

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, 8th Floor Conference Room
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Members	June 2021 – May 2022		
	Attendance	Present	Absent
Dr. Allen Zeman, Chair	P	7	0
Amy Ellowitz, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Heather Brinkworth	P	7	0
Ruchel Coetzee (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)	P	3	4
Yolanda B. Francis (arrived at 6:34 p.m.)	P	5	2
Leah Polhemus Hopkins	A	0	7
Tina Jaramillo	P	5	2
Colleen Lockwood	A	4	3
Tomislav Lukic	P	6	1
Lisa May (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)	P	4	3
Vickie Melus	A	2	5
Christopher Relyea	P	7	0
Betty Shelley	A	3	4
Lillian Small (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)	P	3	4
Rory Sponsler	A	4	3
Dr. Michele Verdi-Knapp	A	4	2
Moises Acosta	A	4	2
Denia Perloff	P	4	2
Suzanne Dean (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)	P	5	0
Erin Gohl	P	2	0

Staff

Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, City of Fort Lauderdale
 Carla Blair, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Erica Amorim, Ph.D. Institutional Research, Broward College (via Zoom)
 Sean Gallagan, Ph.D. Institutional Research, Broward College (via Zoom)
 Greg Boardman, Project Manager

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Dr. Allen Zeman, Board Chair.

Attendance and Roll Call, 20 appointed members; 10 needed for quorum

As of this date, February 17, 2022, 13 of 20 appointed members were present, which

constituted a quorum.

Board Chair's Minute – None.

Presentation Aviation Training Program Needs Assessment

Ms. Saunders presented an update on the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study, which is building on the City of Fort Lauderdale's support launching the Avionics Technician Program at Atlantic Technical College. Following those efforts, the Commission established this program as a priority. They went out for a competitive bid to identify a consultant and Broward College provided a preliminary report to the Commission several months ago and they will be going before the Commission on March 1, 2022, to present their final findings on the need for the Aviation Training in our region.

Sean Gallagan, Ph.D. Institutional Research, Broward College, indicated the purpose of this was to do a Comprehensive Feasibility Study on establishing the City of Fort Lauderdale in an Aviation Training Hub by gathering data and an in-depth analysis on Economic Impact. He mentioned the huge demand for Aviation Technicians in South Florida, specifically in Broward County and more so in the City of Fort Lauderdale and noted there would be a deficit of Technicians in 20 to 30 years throughout the country, world, and South Florida. South Florida has strong companies that have been here a long time and the lack of workforce is impeding their progress and ability to expand their companies. Currently, there are over 12,000 employees in repair stations in South Florida and that number could be much larger if there was a workforce to attract them.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Mr. Gallagan stated there are 603 repair stations in Florida and over half are in South Florida; 37 are close and within 30 miles there are 144. There are many opportunities for residents in Fort Lauderdale to work at one of these companies and starting wages can easily be doubled within five to ten years. A survey was conducted of everyone involved in Aviation or those who have some type of supporting parts for the industry. Commercial Aviation does not reflect General Aviation, Military Aviation, etc. There are companies without boundaries who have indicated they are not able to bring on new contracts, they do not have the employees and there is empty ramp space because there are not enough Technicians to work on the aircraft. These are skilled jobs; they do not require a degree, just someone with training. Training is needed for Non-Certified Aviation Technicians, FAA Certified Airframe and Power Plant Technicians, and Specialized Aviation Maintenance Technician. Between those three programs, they are meeting current demands in the local area; what is not being met in the local area is the FAA Airframe and Power Plant Technicians. It was noted that Boeing will need 626,000 additional Technicians in the next 20 years. In 2020, FAA issued 30% fewer licenses than in 2019. Future skills required were mentioned.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented that data and unique information that would lead to Aviation training is what is compelling to the Board.

Dr. Gallagan reviewed Broward Impact, Potential Roles for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Potential Opportunities, Short-term Non-certificate Training, Dual Enrollment and Technical Programs, a Satellite 147 School, which is a physical location with all the equipment and materials necessary to train a person over 18 months to be an A&P mechanic, but it would be aligned to another school, a Technical Training Center, an Aviation Training Center Hub, Range of Start-up Expenses, Funding Opportunities, and Next Steps.

Erica Amorim, Ph.D. Institutional Research, Broward College, advised she is responsible for everything related to data.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned what Mr. Gallagan and Ms. Amorim have heard regarding what is being asked of the City Commission.

Dr. Gallagan indicated the industry is asking for more workforce development to produce skilled laborers in Aviation, i.e. A&P Technicians.

Ms. Saunders questioned the barriers for training programs to expand in the region.

Dr. Gallagan advised these are expensive programs. Barriers include location due to the extensive number of materials, all Instructors must be Certified FAA Technicians, oversight is done by the Federal Government, and location with enough space and storage for fuel.

Mr. Relyea questioned if the more feasible plan is to build something bigger at FXE since it seems to be the site that can handle engines and fuel storage, or an additional location or both.

Ms. Saunders stated the conversation that will occur with the Commission is if there is an opportunity to make land available to pursue this type of partnership. There is possibly land available on City-owned property adjacent to FXE.

Mr. Relyea commented logistically, that makes the most sense.

Ms. Saunders indicated they want to promote government efficiency. Where there is an opportunity to deliver foundation training at high school locations they would partner with schools to do so, but when it gets to the specialized work, there is a different space requirement.

Greg Boardman, Project Manager, questioned if there would be any consideration with working with the School Board on a site that might be able to accommodate the programmatic features already suggested, like McFatter Technical College, as they have an underutilized marine repair area.

Ms. Saunders advised that the Avionics Systems Technicians program is delivered at Atlantic Technical College; partnerships with the Technical College are part of the

discussion.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated there is an interesting system between the government and the private sector. There are both competitive advantages of FXE and Fort Lauderdale that are great to invest in and then there are competitive disadvantages where they get excited about a specific location or other incentives outside the private sector to invest. They are taking a deliberate approach to the investment they want to make and are thinking these things through and trying to learn from programs they started that did not get the break they hoped. They are also trying to make sure the data brought by Dr. Gallagan and Dr. Amorim supports the investment in question. The opportunity for Broward County Public Schools to make people aware of such careers is huge; there are tons of high paying technical jobs.

Mr. Relyea mentioned this is the base of the pyramid of education; it is textbooks. Schools in our City are not a huge Capital expenditure; it would be a great opportunity for graduating students to be put on a path of gainful employment in the allegedly growing industry for a very minor bottom of the pyramid investment.

Ms. Brinkworth commented that her children have suffered from Broward County Schools lack of exposure to opportunities for their future. She questioned what opportunities children have other than their parents, friends, and maybe what they see on television or what their teachers talk about. She asked if the City has something mobile that goes from school to school within the City and does a nine-week rotation where it is part of the wheel in middle school. If they are looking to get kids interested in school, that is how to do it. She questioned if other municipalities are having this conversation.

Chair Dr. Zeman thinks it is important to advise the Commission what is considered in one part, which is 10% of Broward County, and the optimal government investment would be for a collaboration amongst the other 23 municipalities and within the Tri-County area because the population can move around. There are 35,000 students in Fort Lauderdale from birth to career choice. That is enough for mobile things, which would be used year around. There are dramatic simulations that are almost free that could be placed online and distributed to the students at the same time, leaving it behind for them to learn and play with in a simulated environment where they get the basics; it is more of a middle school model than a high school model. He noted FXE is an opportunity; the City owns the airport and there is some adjacent land where more things can be done. As data suggests, there is an opportunity to do something at that location.

Ms. Coetzee questioned if a small amount of funding could be used to produce a video showing the greatness of the benefits of a program like this. The future job of being in the Aviation industry does not require a lot of manpower but can get the message out.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented there are low-cost things that make a big difference. To Ms. Brinkworth's point, there is a huge lack of knowledge.

Ms. Saunders mentioned an example how the City of Fort Lauderdale can look to leverage assets they have for educational value. They need to create early career exposure and expand training at all levels to create pathways. The Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport does outreach to schools throughout the year and maybe they can do that in conjunction with looking at expanding programming and leveraging assets and pursue funding sources. The goal is to create a hub through different partnership relationships.

Vice Chair Ellowitz stated that all kids could go to Junior Achievement and talk about it for six months, but what if there was an opportunity where kids could go on airport property and be exposed to different things.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated City employees work at the airport. If the City prioritizes some of their time to do outreach in education and field trips, they will do it, but if the City says they want them to operate an airport, they will do that. In the last few years, many Departments within the City of Fort Lauderdale have been paying attention to education. He thinks there is an opportunity to repurpose their time and it would not cost anymore to do so.

Ms. Perloff mentioned kids in their senior year that leave school at noon to go to another school to learn about working in the medical field, etc. She wondered if a program like that would allow them to leave at noon and work in a program to learn about Aviation.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated it is the City's airport, so they could encourage private companies to open opportunities for unpaid internships on the right days, but it would require coordination because those days are planned. He thinks Dr. Gallagan and Dr. Amorim might benefit from the Board's knowledge of the City Commission. This presentation will go before the Commission on March 1, 2022, and he asked if there were any suggestions on how they could do it better.

Ms. Gohl thought touching on the workforce need and going to what can be done and what power the Commission has to move this forward. She would frame it with the needs in terms of workforce development and what the City can do.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned how the presentation could better inform the Commission.

Ms. Coetzee commented that perhaps they could ask if City employees working at the airport could take a little time to go to the places and put them on the spot.

Chair Dr. Zeman thinks someone should visit the airport and see how many people work there; it may be industry people. In his experience, this Commission is all about data and qualitatively describing something is less persuasive. To Mr. Relyea's point regarding high schools that send less students immediately to college for which the investment might give them a greater return, there are different high schools with different programs, personalities, and populations, and programs should be put out where they get the

greatest return.

Mr. Relyea mentioned a package PILOT program, which lists costs and what it takes to get off the ground.

Chair Dr. Zeman asked if it would make sense to have two or three examples of other Cities, who have five or ten years invested in the Aviation Training Program, and what they learned was a worthwhile investment. He would be interested in the flow of flights out of FXE and what it looks like over the last ten years.

Ms. Brinkworth stated Miramar High School was mentioned, but there are other high schools that have components of Aviation programs. It is important for the Commission to know what high schools have, so they can see what is happening around the County, where the need still exists, and where the City can step up. As far as potential roles for the City of Fort Lauderdale, she appreciated the list, but would not use the word "Assist" at the beginning of each bullet because it does not provide ownership. To be a strong advocate, which gives them an ownership; change those words to action verbs and be direct.

Ms. Coetzee questioned if Mr. Gallagan would be able to visit teachers and Principals and present the material necessary to teach and ask Principals their opinion of whether there is space for it, so they can present data to the Commission.

Ms. Dean suggested having something to introduce to younger populations and have it at the Museum of Discovery and Science, with a section dedicated to the growing need.

Ms. Saunders stated there is a need and the City has to play in addressing that need. Part of this is doing a mapping exercise to understand the role and contributions of each partner. There will be some funding opportunities to pursue as early as June that will require clarity around the partnership roles and responsibilities.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented one of the reasons the Commission will like this is because they get to take 50% of graduates and encourage them, make them aware of opportunities, and then provide facilities so if they go immediately after high school. That will create jobs here, so students who do not go to college do not have to work at the airport in West Palm Beach, they can train here and work at FXE.

Ms. Gohl mentioned most of these jobs are male dominate, so they need to be gender inclusive in terms of any kind of messaging and programming to reach female students as well. She thinks if they flip talking about college and career readiness and say career and college readiness, this idea starts to normalize.

Chair Dr. Zeman asked that any further comments be sent to Ms. Saunders.

Updates

A. Bezos Academy Partnership

Ms. Saunders provided an update on behalf of Dr. Lori Canning, who could not be here. The Bezos Academy Partnership will be going to the School Board on February 22, 2022; the presentation will be posted tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. The expectation is that the lease agreement will follow in March. At this point they are looking at three schools to house Bezos Academies.

In response to Vice Chair Ellowitz, Ms. Saunders stated children of staff can attend if they meet the eligibility criteria. The Bezos Academy reserved 20% of seats for children of qualifying staff.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated this is a tremendous opportunity for people who work every day to have their own children in this program. This 20% makes sure there will be kids of current, past, or future employees, who are going to the program, which is important for the success of the program. The more integrated it is, the better it is for students. There used to be four schools and now there are three, so the hope is that another Fort Lauderdale school is found to replace the one that came off. They are also hopeful the first 260 seats expand to more seats throughout Broward County. This is a great, fully funded, and meaningful program. He expressed concern regarding lease negotiations with the Workshop coming up. He asked the Board to think about other places in Fort Lauderdale that could host a Bezos Academy. There is a crisis in Fort Lauderdale, way too many schools have over 80% of Kindergartners showing up not prepared to start school.

Vice Chair Ellowitz questioned the minimum requirement census wise for another location.

Ms. Saunders replied there are 20 children per classroom. She has had conversations with the Bezos Academy in pursuing other opportunities in Fort Lauderdale and they are interested if there is a need. In terms of identifying the next wave of schools, the next deadline would be the end of September, but that would require looking at the site, which is more of a timeline of Spring to identify sites so they can be properly vetted. The City is also being intentional about developing a communitywide Early Learning program. They have high quality providers delivering great services and want to make sure they continue to do so. The City supports those programs in many ways through CDBG Grants, etc., and they are looking to address the gap. There was a Community Planning Session with Jack and Jill Children's Center, the YMCA, and others, to understand where the niche could be for the Bezos Academy. Because the Bezos Academy serves children at 400% of that poverty threshold, they can serve families not being met by other programs. They will be intentional in developing a plan and have identified that many children are not participating in existing programs. The City can also have a role in outreach and helping to connect families to resources available.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented that it is another knowledge gap and people do not get the benefit. That is one of the areas where a little work would make people aware.

B. Stranahan High School Cafeteria Project

Greg Boardman, Project Manager, shared the design for the new cafeteria addition for Stranahan High School.

Chair Dr. Zeman requested Mr. Boardman provide the bottom line and if they are on schedule, on cost, and on budget.

Mr. Boardman replied yes.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated this Board was influential in getting the funding in place. The plan was that this accelerates the development of a cafeteria by a year, and they all know the elementary cafeteria at Stranahan High School has never served the community well. It is important to know up front that they are still on schedule for Fall of 2024, and everything is in the process and moving along.

Mr. Boardman referenced the schedule of the school. The architect is one of the best in the State of Florida and they are going as fast as they can; they are diving deep into all the issues regarding power, water, sewer, etc. The current design phase should be done on April 21, 2022, and the Building permit should be ready to go for construction by May 26, 2022. There is a Procurement process where they have to hire and negotiate with the Construction Manager at Risk, which should be done on September 6, 2022. Construction says 420 days and that number was decided by their Program Manager, which is extremely generous; he noted they typically do an 11,000-square-foot elementary school in 365 days. He thinks there is some float in there and some time to pick up. Their design schedule and Building Department schedule is very tight, but they have not missed a day.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented that everything the School Board has done so far continues to move this along.

Ms. Saunders questioned the next major milestone.

Mr. Boardman stated the next major milestone is where it says 50% construction documents, which should be done by March 16, 2022.

Mr. Reylea questioned the point of no return and if the day it is happening is June 10, 2022.

Mr. Boardman indicated the slide that says CMR Procurement SBBC Award, is the next time this goes to the Board. He replied yes regarding the June 10, 2022 date.

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned the Notice to Proceed, and noted the County is legally obligated to fulfill that contract.

Mr. Boardman advised once there is a Notice to Proceed, he is obligated and gives them permission to start construction on the site as soon as possible.

Ms. Brinkworth questioned if there has been any instance of a Notice to Proceed being terminated.

Mr. Boardman thought they could, but they would have to do a termination by the Board.

Ms. Brinkworth knows that has happened because she had to vote on it. She believes it is going to happen, but because there is still noise, they need to be aware. She questioned when the next update would be provided.

Mr. Boardman advised he can come to any meeting as needed.

Chair Dr. Zeman thought an update would be needed through June 9, 2022.

Mr. Boardman stated he and Ms. Saunders discussed a few things that might be issues in the future.

Chair Dr. Zeman thanked Mr. Boardman for coming to the meeting; this is the right decision, and he would like to see it executed all the way through.

C. Joint Use Parks Initiative

Ms. Saunders sent an email after the Parks and Recreation Board. They approved the Education Advisory Board's recommendations, and it was a very thorough meeting. This is moving forward to the March 1, 2022 Commission meeting. If anyone is interested in speaking as part of the public, that would be their opportunity.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated other Board members were at that meeting as well. They are spending \$11 million of City Bond money to improve the Recreation and parks all on school property for the benefit of the students and for residents and visitors whenever possible. That alone will pay such big dividends between the schools and community being connected. They are only four months away from the award of a contract at Stranahan High School.

Ms. Brinkworth advised she went to the pickleball courts at Sunrise Middle School, and they are highly activated and getting a lot of use. Another thing to think about when making investments on pieces of property like the pickleball courts is if schools have the capacity for students to learn how to play pickleball and utilize the courts as part of their Physical Education program.

Ms. Saunders commented that Walkers Elementary School is interested in getting their students to play tennis.

Ms. Francis thought they could make it competitive.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 20, 2022

After a lengthy discussion, the Approval of Meeting Minutes was deferred to the March 2022 meeting.

Chair Dr. Zeman stopped Ms. Coetzee while making changes and stated that further changes would be made during the March 2022 meeting. He expressed concern that Board members not present and community members have not had a chance to get back to them regarding any changes to the Minutes.

Ms. Saunders pointed out that this is going public and will be uploaded as back-up at the March 1, 2022 meeting.

Closing: - None.

Adjournment

Chair Dr. Zeman announced the next meeting will be the third Thursday of March, which is a half day of school, and he will be out of the country. He suggested the meeting be held on March 31, 2022. He will work with Ms. Saunders to find the best date.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

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