



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018–6:30 PM-8:30 PM**

July 2018 – December 2018

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Austin Scott, Chair	P	6	0
Dr. Allen Zeman, Vice Chair	P	6	0
Robert Audet	P	4	3
Linda Barnett	A	3	3
Maureen S. Dinnen	A	2	5
Amy Ellowitz	P	4	2
Thomas Harrison	A	0	6
Deniece Jones	A	4	3
Terry Large	A	5	2
Jennifer Lovell (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)	P	6	1
Dr. Heather Munns	P	3	4
Sarah Owen DelNegri	P	3	3
Lincoln Pasteur	P	4	2
Dr. Maureen Persi	A	3	4
Christopher Relyea	P	5	2
Betty Shelley	A	2	5
Lillian Small	A	1	6
Dr. Michele Verdi Knapp (arrived at 6:39 p.m.)	P	5	1
April Jeff	A	1	1

Staff/Guests

Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison
Quan Felton
Melanie Hemphill
Lorraine Tappen, Principal Urban Planner
Edwarg Ngm, The Corradino Group
Brigitte Chiappetta, Prototype, Inc.

- I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Austin Scott, Chair**
- II. Attendance by Roll Call, 19 appointed members; 10 needed for quorum**

As of this date, December 20, 2018, 10 of the 19 appointed members were present, which constituted a quorum.

III. Approve minutes (November 15, 2018)

Minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

IV. Presentation of Advance Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan – draft amendments to the Element

GUEST SPEAKERS: **Lorraine Tappen**, Principal Urban Planner
Urban Design and Planning Division
City of Fort Lauderdale

Edward Ngm, The Corradino Group

Ms. Tappen advised that work is being done to update the City's Comprehensive Plan, which is a City Commission annual action plan initiative. The Comprehensive Plan is the City's blueprint for development; it allocates land uses and tells what can and cannot be done with each property in the City. Ms. Tappen provided a brief Power Point presentation and reported the following:

- The update to the Comprehensive Plan is a two-step process; evaluating the Comprehensive Plan to see where it needs updating according to Florida Statute requirements and reviewing all Master Plans across the City to see what should be integrated and to see what has been developed over the last ten years. Broward County updated their Land Use Plan and are looking to see what is changing and what needs to be updated in this Plan to be in conformance with theirs.
- One key document related to the education element is the Interlocal Agreement for public schools. This agreement was approved the City Commission, the School Board, and other Cities in Broward County. A couple years ago the School Board was proposing to change the level of service and during a meeting with the Education Advisory Board a recommendation was received and forwarded to the City and based upon that, the City adopted the third amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. City staff meets with other Cities and the School Board on a quarterly basis to discuss school concurrency, facilities available, and anything that needs to go into the Interlocal Agreement.
- The School Board has a five-year District Education Facilities Plan, which outlines what capital improvements are going to be made to schools throughout the County. No new classrooms were seen in the Plan, a lot of the projects were media equipment, updating air conditioning, cafeterias, libraries, etc. The Plan will be forwarded to the Board members for review.
- The Educational Plan gets adopted into the City's Comprehensive Plan automatically through objectives in the Comprehensive Plan. This needs to be reviewed on a yearly basis to be sure the Plan is meeting the needs of the schools.
- Concurrency Management makes sure facilities are current and available for

development. To meet concurrency, a level of standards is developed. There is a level of standard for roadways, stormwater, water and sewer, and for schools it is based upon the capacity of the schools. The current level of service is either 100% gross capacity or 110% of the permanent FISH capacity. Gross capacity is basically the school plus the portables and permanent capacity is basically the classrooms available. Around 2008, there was 110% permanent FISH capacity and in 2010 there was 110% gross capacity until this year. This year, the School Board said the level of service needed to be updated and wanted it to be flexible so school boundaries would not have to change. There is something called concurrency services areas, which is the same as school boundaries. Schools currently over-capacity are Dillard Elementary and Sunrise Middle. The School Board projects that over time and the level of service would be met based upon the element observed.

Chair Scott questioned if grades six through 12 were mentioned.

Ms. Tappen stated that Dillard six through 12 was mentioned.

Mr. Ngm continued with the following points:

- The School Board would allow for proportional share mitigation or concurrency, which could be met by looking at the deficit, providing for the number of students, and by the cost to provide the extra facility service. It is important that those calculations are set up in the Comprehensive Plan. There would be coordination with the School Board on a regular basis to ensure that mitigation funds are fed appropriately in the areas to the City they should be, and this evaluation must occur annually.
- Feasible sites downtown are being considered for group development and policies the City should pursue. It is important to encourage expansion of the programs. Given the nature of schools, shared use of libraries, parks, and ballfields are being looked at and the coordination of school safety is being added.
- Many Comprehensive Plans focus on K-12 and a different path is being considered as being life-long. Policies recommended expand beyond K-12 education and look at promoting higher education, adult learning, which is a previous policy that did not exist. Communication should be maintained with local institutions of higher learning on an annual basis to provide for any continuing education needed for the community, making sure they are connected to Economic Development efforts, and identifying locations for new facilities of higher learning. There are also opportunities to encourage further development of college credit programs, particularly where students can dual enroll and work towards an AA. That is something that could be explored, but a policy should be in place, making sure that the collaboration between continued education is provided to agencies and making sure facilities are geared toward a sustainable learning City.
- A community neighborhood learning survey was encouraged, which would help

- identify areas where additional services could be provided and help to find ways to partner with local education facilities.
- Outside the education element, there are policies in the Economic Development element, which are separate. The City would like to provide vocational training and workforce training; therefore, community needs must be identified so these can be addressed. The City wants to support entry level and career employment. Vocational programming should be included, and Charter Schools are also under this category.
 - Regarding the project timeline, the Comprehensive Plan should be adopted in February 2020.

Dr. Zeman mentioned that a real opportunity exists for the City of Fort Lauderdale to rebalance the physical infrastructure of the schools. The distribution of physical plant in the City of Fort Lauderdale, with a very similar population of Weston, is dramatically different and the School Board staff has opened the possibility of rebalancing the physical plant. Elementary schools have continued at 50% capacity and the idea is to rebalance the load so the schools are full and then figure out how to use the physical plant in another way to meet educational needs. Dr. Zeman requested that the thought about diffusing interest away from K-12. There is a public requirement for government involvement in K-12 education, which is a well-known long-standing American tradition. The same kind of tradition exists in colleges where governments Federally promote. The City of Fort Lauderdale has an opportunity to influence those things because it is an appropriate use of government time and resources. More importantly, adult learning is not done in the classroom, 90% of adult learning is done through experience or through a social learning experience like coaching and mentoring, unlike K-12 and college education, which is primarily done in the classroom. A plan attacking anything other than K-12 must be carefully thought because it diffuses attention. People are more likely to pay attention if two things are discussed rather than 12. Dr. Zeman hopes the links educational system of Fort Lauderdale would be developed, brought by Broward County, as a fundamental part of their general well-being and economic success. It was noted that two-thirds of the schools are operating at "C" level or worse and when someone looks at the public-school system, they will often choose a place that has "A" and "B" schools.

Dr. Zeman commented that the prioritization of education quality is #4 on the list and questioned why that was not the highest priority on the plan. It was noted that the City of Fort Lauderdale needs a college campus. Some Cities are creating campuses and letting the colleges compete for the use of the classrooms. Any private or public college can teach on the campus and classrooms are allocated by the number of students they attract. The City has a responsibility for K-12 and college.

Ms. Tappen mentioned the way objectives were laid out and stated that the prioritization was largely based upon the Interlocal Agreement. Quality can be moved to the beginning of the element. Previously, the school concurrency was required in the Statutes, but it is being continued because everyone on the County believes there is a role for it. It is

realized that a sense of place and quality of life in a sustainable community includes quality education. Ms. Tappen agreed that the objective should be pushed to the beginning.

Mr. Ngm commented that ways to expand was being looked at as an attempt to attract quality employees. There are public schools that have vocational schools embedded within them and that should be considered.

Mr. Relyea agreed on the economic impact of education in the community and noted that those fixes could be quite expensive, arduous, and long-term. In Mr. Relyea's opinion, there is a perception problem; there are a lot of great programs going on, training programs and innovative programs at schools. He believed the grading system is flawed; 75% of the schools are graded "C" and below and that is because the rating system is broken. Mr. Relyea has done a lot of research on this and found that nationally when students and parents are asked to rate their local school they rate it quite high, but when a general education is asked for the State or the Nation, they rate it well. If everyone rates their local school highly but collectively rates it low, there is an advertising problem; a perception gap. There are great vocational programs in this City and County, but customers are being lost due to back advertising. There is a capacity imbalance and a cheaper and faster dedication of resources would be to make everyone know that what the City of Fort Lauderdale has is good and that would change the perception. One that is cheap and quick by comparison is leveling the perception.

Mr. Pasteur questioned if gentrification was anticipated, what neighborhoods have been identified, and what the affect is on the total community.

Ms. Tappen stated that she attended the Southeast Florida Climate Summit, and everyone was talking about lower income neighborhoods and whether they would still get the infrastructure needed. It was learned that when the Army Corps of Engineers rank projects, they rank them based upon property values. While reviewing this element it was observed that the word "Equity" was not listed. The other thing being done with the Future Land Use element is adding language so if a change in zoning or land use is requested, there must be an analysis on social environmental justice.

Motion made by Dr. Zeman, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to have the January meeting on January 10, 2019 instead of January 17, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to allow Superintendent Runcie and other members, including three of the five City Commissioners and at least three of the nine Broward County Board members to participate. The subject of the meeting is "What is the Optimal Way for the City of Fort Lauderdale and the County to Work Together to Improve the Quality of Education in Fort Lauderdale?" In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (10-0)

Ms. Hemphill questioned if the Board has tapped into the equity liaisons for the Broward County Schools to get their input.

Ms. Tappen advised that the draft has been shared with the Growth Management and Facility staff. The School Board is a very large organization and perhaps they should look at the draft as well.

Ms. Hemphill indicated that each Broward County school has an appointed equity liaison who looks at specific deficiencies within the schools relating to racial disparity gaps and school building; any deficiencies that are seen would be addressed so there could be a plan. Perhaps tapping into the equity liaisons would help look at deficiencies specific to schools and help with the climate, not just with the schools, but also with the relationship of the District and the City and the schools that collaborate those gaps. Ms. Hemphill stated that each Broward County school has an appointment equity, which helps with climate and relationship with the District.

Chair Scott assumed that there was a consensus among the staff planning and the input that those kinds of opportunities should always be monitored. Chair Scott agreed with Dr. Zeman about the Board not spreading themselves too thin with goals and planning. This Board's conclusion was that the reality was not the perception. There are strengths in Fort Lauderdale and he hopes there are specific thoughts for them; Fort Lauderdale is unique to the rest of the County.

Mr. Relyea believed the way to leverage that was through corporate partnerships. Fort Lauderdale is the largest City in the County and certainly there are business tax breaks given to development areas. With that should come some sort of obligation to do internships, advertising, joint partnerships, and volunteer hours, etc. That relationship could be leveraged in a way other Cities within the County cannot.

Chair Scott questioned what actionable steps were being taken regarding the gap analysis. Some actionable items the Board could suggest might meet a dead-end.

Ms. Tappen indicated that is in the Comprehensive Plan and what is important is long-term in the Strategic Plan or benchmarks.

Dr. Zeman thought it would be interesting to think about an aspirational goal for education such as every school in the City of Fort Lauderdale is an "A" school. The City and Commissioners need an aspirational goal to motivate the right kinds of things. Commissioners are looking for a plan to establish a benchmark and suggested that there is nothing less than an "A" school that meets his standard. If a standard is not put in the plan, the plan is useless. Think about the City's involvement in uplifting a County funded public school system with the kind of City support that other Cities in this State or other States provide to their schools. Dr. Zeman did not understand why there is not a standard in the City of Fort Lauderdale schools. The standard is not perfect, but it drives people to do a lot of other great things. There is no such thing as a bad "A" school. If the thought is about standards in the program, please let it be aspirational education. When talking about equity, what about the equity of the quality of education for kids who live in two-

thirds of Fort Lauderdale, which are “C”, “D”, and “F” schools.

Chair Scott mentioned Leslie Brown of the School Board as an example and noted that she said if there was one thing that could make a dramatic difference was year-round, no matter what funding. Maybe the City is in the position to hold the School Board’s position and say that they would meet half way.

Dr. Zeman pointed out that the City has 2,600 employees and they just got their first one appointed to education.

Mr. Pasteur questioned if corporations that consider coming to Fort Lauderdale say what they consider a good school to be and what their needs are.

Dr. Zeman stated that it is not hard to recruit professionals to the City of Fort Lauderdale, people love living here. The issue is what causes companies to move and choose not to come here. When companies do not define the education standards, they know their employers probably do not earn enough to buy their way into the private schools in Broward County, which is a huge anchor of Economic Development in Fort Lauderdale. The City can influence education but chooses not to.

Ms. Tappen advised that her email address was in the Power Point.

Chair Scott pointed out that even though Mayor Seiler is no longer an elected official, he was heard talking about how infuriating it was when talking with a CEO of a company and the biggest roadblock encountered was the public education perception. The first thing corporations are going to talk about is public education.

Dr. Zeman shared the status of the gap analysis regarding the quality of education in Fort Lauderdale. A survey was designed on a SWAT analysis. In the last month, Mr. Pasteur has done some remarkable things on the Board and getting out to the schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale. There are 20 public schools that City residents go to, and we now have approval from the School Board to interview the Principals; it is a matter of scheduling. Dr. Zeman thanked the four volunteers who were willing to do the interviews on their own time and thought the information would be extraordinarily persuasive. In addition to the statistics and gaps that are measurable, the idea of talking to the CEO’s in each individual school is going to help a lot. All 20 interviews will be brought to the Board and it was proposed that those responses be shared at the February meeting and that there be a discussion about how to present the Principals’ views in a way that makes sense. In terms of more data, Dr. Zeman has interviewed three of the five Commissioners with the preliminary findings of the gap analysis hoping they would say that is what they care about and he has those answers from three Commissioners. As the Board works toward a March or April Workshop with the Commission, there will probably be five or six School Board members, eight or ten people from Superintendent Runcie’s office, and probably most of the City Commission. It should be a landmark meeting for next year. It

is good to know on a one on one basis what was reported was the most important to them.

Chair Scott mentioned that Ms. Brinkworth and Dr. Osgood were coming to the meeting next month.

Dr. Zeman stated that the survey results are qualitative and the answers to the questions would be shared. He first met with Commissioner Heather Moraitis, who has championed before the City Commission. At the first Commission meeting all five members said what their #1 policy issue was and hers was education, which was not the #1 priority for the other four Commissioners. Commissioner Moraitis has worked hard on developing permission to have a public charter school in her District near the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to focus on Aviation. It is a high school combination college that gives people all the training needed to move into the Aviation industry, primarily to train people for companies around the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. It is a specific gap because it is around the airport and it is about attracting other businesses to come, which she believes is driven by having a talented workforce that can do the kinds of things someone needs confidence to do. Commissioner Moraitis pointed out that the public charter school is both an opportunity and a threat to public schools and she likes the fact that it is a threat to public schools, she likes the fact that it sets a standard for performance and it uses public money to educate people about a specific theme of a school and draws people out of public schools. She believes in competition as a way to drive higher educational standards. Top education priorities for Commissioner Moraitis are #1-quality of education, #2-security, #3- all great Cities have great public-school systems.

Dr. Zeman next spoke to Commissioner Steve Glassman, District #2, a networker. Commissioner Glassman knew many people who have been involved in education over the past 30 years; he taught for 20 years, which gives him a special credibility. Commissioner Glassman came up with a volunteer program that he helped start, the Federal Order of Police have picked a school, Northside Elementary School, and they have adopted the school, so their free volunteer time is to tutor, mentor and guide students at that school. He was curious whether that was scalable and if it was possible to get an organization like that in the 20 Fort Lauderdale schools; a corporation, a neighborhood HOA, a Senior Center that could adopt the whole school and ask what they need. Volunteers are willing to spend a day week. Commissioner Glassman believed there should be concern about under-enrollment; he felt there were a lot of schools that were at 50% or less capacity and stated that is an inefficiency. No school in the City of Fort Lauderdale should ever be less than a "B" school. He noted there is a huge difference on one side of U.S. 1; east west Fort Lauderdale is the biggest inequality he knows about in Fort Lauderdale. The biggest difference between east and west is the quality of education.

The last person Dr. Zeman spoke to was Commissioner Ben Sorenson. Commissioner Sorenson has three kids in public schools in Fort Lauderdale. He chose to live where he

lives because the schools in the area are very good, but he feels guilt that not everyone can afford to live where he lives. He wants to make sure there is an "A" school regardless of the ability or family status. His #1 goal was quality of education. If Fort Lauderdale wants to become a great City, they must figure out a way to get with the school system quality schools across the City.

Dr. Zeman is meeting with the Mayor next Tuesday. Commissioner McKinsey was not yet scheduled; however, Dr. Zeman will continue to request a meeting.

Chair Scott questioned if there was an update on security issues and if anyone was going to the Bond issue Workshop.

Dr. Zeman indicated that he attended a Workshop last month at Northeast at which time he advised that the City of Fort Lauderdale was trying to do a \$200 million Parks Bond. One of the ideas he ran past three Commissioners was setting aside 15% of the \$200 million for parks next to schools; they would build for daytime use. One of the Commissioners said that would help them pass the bond. One of the bonds that has been most successful in South Florida has been for schools or parks; they pass on average with 70% of the vote. There is a lot of political support, but Dr. Zeman felt there was not a lot of action behind that.

Chair Scott mentioned the only sporting event that involves all the schools in the City is on April 3rd; it is the City Track Meet and City staff hosting at Carter Park. A few years ago, there was a very productive meeting at Fort Lauderdale High and there was a meeting at Stranahan a few months ago; they have not met at Dillard High School. It was nice to meet there for an hour and a half in the conference room or library and get a half-hour tour.

Dr. Zeman stated that he would like to visit Dillard High School and proposed it as an extra meeting for anyone that has time. Dr. Zeman visited Gulfstream Early Learning Center in South Broward and noted that it was an amazing way for a City to use a County facility to meet amazing education needs. He was very impressed.

Chair Scott was interested to know if the School Board was remotely looking at the possibility of re-tasking the schools like they did with Summit Elementary four years ago from K-5 to a K-2 Academy. Chair Scott did not think it would be fair to spring things on Dr. Runcie in January but highly suggested sending things to Ms. Robinson. He reminded Board members not to communicate individually and stated that things could be sent to the entire group email or to Ms. Robinson.

Dr. Zeman suggested a ten-minute overview of the gap analysis so there would be time to talk about what the City or County could do to close the gap as well as what general partnership opportunities that exist. It is very-well timed with Superintendent Runcie in January and if all the interview results are back, review could resume in February and in

March all five City Commissioners would be in a public Workshop. At that time there would be opportunities to put some things over the top 15% of the parks bond, different kinds of partnerships for summer schools, any other public charter program development, and a variety of things the City and County could do differently, including a major issue, which is rebalancing the physical infrastructure. There is way too much physical infrastructure and with each school there must be an Administration and security, so it is something to discuss. This Board has not formally asked the Commission for a Workshop.

Communication to the City Commission

Motion by Dr. Zeman, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to send a Communication to the Commission. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (10-0)

Commissioners, your Education Advisory Board has created a City of Fort Lauderdale Education Assessment to present during a City Commission Education Workshop. In this EAB assessment, the Board took a data informed approach and conducted a gap analysis to show the most pertinent gaps for K-12 education for City residents. For gaps identified in the assessment, a list of recommendations was prepared for the Fort Lauderdale City Commission to take in conjunction with other recommended actions for the Broward County Public Schools and Broward County School Board. The Board is confident that these City Commission actions, which is hoped will be done as part of a renewed partnership between the City and Broward County Public Schools and the Broward County School Board, can dramatically improve K-12 education offered to City residents. It is further believed that closing or eliminating the current gaps in education would lead to improvement in the general well-being and economic prosperity in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Board requests a two-hour City Commission Workshop be scheduled within the next 60 days with three objectives; to share their City of Fort Lauderdale Education Assessment; to share the associated recommendations; and to enable the City Commissions' consideration or their recommendations and to get guidance for future EAB efforts.

Ms. Del Negri questioned if the Communication to the Commission would be read and approved so it would be sixty days from that date.

Ms. Robinson explained that this would be sent to the Clerk's office and it would then be put on the Commission's agenda for the next calendar. The Commission would discuss and then advise when the meeting would take place. Ms. Robinson advised that the Communication to the Commission would be read at their next conference meeting.

Dr. Zeman advised that he attends those meetings so when the Commissioners read it he will be there to provide any additional background if there are any questions. It is usually a question of when the Commission will schedule the meeting. Dr. Zeman did not think the Commission could get through this in an hour and thought a couple of hours would be needed to absorb all the information and to think about big ideas. The

Commission needs to take responsibility for the education of the residents.

V. Current Business

A. Board Discussions

Mr. Relyea indicated that he has students working on the SRO funding issue. It has been alleged by the Broward County School Board that the City of Fort Lauderdale is the only City in the County that does not fund SRO's and that is factually incorrect, according to the Cities reporting it themselves. In checking with many schools and looking at the budget, it was found that Plantation reports that they pay their SRO's in full and the Board does not pay anything for them; Pembroke Pines, Sunrise, and Miramar claim that they split the payment between the City and either the Broward Sheriff's Office or the Broward County School Board; and Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, and Lauderdale Lakes do not pay any part.

Ms. Robinson mentioned another guest who just arrived.

David Harnin, former educator in Broward County, liked what the Board is doing.

B. City Staff update – Junia Robinson

Ms. Robinson stated that the Chief Education Officer position was posted on Friday and would be open until after the holidays, mid-January, and after that, the Human Resources team would assess who meets the minimum requirements. They hope to begin interviewing by mid to late January and are looking to hire immediately.

Ms. Lovell recommended a candidate, Janette Smith, who used to work for the Broward County School Board as an attorney.

Ms. Robinson announced that Charles Webster with Broward County is retiring. Mr. Webster will try to make the January meeting, but it might be his last. Mr. Webster is the liaison for this Board and Mr. Sullivan will probably fill in for Mr. Webster.

The next meeting will be January 10, 2019 and not January 17, 2019. The conference room is already reserved for that meeting.

VI. Future Business

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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

Attachments: