then they break back out after middle school. There is no universal alignment between elementary school to middle school and to high school; however, the analysis suggests that is possible if it were a goal of Broward County. Out of the 19 interviews, there was some degree of interest in better alignment between the feeder schools to the success of leveling.
- It is challenging to come up with a standard for migration of students that makes sense.
- There would be better coordination if schools were planned to channel to a particular school.
- Currently, the City of Fort Lauderdale's relationship with education is non-existent. There is no budget to do anything. Thanks to Chris Relyea's students and to Mr. Relyea, who led the effort to conduct research.
- It is best to inform the City Commission what other Cities in Broward County are doing to enforce and reinforce education in their Cities.
- One thing this Board has discussed is \$30 million; the City of Fort Lauderdale has a \$200 million Parks and Recreation Bond. If the Bond passes, the City will be able to dedicate \$200 million over the next four years on Parks and Recreation. Perhaps

15% of that could be set aside to work with the schools that have adjacent parks to make sure parks and recreation facilities are built that are consistent with what those schools need instead of parks right next to schools with a big chain link fence between them with a sign that says, "Don't bring students over during the day".

IV. GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Rosalind Osgood, School Board Member, District 5

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.

Dr. Osgood mentioned that data started in 2014 and went to 2018. The model is for 6-K and those models are rated differently. Since there is a middle school component it makes it more difficult because those schools are being graded by the State on a high school mark. In 2012, graduation rates in District 5 schools, which includes Dillard, Boyd Anderson, Plantation, Piper and Lauderdale, 6-12 were around 60% to 63% and now graduation rates for those schools is over 90%; charter schools skew the data because rates are so low. Charter schools must be taken seriously. Dr. Osgood was not suggesting getting rid of charter schools, but maybe there is a way to help them. Many kids in Fort Lauderdale go to charter schools for a certain part of the year and then go back to public schools further behind and end up in the data. The City needs to help the County as they begin to think about how to support the existing charter schools because they play a major role in this bigger picture.

Dr. Zeman stated that the issue being addressed on charter underperformance is one that needs data to be added to the analysis. The variance in public charters must be acknowledged and the Cities who allowed the charter schools to come in and operate need to make sure the management structure is in place to ensure that the contract signed with public charter companies is being enforced. With public schools, there is a School Board, a School Administration, and a lot of oversight monitoring regulations. Dr. Zeman felt that the variance of public school charter performance may be a reflection of Cities not having any of that. The City of Fort Lauderdale has never passed a public charter and has never chartered one as a City, but they also have never had an employee who had education in their title until this year. Dr. Zeman questioned if the issue was about public charter to do a charter and find a building, etc. or how to manage that as a City. Many parents and students were encouraged to enroll in charter schools and then half way through the year, for unknown reasons, the schools close.

Dr. Osgood clarified that she was not addressing the public charter but was talking about the data. When there is a public charter with an existing gap, she thinks about the City and where that location would be. Location determines a lot as to how a school is received by the City. If the school is in a location without transportation, people will have a fit. Dr. Osgood is in favor of charter schools' network and noted that there are a couple of charter schools that work well where some kids do better. If public charter schools are going to be done in Fort Lauderdale, it cannot be for the rich and affluent kids, the children who are struggling the most must be targeted, so they get the extra help they need. The

existing school system provides support to many kids who struggle, but different mandates from the State do not allow them to help in the manner the kids need. The ESE population of students must be strongly considered. It was noted that maybe 30% of the students in District 5 are ESE students.

Dr. Zeman stated that a good guide into the standards has been made and one of the things is to propose a different standard. Data is already being collected about learning games, so there would be no more administrative costs other than getting the data. If it is one of the recommendations, one of the wrap arounds to that is a whole new communications plan so the publicity sounds different.

Dr. Osgood indicated that is key for teachers too because the way the grades go, teachers do not get the points in their evaluation for learning games, they get points from the grade level. Learning games are looked at a lot and are very important.

Dr. Zeman hoped if that turned out to be a recommendation and it was adopted by the City that it would become something the County thinks about subsequently because it would change a lot in the system and pick up a metric that is more appropriate for what people really care about. A letter grade would tell how good students are doing according to a State determined exam. In East Fort Lauderdale, one of the Principals is down on the grade because a lot of kids going to that elementary school are there for three or six months of the year and if they happen to be there on the day the exam is due, they count. A lot of this suggests the policies around the FSA have changed recently and have not improved the merit.

Chair Scott thought the challenge with the charter school numbers was to make sure they are looked at separately from other schools. The Board is aware that the perception does not line up with reality. City residents care deeply about the public schools; the reputation of the school is a huge factor. Chair Scott questioned what it takes to get a school re-tasked before it gets to rock bottom.

Dr. Osgood stated that Superintendent Runcie has taken a different look and is doing different things in the schools. District 5 has too many elementary schools and Dr. Osgood would like to have an Early Learning Center like the one in Gulfstream. There are some facilities where different things could be done. Dr. Osgood thanked the City of Fort Lauderdale for bringing this to the table and working in a collaborative way. In meeting with middle school Principals, one of their major concerns was that they get fifth graders who are not reading because there is no way to retain them, so they get them in sixth grade and they mess up the data. A K-8 would allow those students to have a longer time in that family. There are some other models; there are children going to third grade and then going somewhere different by fourth or fifth grade. By the end of this year a review of the data should show what is happening with those students. Those were two helpful things and the third was having an education officer, with someone focusing on

this and working with the District. When Ms. Brown showed her the free and reduced lunch information, she was surprised it was full. A new "Y" is coming, and Dr. Osgood questioned how these entities are coming to the City; they should have some kind of commitment when it comes to education. Dr. Osgood believes everything is open for discussion and that there are opportunities to do more creative things. There must be communication with the community. There is a school choice and the School Board tries to give choices to the students; it needs to be mapped out from the beginning. Sometimes teachers have to be the parents and if those things are looked at the children are set on a path. It was noted that Stranahan High School has a medical magnet.

Ms. Jones mentioned the big gap in her students. Vocational should be considered and a track should be provided as to where students are heading; they need a trade. There are kids in a "B" school in Coral Springs who cannot read, especially boys. Ms. Jones is supportive of a charter school, but centrally located, not at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

Dr. Zeman clarified that the proposal for the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport land is a vocational school for small aviation companies. He asked Ms. Jones to submit her suggestion to add to the list for the March meeting.

Ms. Jones questioned if there was a reason that income disparity was not included in the gap analysis.

Dr. Zeman advised that the disparity was represented by the free and reduced lunch numbers. There is an extraordinary correlation between individual and family income, free and reduced lunch, and being in West Fort Lauderdale. The Board did not have the staff or the time to correlate, but West Fort Lauderdale is an immediate proxy for a different set of socioeconomic status. While that particular analysis was not done, the effect was certainly captured. There is a 100% difference in school grades and that is a gap and something the City, in conjunction with the County, could assist. In West Fort Lauderdale, the quality of education measured by the State of Florida is half of the quality education delivered in East Fort Lauderdale; there is a gap.

Ms. Brown mentioned the school grade graph and stated that the school grade must be remembered. To her, the data represents that children in East Fort Lauderdale, from a high socioeconomic level, start at a higher level in Kindergarten; they go up a little and then go down, eventually evening off. When looking at the families whose kids started in the West schools two years behind, they are consistently growing. This is not an issue of quality.

Dr. Zeman commented that the perception is that a grade represents school quality. The grade system, which is the media and the quick-thinking perception of school quality, will

continue until there are better metrics. If there were learning game statistics, one would see that West and East Fort Lauderdale have overlapping schools; some East Fort Lauderdale schools do not have an average of one grade of learning and West Fort Lauderdale has some that have more than one year.

Dr. Osgood stated that letter grades are a State thing; people often judge schools on how they were 15 years ago. The Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Aviation school was mentioned, and it was noted that Boyd Anderson has an aviation program. In looking to do different schools, it might behoove us to see how we could first enhance what we have and then determine if we are going to go to the next level. The perception can be changed through marketing and promoting. Perhaps there could be an advocacy group to work together on some things such as learning games. Dr. Osgood worries about the ESE population, especially with the older students.

Chair Scott mentioned the two gaps; early literacy and elementary to middle school gaps and questioned how much is tracked.

Dr. Osgood indicated that high school dropout rates went up last year. Truancy is tracked and there are recovery schools such as Whiddon Rogers Education Center, where students can catch up on credits. Looking at the black male graduation rate, which was an issue, that continues to improve and the gap is closing. The black male graduation rate is higher at Plantation High School than the schools' graduation rate by a few points. That says that the school is doing something for the black males. Schools are becoming minority majority schools; contrary to what you hear, the School Board is not trying to segregate the schools, it is just the population and where people are choosing to go to school. She mentioned the opportunity of doing something like Gulfstream in the City of Fort Lauderdale; perhaps some of the elementary schools could be combined to do that. Dr. Osgood talked about Lauderhill High School with a 100% graduation rate and dual enrollment in a college. It is a high performing high school where students take AP and Honor courses. This year there will be a 100% graduation and 100% dual enrollment. Students are either enrolled at Broward College or FIU; they do not have regular football teams, but they do have soccer. Transportation is not provided so students who live out of the boundary are brought by their parents. This is a small high school environment that works. When people mentor or volunteer, it gives the extra help that makes a difference.

Mr. Relyea commented that the communal buy-in is important. He believes there is an obligation to businesses within the City to give back; he wants the schools to partner with the businesses and the business owners to be a part of what is going on with the schools and work with the schools. Schools should be adopted by the businesses and the businesses could get tax breaks. There has been a time change in the last few years and we are starting to realize that not everyone is supposed to go to college. When talking

about specializing ESE for public charter, he thinks vocation is something needs to be done better. Mr. Relyea stated that there are a lot of businesses that want to hire kids from this neighborhood, County and City; there are businesses that are starved for properly trained children coming out of the high schools. The Early Learning Center was mentioned, which Mr. Relyea thinks is a good idea. If some of the schools could be aligned like the one in Pembroke Pines, they could be tracked and helped with vocations and it would solve a lot of problems with one policy.

Dr. Osgood questioned if the Board looked at any of the Child Care Centers. There are several Child Care Centers in Fort Lauderdale and some just babysit the kids; the kids are not learning.

Dr. Zeman mentioned Gulfstream and stated that sometimes it is a trust challenge or cultural challenge, not just a transportation challenge. Transportation is a real issue, so he does not want to propose repurposing one school that is supposedly going to get people from four miles away. It would be better if the school was within a mile of everyone with smaller centers with parks, City owned land, and corners of elementary schools and a couple rooms; we could be more creative than doing what is easy. The Board's standards are to design the best and try to get the political wheel for funding and to have a partnership between the City and County. The question is how to get five Child Care Centers in West Fort Lauderdale so there is never more than one mile for a child care provider. Superintendent Runcie has been clear about how schools are not education factors anymore, they are replacing families, and we have to know that is how it is going to be and figure out the right design behind.

Ms. Jones questioned if anyone has seen the Executive Order from the Governor that just came out. It covered a lot and related to Community Colleges, four-year, and public K-12. The Governor is trying to revamp things and make changes more in line with trends; more based on computer science and trades.

Dr. Osgood advised that the School Board does not operate a K-12; that is how the School District is funded but it really is not. She questioned what is going to replace Common Core. Another challenge is the FSA, a State test used for graduation. If someone is going to college, they must take the ACT and SAT. There is a whole track of students that are not going to college that go through all that testing. Last year, they took the students on a field trip to Broward College Aviation and McFatter Tech. The trade piece is very important. She is nervous with the changes in Tallahassee because a lot of times the changes help one thing and hurt another. The proposal for the Executive Airport was mentioned.

Dr. Zeman advised that the aviation program is a perfectly well thought out and designed program; it is not yet a formal proposal. There has been significant discussion among the

businesses that are right on Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport who are recruiting people from Cincinnati and Alaska to take jobs here. The idea is to come up with a better economic estimate with a lack of human capital. A public vocational school is much easier to start; there is land and excess buildings at that location. There is a well-known need, which will be quantified, and then a formal proposal will be done. The businesses should be more invested in the community through the schools and have kids work with them.

Chair Scott stated that the Board is encouraged to go to the schools and talk to the Commissioners and neighborhood residents to collect feedback. The common answer from young people is that they will change career fields several times while they are young, but the data would show the specific field people are working with keeps them more focused and motivated.

Dr. Brown shared that there is a proposal for FSE from the School District. A college academy for 11th and 12th grades as well as a technical college dual enrollment program so students could go to class at any high school but get the actual experiences on the college campus with technical programs. This could be done tomorrow if the Board is interested.

Dr. Zeman questioned if there was something Dr. Brown could email Ms. Robinson so it could be forwarded to the Board.

Ms. Robinson commented that some of City staff participated in that discussion from the Executive Airport as well as Commissioner Moraitis. She can discuss that with Commissioner Moraitis to see if the information could be shared.

Dr. Zeman would like that paper to be shared so the Board can figure out what the real fundamental need is and the combination of public, public charter, business investment. The City of Fort Lauderdale has land and buildings and there is an opportunity to meet the business needs with existing aircraft, which have been offered to use as training for people coming in. The ideas are on point, unfortunately they have not been entered into the discussion, but they should be.

Dr. Brown appreciated the conversation and thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for bringing this team together.

Dr. Osgood pulled up the graduation rate for District 5 without the charter schools and noted that the graduation rate is 94.5% for the whole District. When adding the charter schools in District 5, the graduation rate is 83.7%, which is a tremendous difference.

Dr. Zeman commented that the City of Fort Lauderdale did not sign for those charter schools. Principal interviews were mentioned and Dr. Zeman suggested that everyone

read it. The interviews will be out approximately ten days prior to the next meeting. Data will be sent in a free-flowing format, so all 24 interviews can be seen as well as each of the questions and the 24 responses broken up by elementary, middle, and high.

Dr. Zeman questioned if Ms. Robinson would recommend attendance at the Neighborhood Support Night.

Ms. Robinson encouraged everyone to attend Neighbor Support Night scheduled for January 21, 2019. This is something new; it is the 8th grade essay contest, "If I Were Mayor". Two businesses are donating awards for the kids.

Dr. Osgood thanked the Board and stated how important and how much this is needed.

V. Approve minutes – December 20, 2018 and January 10, 2019

Ms. Ellowitz noted a discrepancy on the attendance for the December minutes. Two absences were noted and one was in October.

Motion made by Vice Chair Zeman, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2018 as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Motion made by Vice Chair Zeman, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

VI. Current Business

A. Board discussions

Dr. Zeman announced that Fort Lauderdale High School is putting on a free First Responder Celebration event on January 15, 2019. Come for breakfast between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. or lunch between 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The March agenda is largely going to be a consideration of ideas.

B. Staff updates – Junia Robinson

Charles Webster retired and his retirement gathering is tomorrow evening.

It was noted that Mr. Webster has been coming to these meetings for a long time and it was suggested that something be given to the Commission to do a Proclamation in honor of Charles Webster.

Chair Scott requested that something be written and presented at the next meeting.

Ms. Robinson advised that the Chief Education Officer position interviews are scheduled with the panel for the end of this month. There are 13 prospects and the City Manager will make the final decision. There will be an update at the next meeting.

VII. Closing

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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

Attachments: