



**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
THURSDAY, October 17, 2019–6:30-8:30 PM
July 2019 – May 2020**

Members	July 2019 – May 2020		
	Attendance	Present	Absent
Dr. Allen Zeman, Chair	P	2	1
Robert Audet	A	2	1
Linda Barnett	A	1	2
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	3	0
Amy Ellowitz, Vice Chair	P	3	0
April Jeff	P	1	2
Terry Large	P	3	0
Jennifer Lovell	A	1	2
Dr. Heather Munns	A	0	3
Tina Jaramillo	P	1	0
Sarah Owen DelNegri	P	3	0
Christopher Relyea	P	3	0
Betty Shelley	P	2	1
Rory Sponsler	A	2	1
Dr. Michele Verdi Knapp (arrived at 6:34 p.m.)	P	3	0
Yolanda B. Francis	A	1	2
Lillian Small	A	1	2

Staff/Guests

Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison
 Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, City of Fort Lauderdale
 Leslie Brown, Broward County School Board
 Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager
 Arica Johnson, Structural Innovation Manager
 Ingrid Kindborn, Assistant Structural Innovation Manager
 Michael Kam, Analyst, City Staff
 Dr. Rosalind Osgood, School Board Member, District 5

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

This meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. New Member Introductions: Colleen Lockwood & Tina Jaramillo

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

As of this date, October 17, 2019, 10 of the 18 appointed members were present, which constituted a quorum.

IV. Current Business

- Joint-Use Parks

- i. Reciprocal Use Agreements Overview & Parks Bond Update: Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks & Recreation

Mr. Thornburg reported that there are currently two agreements with the School Board; a Reciprocal Use Agreement where we use their facilities and they use our facilities, and a Recreation License Agreement. A Master Plan was done two or three years ago and about four or five school parks were to be enhanced along with two or three others that made sense to the consulting firm. The Educational Advisory Board is looking to put a working group together to work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the School Board, so decisions could be made as to what could be done on the properties.

In response to Dr. Zeman, Mr. Thornburg stated that the community center and pool at Croissant Park were done quite a few years ago, probably in 1993, and the playground at Bennett Elementary was about \$400,000 to \$500,000. The contract has been awarded and a pre-construction meeting is next week with the Principal. A handout was distributed showing the layout of Bennett Elementary.

- ii. EAB Input for City/BCPS Staff Working Group

Ms. Saunders shared a map of the City to give a view of the City parks and the location of schools. As mentioned, there are not many parks around the area of Bennett Elementary, so it helps prioritize the need for those neighboring communities. This is an opportunity to discuss key considerations that could be incorporated while moving forward with this work. A staff working group is going to be formed that has representation from the City and Broward County Public Schools to identify the best way to operationalize this great idea and take it to the next level. Phase 1 is coming to this Board for discussion and to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting next week, which allows an opportunity to talk and get their input. Once all considerations are obtained, staff will identify and overcome possible barriers. They want to involve Principals, which Ms. Brown has already identified at all levels, so their voice is at the table. There will be opportunities to bring a representative group of stakeholders as they get farther along in the process. This Board will identify a representative who would like to participate.

Motion by Vice Chair Ellowitz, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to nominate Dr. Alan Zeman as the Education Advisory Board representative. **Motion** passed unanimously. (10-0)

Dr. Zeman proposed one of the principles that got the Board going, which was the idea that this would be done as a City. This is 30 potential sites at one time, and he suggested that a deal be made with the School Board, all 30 Principals, and Homeowner's Associations in the area. It would be a real challenge to go after 30 different agreements; therefore, one agreement should be done for the City in conjunction with the School Board, so the outcome is joint use parks in every public school.

In response to Mr. Relyea, Mr. Thornburg indicated that the cost for those two parks would be \$10 million and both in Holiday Park would cost \$20 million. It was noted that they are not asking for 30 Holiday Parks, they might be asking for something closer to 30 Bennett Elementary projects and there may be sites where all that is needed is adding a fence and a gate or upgrading. Sunrise Middle was mentioned and if something was put into that it could be labeled as a destination. He advised that Parks and Recreation would be responsible for Park Rangers and locking gates.

Ms. Dinnen thought an overall principle was a good idea, but there would have to be some nuances for individual areas because some are larger than others, some have greater needs, and some already have facilities.

Dr. Zeman stated that the principle would not impinge upon that at all. If an agreement is done for 30 sites, there would be a lot of flexibility in making winners, depending on what is in the best interest of the City. It is a negotiation for the City, not a negotiation one at a time for 30 schools; the agreement would be done for the City of Fort Lauderdale, not for any one school. This is a one-time deal to get the idea right and capture the values or principles discussed, the first being that this is being done for the entire City.

Ms. Dinnen thought there would have to be a presentation or layout in order to forestall competition between different areas and to determine the needs. There are places that have nothing and whatever is done must be communicated to the public very clearly.

Dr. Zeman indicated that all requests for improvements are fully transparent. Ambassadors are wonderful people working in schools and they might help define options, but all that has to be transparent and must be turned over to City employees to go through their normal adjudication. No member of this Advisory Board is permitted to be involved in any decisions about what gets built or funded; we are only able to help schools think of ideas and turn those ideas over to City employees. There is already a plan for the money. Dr. Zeman suggested that the Board might want to write a statement for people to read at the beginning of every meeting, so it is very clear that there would be no favoritism and that no process could be manipulated. Everyone must be thoughtful about how to generate the process.

In response to Ms. Brown, Ms. Dinnen indicated that there would be some type of criteria or rationale as to why this sort of action would be taken.

Dr. Zeman mentioned criteria and questioned if a school was willing to open its space if the City should lean forward; they should be as generous as possible with their investment.

Ms. Dinnen thought Principals should be urged not to make decisions independently, but to speak with PTA.

Mr. Thornburg indicated that they are in the process of hiring a project manager to handle the bond. A consulting firm will be selected soon, to implement the bond all the way from public outreach to planning, design, and project management. There probably would be one staff member who oversees the project manager and the consultant can talk to this Board as well. They are going to reach out to the community and determine where Parks and Recreation space is needed; their role is going to be to plan how the \$200 million will be spent. His hope was that outreach would begin after the first of the year.

In response to Mr. Relyea, Mr. Thornburg stated that as input is received, a recommendation would be made, they would go to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for discussion, and then the recommendation would be sent to the Commission.

Ms. Brown advised that funding of school playgrounds is not done by the school, it is usually by the PTA.

Ms. Jaramillo mentioned shared space and questioned who would be responsible for the effects of more people using the space.

Mr. Thornburg indicated that most of the sites were not to that level; there is not an impact. There is a major undertaking of maintenance, which could later be discussed.

Ms. Brown stated that it is site specific and noted that football fields are a huge liability; thousands of dollars are spent a year resodding, which comes out of classroom money. Those types of things become shared liabilities through these agreements.

Ms. Dinnen commented that it is not only criteria, there is input to consultants from various areas.

Mr. Large thought the principle statement should be a mission statement. The Ambassador Program should focus on talking to the Associations and PTA's to see what they need and then an Ambassador could bring it back to the Board to be proposed as a suggestion. He did not think every school needed a major investment.

Dr. Verdi-Knapp commented that the PTA spent \$150,000 to improve the playground.

Dr. Zeman questioned if geographic equity should be one of the principles.

Ms. DelNegri thought it was important to include PTA improvements, which is another level.

Dr. Zeman advised that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board determines priorities. He thought Mr. Relyea's point was very well taken; there is a lot of new construction and once that happens trees are removed and there is a lot of concrete. There is often not enough money for shade structures, which he will bring to the Parks and Recreation Advisory meeting next week. One more principle is speed. There are three legs to any kind of project; cost, scope, and schedule. He questioned if it was a reasonable principle to say the Board would like as many projects as possible, primarily smaller and medium size, in time for school to start every year. Projects are prioritized so kids would get them in time for school to start, it seems like that would be an instant principle.

Dr. Verdi-Knapp commented that certain criteria should be considered for a complete project. She noted that VSY fundraised to put sun shades over the playground this year because many cannot be touched due to heat. There are certain criteria that would be considered to make a project complete and she mentioned that a buzzer added at the door is not part of that project; to her that is an incomplete project.

Dr. Verdi-Knapp stated that there are certain components. If something has to slide in order to have this component, then it should be a consideration.

Ms. Dinnen mentioned that the State has rules about what gets built on a public-school property.

The following are replies to Dr. Zeman's request for everyone to complete the sentence, "We are doing this so ..."

- Members of the community have access to green space.
- It was for the community.
- It was for clean spaces.
- Children and the community could have access to the facility.
- The City recognizes that kids do not expire at 3:00 when school ends.
- We build a community.
- There would be a better way for good health and wellness.
- It is for the community and to create opportunities for intergeneration engagement relevant to development, wellness, and health benefits for our citizens.
- Every resident in Fort Lauderdale can see it is possible to do good government.

Dr. Zeman indicated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is next

Wednesday. He mentioned the traffic issue and noted there are 30 public schools that could be open for walkers after school hours. These principles will be carried forward.

Mr. Relyea mentioned the traffic issue and thought being able to afford opportunities to people to stay in their communities rather than congregate to one, two or three different places would be good because of the lack of opportunity to do so is great. Anything that might improve traffic and not make it worse is something that needs to be highlighted.

- Board meeting location

Dr. Zeman advised that a communication was sent to the City Commission at the last meeting. This Board is not encouraged to meet in other places all the time and the Commission said, "Thank you for the level of work you are doing, keep doing it, but no, you cannot run around every month and have meetings at different sites". It is understood why meetings cannot be held at different locations, but it does not mean that the Board cannot meet as they always have at Fort Lauderdale High, Stranahan High, and Dillard High. If there are critical reasons to have a meeting at a different location, the City Commission will be informed, and the Clerk's office would be asked to make sure someone is available to assist. There are some rules about ADA and access and one of the issues is that not all schools give access to everyone. It was noted that learning gain scores went up in Math or English in 24 of the 30 schools. Different ideas will be discussed next month.

Mr. Large advised that he met with the Charter School of Excellence and they would like to have the Education Advisory Board visit.

Dr. Zeman stated that could be discussed next month.

Ms. Shelley thought if a specific school was having a problem they should be invited to come before the Board to discuss the issues.

Dr. Zeman advised that he is sometimes reminded that many schools are overlooked. Technical Colleges are doing amazing things and as a Board, we do not know enough about it. We should always think of how to expand what we know; schools have their own language.

Ms. Saunders thought the Board should get back to connecting with the schools and understanding issues that may be impacting the network of schools; there are many opportunities to do so without visiting a school. As a liaison for this Board, she followed up with Dr. Strauss after the Commission meeting and there were some preliminary conversations about how this Board could help facilitate. The Board can identify what they want to learn more about from Technical Colleges and programs and invite them to attend a meeting and provide a presentation. It was noted that Principals are willing to come and share. She encouraged the Board to come up with a list of topics they would

like to learn about.

Dr. Zeman stated it is the Board's job to advise the City Commission about things that matter.

- Approve minutes from September 19, 2019 meeting

Ms. Shelley referenced Page 1 and noted that Dr. Zeman should be replaced with Vice Chair Ellowitz.

Ms. Saunders referenced the top of Page 4, around the joint use parks. It says there is an agreement already in place and a commitment to spend \$11 million in 12 months. Dr. Zeman requested the sentence be struck.

Ms. Dinnen referenced the last line on Page 4, and noted that, "Then they decided" should read as, "Then they **stopped**".

Motion by Ms. Dinnen, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes as amended. **Motion** passed unanimously. (10-0)

V. New Business

- School Ambassador Roles & Responsibilities

Dr. Zeman indicated that there are 18 members and 30 schools, so everyone gets one or two schools. The question is, "What should the Board do that is responsible, helpful, and does not cause a burden?" He questioned what comes to mind when thinking what an Ambassador should be doing for a school.

Dr. Verdi-Knapp commented that the park came to mind.

Mr. Large advised that while visiting the Charter School of Excellence, he mentioned the Ambassadorship program and he volunteered to be their Ambassador.

Dr. Zeman questioned what an Ambassador could do that would better connect a public school to the City and provide better service.

Ms. Jaramillo thought talking to faculty would help because many times people talk to the Principal and the faculty may not know what the Board is doing.

In response to Dr. Zeman, Ms. Jaramillo stated that there is sometimes an administrative level conversation; however, the faculty feel their voices are not often heard. The question is if the Principal would want that or if they would want a go between.

Ms. Brown indicated that the Principal would not have a problem with staff coming to PTA or faculty meetings.

In response to Dr. Zeman, Ms. Dinnen volunteered to be an Ambassador for the Broward Teachers Union.

Dr. Zeman questioned if there were any other thoughts about Ambassadors.

Ms. Saunders advised that from a staff perspective, the concept leveraging the Education Advisory Board to be connected to schools is a great idea. She thought alignment would be key with limited resources and doing a lot of different education initiatives. She requested that the Board stay very coordinated and noted that timing would be important while engaging with Principals. The Board wants to make sure to deliver on commitments. Be mindful in roles and getting to know the schools, so you can provide her and the Commission with informed input. She thought the Board establishing expectation for members to commit time to schools in a volunteer capacity would be a great first start and suggested saying that they want to volunteer so they are more connected and can better serve in an advisory role because they know the school well, then ask the Principal what the best opportunity would be to put you in. She shared a printout of SAC meetings to help in terms of identifying availability when going into the schools. Anything that becomes more formalized than an individual volunteer role probably would need something in writing and approval by the Commission.

Dr. Zeman commented that that several Board members requested to be an Ambassador at their child's school, which he thought was a bad idea. He did not believe Principals could distinguish between the member as both a parent and an Ambassador. The idea was to get to know more schools and to add more knowledge. He noted that a list would be distributed and the he would need about a week to finish up.

Ms. Jeff mentioned that she signed up for Dillard High and would need to change.

Dr. Zeman explained that Board members select what they want, and the Chair puts a list together. He reiterated that a draft plan would be brought to the next meeting.

Ms. DelNegri reported that she attended the presentation Ms. Saunders organized. One thing mentioned was that the Dillard Innovative Zone has their own Ambassadors and Principals in her group were saying they did not know if an Educational Ambassador was needed since they already had one. Perhaps those schools get one person who just checks on them.

Ms. Brown advised that some of the Title 1 schools pay a full-time person to be a liaison for the community with the Title 1 funds. She was not sure if they understood the intent and noted that the position is a full-time position at the school; it is not a volunteer from the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Saunders suggested getting closely engaged with the community liaison as opposed to meeting the Principal.

Dr. Zeman indicated that the difference was that Board members are appointed by City Commissioners and the Board's job is to provide the best advice to them as decisions are made on how much they vest, set policies, what they do with School Resource Officers, etc. A draft list will be put together for review next month and some members might be asked to do two schools. Ms. Saunders would be asked what should not be done and the City Attorney, City Manager, and maybe the Chief of Police might want to give some advice of what should not be done; part of it is not to over commit. The City Manager is the execution leader of the City and Ms. Saunders is his representative.

Dr. Zeman mentioned that he would reach out to the City of Sunrise Education Advisory Board Chair to see what they have learned while doing this.

VI. Staff Update

- Education Elements of City's Strategic & Comprehensive Plans: Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer

Ms. Saunders advised that the work of the Education Advisory Board has informed a lot of what has gone into the Strategic Plan and the City's Comprehensive Plan. This Board has done a great job of engaging in a daily driven effort to identify the gaps and make a key recommendation. While going through both plans, she highlighted how the Education Advisory Board's recommendations have been incorporated, both with metrics built into the City's five-year Strategic Plan and as key initiatives in the 20-year Comprehensive Plan. A brief Power Point presentation was provided with different initiatives highlighted. Initiative is being considered and while working with the Parks initiative, that is an opportunity to bring people around the table. As this working group is put together, a lot of collaboration will be seen. She thought there would be further opportunity for the Education Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to provide input in a different way on this targeted focus.

Dr. Zeman indicated that three out of 14 recommendations were presented last year, which the Board felt had the greatest impact, but there were other recommendations that would have had a greater impact on different departments. Housing for District teachers was discussed, which was a big issue that would cost a lot of money. The Board did not push a lot of big initiatives and chose things that made the most sense in their first year of doing a strategic approach.

Ms. Saunders encouraged the Board to think about the big ideas and to incorporate them. The example of Affordable Housing for teachers has been part of the conversation and collaborate work being done with the CRA and workforce housing has preferences for

teachers along with other professions. Early learning and child care also fit in as well because one of the challenges for parents to get a job is that they do not have access to quality child care. There is an opportunity to infuse those ideas in many different initiatives and projects that are being explored as a City. She would like to bring back some of the key projects as an update, which is another opportunity for input. Ms. Saunders mentioned the Broward Up initiative, Prosperity Broward, infrastructure, public places, satisfaction of quality parks, programs, and facilities, the percent of public schools maintaining high levels of achievements, third grade students meeting or exceeding English and Language Arts, the percent of students entering Kindergarten, and business development. The Strategic Plan is being presented to the Commission so it would be in effect this year. During the five-year Plan there would be an Annual Action Plan. This is the five-year Strategic Plan and then there will be Annual Business Plans where progress can be evaluated according to metrics.

Dr. Zeman indicated that this would have a big impact and there are more and more people in the City thinking about the Strategic Plan in terms of justifying decisions.

VII. Closing

Dr. Zeman requested that Dr. Verdi-Knapp describe the program she runs.

Dr. Verdi-Knapp teaches reset quieting techniques at Sunrise Middle School, where her son attends the GEM program. Because of the space issue they want to keep all the GEM kids together, but the only space available was in one room, so 47 kids are in the same classroom all day with two teachers. She has done 32 presentations this year, broken into 30 minutes, where she did the first piece, called "Mindfulness in Minutes". She acknowledged Ms. Saunders for coming to the school and observing at least three times; having her support, feedback, and guidance has been tremendous. A core group of people came together in support of the program and they spent the entire summer developing a year-long curriculum and program for Sunrise Middle to implement as a Pilot program to teach these techniques.

Dr. Zeman announced that Ms. Dinnen and Ms. Brown would be monitoring a panel on November 7, 2019. They will be discussing a topic, "How well Charter Schools are Balancing the Public Trust of Entrepreneurship". Everyone was invited and told to RSVP; ping the Tower Forum for an invitation.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2019 and the location will be determined.