



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
101 NE 3rd Ave
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

June 2024 - May 2025

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Chair Janet Gualtieri	P	7	0
Pamela Aiken	P	4	3
Heather Brinkworth	P	7	0
Kristina Dever	P	5	2
John Gillen	P	4	3
Erin Gohl	P	6	1
Juliet Gray-Williams	P	5	2
Denia Perloff	A	3	4
Deborah Rosenbaum	A	4	3
Kristin LaFleur	P	1	0

Also Attending

Susan Leon, Chief Education Officer
Dr. Nancy Glassman, Deputy Director, Public Works

Others

Adam Roberti, Executive Director, Cortada Foundation
K. Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc

COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION

- The communication included two key requests:
 - Allocation of \$12,000 to fund 12 scholarships (two per school).
 - Permission for the Chief Education Officer to explore the scholarship process and a partnership with the Broward Education Foundation.
- The communication emphasized the importance of making the application available by March 1st to benefit the graduating class of 2025.

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Roll was called and it was determined a quorum was present.

Motion made and seconded to start the meeting. The meeting commenced at 6:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gualtieri asked the Board to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of the December 19, 2024 Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Dever, seconded by Mr. Gillen, to approve the December 19, 2024, as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The members introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. LaFleur to the Board.

IV. Old Business Scholarship Presentation to Commission

The Board discussed establishing a City-sponsored scholarship program for local high school students.

Pamela Aikin's Presentation

Pamela Aikin presented on existing scholarship programs in other Broward County cities, highlighting their structures and funding sources. Ms. Aikin emphasized the importance of scholarships, particularly for underserved students facing financial challenges.

Ms. Aikin's presentation included examples from West Park, Parkland, Lauderdale Lakes, Margate, and other cities, further noting the rising graduation rates in Broward County and the increasing costs of college education.

Discussion

The Board discussed the scope of the scholarship program, considering whether to include vocational schools, community colleges, and four-year universities. Christina Deaver advocated for inclusivity, emphasizing the need to support students pursuing various educational paths.

The Board debated the criteria for eligibility, including residency requirements and whether to prioritize students attending schools within Fort Lauderdale City limits.

Ms. Leon suggested partnering with the Broward Education Foundation, highlighting their potential for matching funds and administrative support.

Board discussion continued regarding funding options for the scholarship program, including potential contributions from developers, City funds, and partnerships with organizations such as the Broward Education Foundation.

Dr. Nancy Glassman clarified the City's budget cycle and the process for requesting funds.

The Board agreed to postpone finalizing the scholarship program details until after guest presentations.

V. New Business

- **Fortify Lauderdale**

Dr. Nancy Glassman, Deputy Director, Public Works

Dr. Glassman presented on Fortify Lauderdale, the City's initiative to accelerate stormwater master planning and enhance flood resilience. Dr. Glassman discussed the impact of extreme rain events and the City's vulnerability to flooding due to its low elevation, outlined the progress of Tranche I of the stormwater program, and highlighting completed and ongoing projects in various neighborhoods.

Dr. Glassman further described the expanded scope of Tranche 2, which now includes 25 neighborhoods, and the plan to invest an additional \$500 million by 2035.

She also emphasized the importance of community engagement in the planning process and the City's efforts to provide guidance for private residents and businesses on flood resilience.

Discussion

Mr. Gillen raised concerns about the impact of FEMA map redraws and the vulnerability of barrier islands like A1A.

The Board also discussed the involvement of private organizations like Residents for Resilience in promoting flood resilience.

- **The Underwater Project**

Adam Roberti, Executive Director, Cortada Foundation

Mr. Adam Roberti presented on The Underwater Project, a project by the Xavier Cortada Foundation that uses art to raise awareness about sea level rise and climate change. He explained the concept of socially engaged art and how The Underwater Project engages communities through interactive installations and educational programs, showcasing examples of the project's work in schools, parks, and public spaces, including murals, yard signs, and a website with interactive tools.

Mr. Roberti discussed the project's success in engaging students and empowering them to become community climate ambassadors. He also presented a budget proposal for expanding The Underwater project in Fort Lauderdale schools.

Discussion

Ms. Gohl expressed support for the project, highlighting its potential to empower students and address climate anxiety.

The Board also discussed funding possibilities for The Underwater Project, including partnerships with developers, City funds, and grants.

Ms. Brinkworth suggested exploring partnerships with PTAs and the Museum of Discovery and Science.

The Board agreed to consider The Underwater project as a potential outreach component for Fortify Lauderdale.

Return to Scholarship Program Discussion

The Board revisited the scholarship program discussion, focusing on finalizing the eligibility criteria, agreeing on four key qualifications for applicants:

- Must be a class of 2025 graduating senior from a public high school located in Fort Lauderdale (listing six specific schools).
- Must reside within Fort Lauderdale City limits.
- Must have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Must demonstrate outstanding citizenship through volunteer service and show their best efforts to reach their highest potential.

The Board discussed the number and amount of scholarships to offer, with Ms. Aikin's initial proposal of two \$1,000 scholarships per school as a starting point, additionally debating whether to specify gender or other demographic criteria for the scholarships, ultimately deciding against it.

Motion made by Ms. Gray-Williams, seconded by Ms. Aiken, to accept the four key qualifications for applicants. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board also discussed the process for selecting scholarship recipients, considering partnering with the Broward Education Foundation or forming a committee within the EAB.

Communication to the City Commission

Ms. Brinkworth drafted a communication to the City Commission, outlining the EAB's request for scholarship funding and permission to explore a partnership with the Broward Education Foundation.

- The communication included two key requests:
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 - Permission for the Chief Education Officer to explore the scholarship process and a partnership with the Broward Education Foundation.
- The communication emphasized the importance of making the application available by March 1st to benefit the graduating class of 2025.

Motion made by Ms. Gray-Williams to accept the communication, seconded by Ms. Aikin. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Next Steps

- Ms. Leon will submit the communication to the City Commission for their consideration at the February 4th meeting.
- Ms. Aikin will present the scholarship proposal to the City Commission, using her PowerPoint presentation to showcase examples from other cities.
- Board members will reach out to their respective Commissioners to advocate for the scholarship program.
- Ms. Leon will contact the Broward Education Foundation to discuss potential partnerships and the scholarship application process.

VI. Chief Education Officer Update Redefining Schools Update

None.

VII. Member Discussion

None

VIII. Closing

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2025.

[Minutes prepared by L. Tayar, Prototype, Inc.]