



**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
KATHLEEN C. WRIGHT
ADMINISTRATIVE BLDG.
600 SE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019–6:30 PM-8:30 PM**

July 2019 – May 2020

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Dr. Allen Zeman, Chair	P	11	1
Robert Audet	P	8	6
Linda Barnett	P	7	6
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	7	7
Amy Ellowitz, Vice Chair	P	12	1
April Jeff	A	5	4
Terry Large	P	10	4
Jennifer Lovell	P	12	2
Vickie Melus	A	3	4
Dr. Heather Munns	A	6	7
Sarah Owen DelNegri (arrived at 6:37 p.m.)	P	7	6
Lincoln Pasteur	A	9	4
Christopher Relyea	P	11	3
Betty Shelley	A	6	7
Rory Sponsler	P	4	0
Dr. Michele Verdi Knapp	P	12	1
Yolanda B. Francis (arrived at 6:39 p.m.)	P	3	0
Lillian Small	A	1	13

Staff/Guests

Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer
 Sarah Leonardi, Broward County School District
 Pablo Calvo, Community Engagement for the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Prototype, Inc.

I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Allan Zeman, Chair

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance and Roll Call, 18 appointed members; 10 needed for quorum

As of this date, August 15, 2019, 12 of the 18 appointed members were present, which constituted a quorum.

III. Current Business

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned that the Principals got together on August 9, 2019 and a 27-page booklet coordinated by Ms. Saunders and put together by many people within the City of Fort Lauderdale was distributed. To Dr. Zeman's knowledge, there has never been a citywide meeting with Principals to start the school year. Mr. Relyea and some of his students at Nova conducted research on other Cities and what they have spent or were programmed to spend in the future on schools. He referenced Pages 19 and 20, which were a compendium of resources spent or dedicated. One of the ways this Board can be effective is by using this booklet as a study guide.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Ms. Saunders advised that all the Principals attended the meeting and noted that a list of that information could be provided. All schools were represented, and the focus was on a two-way discussion; notes are currently being compiled.

Chair Dr. Zeman requested a few ideas that the Board should think about throughout the year.

Ms. DelNegri stated that she heard that Homeowners' Associations were collaborating more with schools and she thought the Board needed to dig deeper with parks and schools.

Ms. Saunders advised that this event was helping to promote interdepartmental coordination for the City. A lot of preplanning occurred prior to the event and the Police and Fire were discussing public safety and how they could support the schools. They are following up with the City to do a debrief with everyone who was involved and what their major takeaways were. Structural innovations were organized by the Strategic Planning Session and helped facilitate every discussion, so each department representative was able to do so as a subject matter. Representatives also assisted with note taking and those notes are being compiled for key education initiatives.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Ms. Saunders stated that about 100 people attended the event and there were about 30 schools.

Motion by Vice Chair Ellowitz, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to acknowledge those who were present and how they participated. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (12-0)

Mr. Relyea commented that this Board is becoming the model Board of the City that gets used as an example for all the other Boards.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that there have been requests from a handful of Cities to visit and discuss what this Board has done. He thought this would be appropriate if there was discussion and a decision to do so. There is an opportunity the Superintendent has encouraged, which is to create a Council of Education Advisory Boards throughout the County.

Ms. Dinnen stated that the District used to do that with a variety of Cities; they would each pick one or two topics.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated that when the Superintendent suggested Council of Education Advisory Boards, it was noted that the Board could have electronic quarterly meetings so everyone could attend every meeting. The Superintendent said, "If he could get out to 400 or so members of the Education Advisory Boards, it would be his fundamental job to get out". He also said, "If there was ever a Homeowners' Association meeting in one large City, he would go".

Ms. Saunders stated that Principals want more feedback. She would like to involve all the Commissioners and the Mayor as well as the Education Advisory Board, so it would be more of a public meeting and still promote lots of discussion. She suggested bringing this back to the next meeting. There was a thought about having more of a panel-type discussion so the focus would be on a couple of key topic areas.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that the next meeting would include discussion about the Education Advisory Boards and how this Board could support the City's efforts to pull the Principal's back together.

Ms. Saunders indicated that a Principal's meeting has not yet been scheduled; the idea is October.

Mr. Relyea questioned if there was a mechanism to reach out to other City Boards and publicly notice them when this Board meets.

Ms. Saunders stated that when talking internally to departments she makes them aware of the Education Advisory Board recommendations and priorities and there have been conversations about how to make those connections with Boards that are related. One of the ideas was to go to the Parks Advisory Board meeting and possibly have a joint Workshop with them. She noted that the Council of Civic Associations is having an education focus in October. These are opportunities where key projects can be identified.

Pablo Calvo, Director of Community Engagement for the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, commented that as an observer, this is the most ambitious and excited Board he has ever seen in Broward County. He believed there were many other Boards

in the City that have the same kind of ambition and desire to improve the schools for the children and communities and he has contacts to some of the staff liaisons in other Cities and could make introductions.

Mr. Large thought there should be discussion about things that could be done under the Education Advisory Board name for the Fort Lauderdale schools. He suggested starting a reading program and producing a certificate; keeping it at a low cost. He noted that an Alexa app could be created with something about the school and students could sign up.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that this would be on the next agenda. The focus for the last two and a half years has been what the City can do, how to resolve things such as training in Fort Lauderdale Schools, and how to establish a Board that is seen as positive to all sides. The single goal is to better education for our students.

Mr. Relyea mentioned perception and noted that if the Board brands itself and raises awareness about its existence and what it does, the perception would be increased and there would be better results.

Vice Chair Ellowitz stated that one of the benefits of being on this Board is that she gets to go back to her community and share the good news and things that are happening. She questioned one of the best things that happened as a result of getting everyone together at the August 9, 2019 event.

Ms. Saunders thought that there was so much excitement about the renewed partnership; some things were able to be addressed right then and there. A representative of the Parks Department is going to every Parent Night over the next two months to make those programs available to students. The event was genuinely about being able to collect input from Principals and having an open conversation. Many Principals are asking how the City can help promote the schools, recognize students, teachers, and programming. She has been on Twitter and social media branding the schools and wondered if there was a way as part of the larger communication plan. She noted that the Education Advisory Board takes a strategy and maybe there is a way to broadcast school activities.

Mr. Audet questioned if the Board could host a dinner or lunch to recognize Principals or students.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that there could be additional Education Advisory Board meetings for recognitions. The Board might ask the City to be the coordinator of the award ceremonies at schools and suggested vetting the idea and celebrating Commissioners attending those ceremonies. Depending on how the standards are set, there could be 15 to 20 schools a year. They should get as many people from the School Board as well as the Commissioners to attend.

Ms. Saunders mentioned a recommendation from a group and questioned if there could be three or four informal events throughout the year, such as a donut or bagel events, where the Principal of the Month, Teacher of the Month, and Student of the Month would be recognized. Schools are moving towards problem-based learning and being able to come up with solutions, so as a City, being able to identify real world problems would be age appropriate for elementary, middle and high school. Having that as a competition, students could come together and pitch their project, then the student group with the best resolution could be recognized and present their solution before the Commission.

Mr. Sponsler stated that one of the magnet programs at Fort Lauderdale High School is Pre-Law and Public Affairs. They used to have a Public Affairs course for the seniors; however, that course fell by the wayside due to a project that took a long time and he would like to reinvigorate that course, maybe by starting with volunteer work. One of the tasks for all students in that course when offered was that they had to donate their time to a City Council in Broward County, donate time to a political campaign, or donate time to coordinate a public service project, and there is an interest to do so from students. The new Principal for Fort Lauderdale High School is Mrs. Erin Brown, former Assistant Principal from Hollywood Hills.

Ms. Barnett commented that some of these recognitions are non-academic and noted that a lot of the students are doing anti-bullying. She thought there would be an opportunity to highlight some of the students who may not be academically advanced but who are offering a lot on a humanity level.

Mr. Relyea indicated that Commissioner Sorenson hosts a Youth Advisory Council in his office, and he liked the idea so much that he pitched it to the Commission to be a formal group for the City but was denied.

Ms. Saunders suggested crafting a program of what that looks like as there is a lot of interest in creating these youth groups; she thought there would be an openness to revisit that request.

- Debrief on July 9 Communication to City Commission
 - i. Joint-use parks

Vice Chair Ellowitz advised that the Parks system currently lacks the capacity to serve the public. The Board is looking to take a portion of the Park bond and discussed the \$28 million that would be earmarked for improvements on 14 parks to make them useable to communities surrounding schools. There are many other improvements to be made, but the Board is looking to get 26 cents a day from residents to help the parks. There has been a lot of talk about Lockhart Stadium being improved and how a soccer team is

considering making a big investment, which would open another \$20 million to be used. She noted that out of the \$200 million in the Park bond, only \$175,000 is accounted for. All 28 Principals need to reiterate their interests and needs in the parks and playgrounds on their school properties. Her concern is a holistic approach; developmentally, kids are not prepared when they enter elementary school because of lack of mobility and because they are not socially interacting. The big complaint has been that the School Board says that is a City or County issue and the City says it is a School Board issue; the bottom line is that taxpayers are paying for both. She thought \$28 million was the tally of what Principals were asking for, but the total is almost \$40 million with improvements.

Ms. Saunders commented that in terms of parks, someone is going to be identified to manage that process. There might be a process where there is community input and Principals would have an opportunity to be involved, which would go to the Parks Advisory Board to make the recommendation to the Commission. In speaking with the Deputy Director of the Parks Department, she suggested having the Education Advisory Board and the Parks Advisory Board get together to discuss this and possibly have a joint communication. There is going to be a lot of focus on the Parks bond and she believed the Mayor has committed to attend a certain number of meetings throughout the year and the Commission wants frequent updates. It might make sense to engage with the Parks Advisory Board and think this through strategically.

Ms. DeINegri thought more should be heard from the Principals.

Chair Dr. Zeman suggested that the Board agree to assign 20 members of the Education Board to schools in Fort Lauderdale including alternative schools, but not private schools. Even if they went with just public plus public charter, there is an ability to say there is a \$200 million bond and currently \$11 million is set aside for things on or adjacent to schools. There is an opportunity to have joint use of parks either at the school or very near the school, so during the day students could use all the property, both County owned and City owned, and then after school, local residents would have a much broader park area, which includes tennis courts, swimming pools, basketball courts in the schools that the taxpayers pay for. It makes such common sense that when it was discussed, the Park Advisory Board was very enthusiastic. If each Board member has one or two schools, they could see what the Principals need and critical information could be supplied about what really is in the \$28 million, then the Board could bring the formal requirement to Parks and the City Commission and say, "As money is not needed for other things planned, the Board would like them to base their decision-making towards doing all these things in the schools". He noted that the County has their own Parks and Rec budget and the Board could tell them that a certain amount of City revenue was going to be spent and ask for their help. There is a unique ongoing set of initiatives that could be tackled this year if this joint use idea is picked up. There would be tremendous support from Homeowners' Associations, Principals, from the Education Advisory Board, and from

others if it is done correctly; it is a way of multiplying the \$200 million and getting some of the County money. This is a long-term effort and the City is blessed that our Commission started talking about a \$200 million Parks bond during their first meeting. Our City is going to be better as a result of that bond and the Board could probably help spend the money smartly if County money was brought in.

Mr. Audet commented that the interviews with Principals were so effective that he thought the Board should meet with them again and ask for a wish list.

Vice Chair Ellowitz stated that she drafted a letter to appeal to the Principals, asking them to host Education Advisory Board meetings on their site, but this Board was also going to link ourselves individually with schools so we could go to the Principals directly and ask exactly what they need.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that this was done as a group and was something Cities do for schools. When this Board looked at it, there were resources available and an opportunity to do better.

Mr. Audet indicated that Lockhart Stadium and the baseball team are no longer there, and a soccer facility is being built.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that the time between the owners of the sports of the soccer team approaching Fort Lauderdale, the City signing a lease and committing our land and their money was miraculous.

Ms. Dinnen noted that originally high schools used Lockhart Stadium, but when the stadium was no longer in use, they had to find other places. She questioned if there was going to be any kind of cooperative agreement with a new entity.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that the City has days reserved for City use. He believed the City has first rights for a certain number of days and 60 days to request use. It was a well negotiated thought forum. Some of the Education Advisory Board input was to remind the former Principal that they had that use but could not use it for a while because the stadium was not safe.

ii. Early Learning Centers

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that 60% of children are not prepared to start Kindergarten and there is a significant difference from the east to the west.

Pablo Calvo, Community Engagement for the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, indicated that the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County handles all State and

Federal dollars for 0-5 education; State dollars are for Pre-Kindergarten and Federal dollars are from the Child Development Community Block Grant. They are a large agency with about \$100 million a year, but they are restricted as to how to spend \$99.9 million dollars. Having seen the success achieved with the Gulfstream Learning Center in Hallandale, he would say this is a great opportunity for the City of Fort Lauderdale. As far as overall performance, there is a wide discrepancy between the east and west. Data has been analyzed for a few months and nothing has been seen as a predictor of high scores except for the median income of the neighborhood. Like the Board, the Early Learning Community wants credit to be given for the great work that is being done. They want to talk about kids having gains and show gains from the beginning of the VPK year to the end that were not necessarily reflected on a standardized test. They are going to have the Department of Education look at that to see what else could be done to make the test more meaningful, so it is administered the same way from one school to the next and from one County to the next. He would like 15 to 20 minutes during the October meeting so Rene Jaffe, Chief Executive Officer, could give a brief presentation on Early Learning Centers statewide. Charts and graphs would be provided that show performance of all Centers located within the City of Fort Lauderdale, so the Board could evaluate the variance and help dig deeper into the data to see what successful schools are doing.

Ms. Saunders mentioned the Kindergarten Ambassador Program.

Mr. Calvo stated that the Early Learning Coalition received approval to enter a joint program with Broward County Public Schools where they will be funding one full-time position; a portion of Supervisor and a portion of something else and this position would be for a Kindergarten Ambassador. The primary task would be to serve as a connection between private preschool centers, private Pre-Kindergartens and Academies, and private elementary school Kindergartens. They will have Pre-Kindergartners tour Kindergarten for the first time so they know what their classroom would look like and where they would be eating lunch. One big predictor is things like social anxiety and having difficulty at home; 90% of the kids will not score proficiency in third grade and about 85% will not score proficiency in latter grades. He thought that would start October 1st but was not positive. One person would work with approximately 300 to 400 preschool and VPK students. Because of the connectiveness with the public schools, the State did not want them to be the ones doing everything, so they will be providing technical assistance, some administrative support, and helping make introductions to all Centers.

Chair Dr. Zeman suggested using caution and not calling this a pilot; no one would assign one person to 300 daycare centers with a positive outcome in mind. A pilot is trying something in a small place with 10 or 20 Centers and if works they would go higher.

Mr. Calvo indicated that this is not going to be at all 300 schools at once, he believed it would be in stages based on schools with the greatest needs.

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned that some schools have less than 15% of the entire Kindergarten showing up prepared according to the FLKRS test.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated as soon as they could get their Director on the agenda they would do so and noted that it may not be in October. The Board would be well served to learn more about the results of Early Learning Centers; several members have visited Early Learning Centers, but it would be great for all of them to see.

Mr. Calvo advised that he would be happy to schedule a visit to a Center; visits can be scheduled through Ms. Saunders.

iii. City standards for schools (action required)

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that standards for the schools were selected of great importance. The Board was able to communicate to set a standard of "A" or "B" and the second standard would be discussed at this meeting, sharing the most recent data from 2018-2019 about different metrics. That is important, so the information could be given to the Commission and the schools so Board members could organize events to celebrate their success; he noted that schools need to be told what success is.

Mr. Spenser questioned the standards.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that the Commission agreed with the standards presented and agreed that all schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale should be an "A" or "B" on the State test. They also agreed to a general metric, which was learning gains and now the issue is whether the State learning gains or something different is used. He believed the Commission was interested in the Board making a recommendation as to what makes the most sense. It is useful to have the data because there would not be a discussion about a theoretic standard.

Ms. Dinnen thought if the idea was that every school should be an "A" or a "B", it should be emphasized that is a goal because some "C" schools have struggled to be a "C" for a variety of reasons. She did not want to discourage any of the schools.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented that the alternative would be to say what is right. The Commission already agreed that "A" and "B" is the standard; every school must be an "A" or "B". It is not just about academic performance, it is about equity. Equity failure happens west of U.S. 1 where there are very few "A" and "B" schools and the kids that go to "C" and "D" schools deserve better.

Mr. Sponsler questioned how the City Commission came to a standard of “A” or “B” schools because the citizens of Fort Lauderdale are not paying for “A” and “B” schools, they are paying for “D” schools.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that they are saying in a standard that this is what is right; this is our aspiration. The issue is how to get the resources, environmental conditions, and the City’s support.

Ms. Dinnen suggested getting the City to help get proper funding; there are lobbyists who go to Tallahassee every year and lobby for their interest and she was sure there were many who could talk about this while up there.

Mr. Sponsler commented that Broward County is a donor County.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated that if it is decided to tackle root causes as to why there are “C” schools, perhaps lobbyists could be encouraged to work for it.

Mr. Sponsler stated that if an announcement was made that the City wants “A” and “B” schools based on standards set by the State, it would be demoralizing to be anything less. This must be worded very carefully, and the elected officials should have what it takes to convince the people who do control the education budget to do something about it.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated that the Council of Education Advisory Boards may be a better place to do that; they would have more political leverage to do things in Tallahassee.

Ms. Saunders advised that she is coordinating with the Department of Strategic Initiative Management at Broward County Public Schools to identify metrics that would highlight the growth of the schools. With Broward County Public Schools new Strategic Plan, they are focusing on a Growth to Mastery and setting goals around the number of students in the enrichment zone. Those are high proficiency high growth schools building on learning gains being defined by a year’s worth of learning, so we need to make sure the metrics are the same. That might be something to look at because even “A” schools should demonstrate a lot of learning gains, which might get to that metric of ensuring that every school is continuously improving regardless of whether they are an “A” or not. That might be something to consider while looking at the Strategic Plan as we are looking to create alignment with Broward County Public Schools.

Ms. Dinnen thought one struggle was the fact that the testing mechanism for the State of Florida is and has been flawed.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that the power of that standard is that everyone in Fort Lauderdale knows what an “A” and “B” school is. Almost the entire Nation has been educated on what is a good assessment and what is not because many States have adopted assessment tools. He mentioned that Fort Lauderdale High School had a significant drop, 8 percentage points in Language Arts from one year to the next and that is a critical measure.

Ms. Dinnen commented that when she was on the School Board, kids were tested while in the hospital; it is a flawed situation.

Mr. Relyea understood the unfairness felt about the measurement, so when comparing Fort Lauderdale to outside of the State of Florida measurements, he can see where it could feel like an unjust comparison. As a City competing with other Cities in the County, they are using the same flawed measurements as us. He likes the better City measurement; he thinks it is more genuine.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that while new systems are flawed, it is significantly better than a system that was never measurable. Maybe we have not moved into a perfect measurement zone, but a lack of measurement was far worse and much more difficult to manage.

Mr. Audet mentioned that Northside Elementary School went from an “F” to a “C” with huge gains and that should be celebrated.

Ms. Barnett indicated that when the Board was presenting to the Principals, they talked about the Realtors Association covering the learning gains and now we are back to letter grades.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that the Commission was told that the Board wants all schools to be “A” and “B” and they said, “Great.” Then they said, “We also want to measure learning gains” and told the Board to come back and talk to them about that, so there needs to be discussion under New Business. He noted that the City has also approved award ceremonies for schools that meet their standards. He questioned if charter schools could be measured with learning gains.

Ms. Saunders replied, “Yes”.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that there are 30 schools to look at, so the figures need to be determined and published, and then award ceremonies could be held.

Ms. Dinnen commented that Oakland Park has “Youth Day” once a year where students receive awards. The entire City Commission is present and helps give out the awards. School Board members are also present, and the event is well attended.

Ms. Saunders advised that dedicated education events with awards would be done, but it would be more of a spring event. The thought is that the event should be separate from the existing City awards and focus on education.

- Plans for EAB meetings in schools during 2019-2020 academic year

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that Education Advisory Board meetings were discussed last year and there was a concept that the Board might be able to get Homeowners’ Associations, Commissioners, School Board members, local business owners, and a school per month to have an opportunity to spend some time together. The concept was two-hour meetings once a month, which is written in the City Charter for this Board, but to do community outreach the first hour and the second half for the rest of the agenda. He liked the concept and in comparing meetings with the School Board calendar, only two meetings would have to be moved in ten months. He recommended spreading the schools around geographically and letter grade wise. The strength of this concept is that this Board would get a lot more publicity and there would be a lot more attendance; there should be 50 people at every meeting. He questioned if the concept should be amended.

Ms. Dinnen commented that the School Board used to do that, and it was extremely effective, then they decided not to do budget cuts.

Motion by Ms. Dinnen, seconded by Ms. Barnett, to schedule Education Advisory Board meetings to take place in schools with which arrangements could be made. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (12-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that this would start in September and suggested finding a school for the next meeting; notice would be provided within a couple weeks of the location. The Board would work with the City to get the minutes recorded and additional work may have to be done correcting minutes as well.

Ms. Dinnen mentioned Page 10, sixth paragraph and said that it should read, “**Mr. Tatham stated that there was a margin of error**”.

Chair Dr. Zeman referenced Page 13 for schools that Board members want to represent.

- Approve minutes from June 20, 2019 meeting

Motion made by Ms. Lovell, seconded by Vice Chair Ellowitz, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2019 as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (12-0).

IV. New Business

- City standards (action required)

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that there are two opportunities to go forward on the second half of standards, which is to adopt the one-year learning gain or the State learning gain. He would like the Board to hear about both of those metrics and then take a vote. This metric will generate the award ceremony at the school. He did not think there was a huge difference between the two, but felt it was important for the Board to come up with its own view.

In response to Ms. Saunders, Chair Dr. Zeman stated that the two options are learning gain as defined currently by the State versus the one-year learning gain defined as one year of schooling moves you up one year and overall performance.

Ms. Saunders explained that the learning gains defined by the State allow the Board to benchmark against every school across the State and that calculation is slightly more vigorous than the alternative metric. The State redid calculations for the learning gains to make sure if a student achieved a learning gain over a three to four-year period that they would ultimately achieve proficiency. The learning gain metric proposed by the City is a year's worth of growth. Students can get one of five levels if they take the FSA and are deemed proficient if they achieve a level 3, 4 or 5. The State also gets credit for students who are achieving, so they would get a learning gain point even if they did not achieve proficiency. With the proposed metric, if a student maintains a level 2, they would qualify for a learning gain. Ms. Saunders is following up with the Strategic Management Team of Broward County about how they are defining one year's worth of learning within a year because the way it is explained in their Strategic Plan appears to be slightly different. It is important to know exactly how they are measuring because the Board is looking at aligning with Broward County Public Schools. The other thing to consider is that the learning gain metric would not incorporate Kindergarten through third grade, but there are many opportunities to include improvement using BAS scores used for literacy although there would be none comparable for math. Overall from her view, it is important to recognize learning gains; the main intent the Board is trying to achieve is to help people understand what quality looks like in a school and the best way to do that is to recognize what progress means. It was mentioned that a letter grade of "A" is 62% or higher. She suggested looking at the learning gains metric, whichever route is taken, and understand what is meant by quality learning gains. Benchmarks would have to be identified and it would be easier to communicate by going with consistent measurements already

produced by the State because of transparency. If it is the same as what the County is looking to do, it would be helpful to look at it the way they are with proficiency and growth because that is the equity piece where schools can be mapped that demonstrate the zone of enrichment.

Chair Dr. Zeman distributed a data table and noted that the City measure would change which schools are celebrated. The reason the chart is important is because the difference between the proposed model and the State model do not ask people at level 1 or level 2 to make more than one-year gains. He confirmed that it is consistent with what the County is going for and Superintendent Runcie thinks this is the better metric; he believes all the Counties should copy what Fort Lauderdale proposed and come up with a metric that says one year of school, one-year gain. It was mentioned that even "A" schools should keep trying to improve and it was noted that 24 of 28 public schools went up from last year to this year. This is an observing metric, it is not a motivating metric.

Mr. Relyea questioned if it would be too much to ask or further signify the schools that have made a certain percentage of learning gains; if 60% of the students made either a math or ELA learning gain, the school would be designated a bronze school and 70% would be silver. He believed the Board should designate bronze, silver and gold and that way there would not be any numbers or letters.

Ms. Saunders thought that made a lot of sense.

Motion by Mr. Relyea, seconded by Vice Chair Ellowitz, to adopt one-year learning growth with qualitative labels for standard of education in Fort Lauderdale schools. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (12-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that some schools only went up one-year learning growth point and they should be called successful, but some schools went up 18 points. These goals are important to the Principals interviewed who said letter grades are demoralizing. If Mr. Relyea did not mind an amendment, it is one-year learning gains with Ms. Saunders picking labels so we can talk qualitatively about these things. He clarified that the motion was to adopt one-year learning growth with qualitative labels as the standard for education in Fort Lauderdale City schools.

Motion by Ms. DelNegri, seconded by Ms. Barnett, to amend the Communication to the Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (12-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that the Communication to the Commission would be amended to say, "One-year learning gain with a qualitative modifier".

- EAB member roles and responsibilities with assigned schools

Chair Dr. Zeman asked Ms. Barnett if someone was an Ambassador from the Education Advisory Board how she would see their role with other Administrators with the school that would allow the Board to learn what is going on at the school, but also allow the Board to share the City's standards and goals.

Ms. Barnett believed that a PTA brings the community of the school together; it is the parents and people who live around the school. A lot gets lost in translation and when more people are in the room, they hear the information directly so there is less margin of error. She thought attending a PTA meeting would be effective.

Mr. Relyea mentioned that awareness, branding, communication, and visibility is key.

Ms. Dinnen suggested going to a faculty meeting and asking their thoughts.

Mr. Relyea thought the first red flag would be a Union issue, so he did not know if that would be the best thing to do. He likes the PTA idea for schools that have active ones and noted that there is a correlation between the sizes and activities of those PTA's in the school latter grades.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned how an Ambassador should approach a school and what activities would help their mission.

Dr. Knapp believed that PTA was a good place, but a lot of schools do not have a PTA; Northside has zero. She thought the meeting she had with the Principal was extremely effective and just being able to continue that relationship and having a liaison type of relationship would not be a waste. She mentioned the washer dryer issue at Northside, and they are now speaking with the School Board about having a community room where families can come to do laundry and there would be resources for kids to do their homework.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned what schools Board members would like and he would bring a slate to the next meeting. He noted that some members would need to take two schools. There are two critical relationships; one is between the Ambassador and the Principal and the other is from the Education Advisory Board member back to Ms. Saunders.

Ms. DelNegri commented on the Dillard School Sparks Program and stated that it would be wonderful for the City to have representation at every SAC meeting. If schools are not covered, perhaps City employees could volunteer.

Mr. Sponsler announced that the State Education Commission is holding its meeting at Broward College on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; everyone should wear red in support of public schools.

Chair Dr. Zeman suggested that the meeting announcement be sent to Ms. Saunders for distribution.

- Joint Use Parks Visioning – None.

V. Staff Update, Chief Education Officer

Ms. Saunders advised that updates would be sent and noted that some are metrics for the Strategic Plan. She indicated that she would like to bring another topic before the Board to get input and involvement.

VI. Closing

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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