

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017– 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	April 2017- APRIL 2018	
		Present	Absent
Austin Scott, chair	P	1	0
Matthew Arbucci	P	1	0
Towana Bonaparte	P	1	0
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	1	0
Dale Fulton	P	1	0
Jennifer Gordon	P	1	0
Spencer Jenkins	A	0	1
Deniece Jones	P	1	0
Jennifer L. Kimmey, vice chair	P	1	0
Aniva Lumpkins	P	1	0
Dr. Heather Munns	P	1	0
Dr. Maureen Persi	P	1	0
Betty Shelley	P	1	0
Dr. Barbara Signer	P	1	0
Dr. Stefan Weiss	P	1	0
M. Elaine Wilson	P	1	0
Natasha Wilson	P	1	0
Lauren Wood	A	0	1

**Appointed Members to the Board: 16
Needed to constitute a quorum: 9**

Staff

Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, Broward County Public School Liaison

I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – Chair, Austin Scott

II. Attendance by Roll Call – Chair, Austin Scott

- **New Board Member Introductions:** Ms. Aniva Lumpkins, Mr. Matthew Arbucci and Dr. Heather Munns

Determination of quorum

As of this date, April 20th there are 18 appointed members to the board, which means 10 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

III.

Guest Introductions: Howard Elfman, Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors Immediate Past President **Peter Cooper**, Chairman, Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors Government Affairs Committee

Howard Elfman greeted the Board and introduced himself as the Past President of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors Board. Peter Cooper is the Past Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors Board. Mr. Elfman shared that he sits on the City of Fort Lauderdale Planning and Zoning Board and Peter Cooper sits on Code Enforcement.

He began his presentation with “what we hear constantly is about the school systems are we going to be in the Bayview school district are we going to be in a different school district and people with families are going to take a look at the Broward County website and see what the school ratings are, and then they are going to make a determination as to where they want to move. This is why Fort Lauderdale loses a tremendous amount to Parkland and Weston”.

Peter Cooper said “thank you for inviting us this evening, I have a little bit of background in education, I actually have a Master’s in education. I was a teacher in east Harlem and a Union representative while in New York before moving down and began in real estate”. Mr. Cooper stated “as a realtor we have to abide by the fair housing act of 1978, so we cannot steer anyone into good neighborhoods. “So there are some challenges as anyone can see a tremendous amount of construction going on in the City. Currently, I propose there are approximately thirteen thousand additional residential units in Fort Lauderdale so that’s going to put a large burden on the school system as we go forward. The two areas where there are the largest concentrations are downtown in the corridor here, Fat village and then south into the new river.

Mr. Cooper said when you look at that and look at the school system in the particular area; you have basically three elementary schools. He continued by saying “the hopes are to pull in the millennia’s as the overall plan for the City in the downtown Corridor; more of the younger families and singles with eventual families. We have one middle school which is Sunrise, a B rating school and Stranahan which is C rating high school in the area...you think about all of the construction and the planning and how is that going to affect the student/people ratio. What do we do as community members to enhance the school system? The involvement for Parents to get involved in their schools and as advisory boards you can challenge the community at large”.

Chair Scott commented “the perception of the schools and the reality of the schools are frequently are not the exact same thing”.

Dale Fulton asked “I just wanted to use that thirteen thousand new units, is there a number or an algorithm to figure out/project how many students that’s going to

produce?” Mr. Cooper responded “I’m sure it’s been done but I don’t have it”. Chair Scott replied “we had the BCPS planning and the City planning Staff and they both gave us vague projections”.

Ms. Dinnen commented “I wonder along with that do you consult with that department that does these projections; what you are telling us is that there will be a need for schools in that area and the school board does have a department that projects ahead for boundaries and developments.”

Mr. Cooper explained “one of the buildings that’s going up in the downtown corridor is similar to what’s being built in Oakland Park, which will be able to take people in on independent living and move them through”.

Dr. Weiss asked “of the percentage that’s been presold that the bank requires, what is families of that percentage? Is it 1% families, 10% families...0?”

Mr. Elfman responded saying those percentages are kept “under wraps and is kind of tough to get them”. He continued by saying “the statistics will work it way through but when buying originally we really don’t have statistics”.

Dr. Signer commented by saying “I think Fort Lauderdale is so unusual because you have the phenomena of the snowbirds and it not really your real home. I have a neighbor above me they have children but they only come down on school vacations. They don’t care about the impact and not everyone is concerned about the schools. It’s an interesting phenomenon”.

IV. Current Business

A. Board discussions/member update

Chair Scott asked for the Board’s input for the next step regarding Ms. Kimmey’s idea for the school resource booklet. Ms. Lumpkins said “you all have a great resource all - ready in Leslie Brown she is a part of that department that does demographics and student assignment.

Ms. Robinson suggested that the Board gets approval from the Commission via a Communication to Commission prior to beginning work on this project.

Ms. Kimmey said she spoke to Mayor Ryan, City of Sunrise and she said his City endorsed the school booklet and he was able to get the Commissioners on board after realizing the value of the booklet for the City schools.

Dr. Weiss asked “who is the City person that gives the corporations the tax credits for coming here?”

Dr. Persi said “I love the book idea but I just want to play the devil’s advocate, they have dates in her we are in 2017, by 2018 lots of stuff is going to change. This is an expensive piece of real estate that someone is going to have to shell money out and I understand why the Mayor is saying, maybe it needs to be electronic.

Chair Scott suggested that the Board prioritize topics and guest speakers for the upcoming months. Some of the suggestions for upcoming meetings included: State Representatives, School Principals, Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance.

MOTION by Ms. Shelley seconded by Ms. Wilson that the May 18th EAB meeting be cancelled to attend the project charter meeting at Sunrise Middle school scheduled for the same date/time. In a voice vote, the motion unanimously passed.

V. Communication to Commission

MOTION by Ms. Dinnen seconded by Ms. Wilson, As the City Education Advisory Board, we would like to begin working on an electronic and possibly print version of a booklet that would help promote the schools in the City limits. In a voice vote, the motion unanimously passed.

VI. Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, 2017

City hall, 8th floor conference room