



**VIRTUAL EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
THURSDAY, October 15, 2020 6:30-8:30 PM**

Members	Attendance	July 2020 – May 2021	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Allen Zeman, Chair	P	4	0
Ruchel Coetzee	P	3	1
Wendy Gonsher	A	2	2
Lisa May	A	2	2
Amy Ellowitz, Vice Chair	P	4	0
April Jeff	A	2	2
Jennifer Lovell	P	4	0
Dr. Heather Munns	P	4	0
Tina Jaramillo	P	4	0
Colleen Lockwood	P	4	0
Sarah Owen DelNegri	P	4	0
Vickie Melus	P	3	1
Christopher Relyea	P	4	0
Lillian Small	A	1	3
Rory Sponsler	A	3	1
Betty Shelley	A	2	2
Dr. Michele Verdi-Knapp	P	4	0
Yolanda B. Francis	A	2	2
Tomislav Lukic	P	4	0

Staff/Guests

Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, City of Fort Lauderdale
 Dr. Lori Canning, Executive Director for Early Learning Language Acquisitions
 Joseph Beck, Broward County Public Schools
 Lavina Robinson, Principal, North Fork Elementary
 Amy Schmidt, Broward County Schools
 Jill Young, Broward County Public Schools
 Danielle Smith, Principal of Bennett Elementary School
 Nadia Clarke
 Daniece Williams, Broward County Public Schools
 Angel Gomez
 Mark Strauss, resident and Cadre Director for Bennett Elementary
 Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks

Janelle Cedeno
Jamie Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.

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

This meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Attendance and Roll Call, 21 appointed members; 10 needed for quorum

As of this date, September 17, 2020, 12 of the 19 appointed members were present, which constituted a quorum.

III. Chair's Minute

Chair Dr. Zeman announced that the Board will go back to live meetings on November 15, 2020 at City Hall, a room to be determined.

IV. Old Business

- Strategic Initiatives
 - Bennett Elementary School

Chair Dr. Zeman welcomed Principal Danielle Smith.

Ms. Saunders mentioned the importance of continuing to support Bennett Elementary School. She is working closely with the Demographics Team at Broward County Public Schools and coming up with a balance for an approach to help the City prioritize the support needed around the schools. As Ms. Brinkworth indicated at the last meeting, the intent is to create a phased approach where certain buildings could be identified that would benefit from immediate renovation and move those forward for approval from initial investment in the Board for building improvements to Bennett Elementary School and then hold for additional conversation regarding buildings that need more significant rebuilding at a later date.

Mr. Beck, Demographics Department, stated that because there are buildings newer than Bennett Elementary School, they are not covered by the Castaldi that might be eligible for replacement. The consensus is that they need to move forward with renovations on buildings that are not eligible for replacement at this time, so the scope split will come to the School Board, which means Phase 1 would proceed with renovations to newer buildings and it would be determined whether older buildings would be renovated or replaced at a later time.

Principal Smith advised they are moving forward with the next phase of the Bond Project.

Phase 1 is going before the School Board on October 20, 2020 and hopefully a new school will be discussed at another meeting. Things are going well at Bennett Elementary School; some students are back. She thanked the Board for continuing to support their school.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Principal Smith advised that most of the work for Phase 1 funding is roofing and HVAC, which can be done while school is running. This work includes Building 9, which is their main two-story classroom building, the cafeteria, and a few other miscellaneous buildings.

Ms. Lovell questioned if a letter from the Board regarding the recommendation for construction in the Engineering Letter to the City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioners would be helpful.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated there is going to be a vote on the overall scope of Phase 1 in five days. He believed Ms. Lovell was talking about Phase 2 and the issue of new construction. The letter would be from the City Commission to the County mentioning the Engineering report, the need, and community impact.

Ms. Lovell clarified that the letter should originally be from the Education Advisory Board to the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission because this is something the Board feels is important and that way the Commission is aware of what the Board has been discussing.

Motion by Ms. Lovell, seconded by Mr. Lukic, that the Education Advisory Board send a letter to the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission.

In response to Mr. Lukic, Chair Dr. Zeman stated he was looking for an action that the Education Advisory Board moved toward.

Ms. Saunders mentioned mechanisms of a letter versus a Communication to Commission.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented that a couple of things could go along within the Strategic Initiative. Communications to the Commission have an impact, they are read, a lot of feedback is received from the Commission, and Ms. Saunders engages them in a conversation that informs them of things they are not likely to know or focus on. One hybrid option is to put together an information package and attach it to a Communication to the Commission saying, "The attached are findings the Board has found by work done". It is likely the Board could do some remarkable work in this regard in terms of representing the Homeowner's Associations, themes discussed around equity, educational quality, and building momentum where there is already significant growth at Bennett Elementary School. He thought the motion was specifically a Communication to the Commission that this is something the Board finds great value in.

Mr. Lukic questioned how sensitive the creation of a package or letter is to recipients.

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned that since there is a vote on Phase 1 in five days, a Communication could be sent at the end of this meeting. It is unclear exactly when the decision would be made for Phase 2.

Principal Smith indicated that the timeline was correct; Phase 1 is going to the School Board on October 20, 2020 and Phase 2 is when the Project Manager would create different options and a plan, and then they would request to be on the Board Workshop agenda. Most of the Workshop agendas have been related to reopening, so many of these types of plans have been on the backburner.

Ms. Williams advised that some of the Board options are being added to the Workshop agenda, so the first one is in the second week of November. It is anticipated they could get to a Board Workshop within the next couple of weeks, but in order to do so, they need to continue outreach to the community and gathering input, so they have as much data as possible to support information to be shared with the School Board.

Ms. Lovell felt it would be beneficial for Communication from the Education Advisory Board that says members are in support of Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Ms. Coetzee and Vice Chair Ellowitz agreed. Vice Chair Ellowitz stated that as an Advisory Board, they have been part of a larger effort to engage the community in shaping the future and public education in the City of Fort Lauderdale. She recommended there be two parts to the motion; the first would be to express support from the School Board of Broward County for the current allocation of the 2020 Smart Bond dollars for the critical facility renovations at Bennett Elementary School. The second would be to support City staff and that the Education Advisory Board continue collaboration with Bennett Elementary School and the neighboring Fort Lauderdale communities that would benefit in order to capture the residents preference for the long-term facility and program enhancements.

Chair Dr. Zeman requested Vice Chair Ellowitz draft a Communication to the Commission and that Ms. Lovell withdraw her motion, which sounds like what is captured in the recommendation. He noted that the motion and second were withdrawn.

Motion by Vice Chair Ellowitz, seconded by Ms. Jaramillo, to draft a Communication to the Commission. The subject is Bennett Elementary School, "The Education Advisory Board, as part of a larger effort to engage our community in shaping the future of public education in the City of Fort Lauderdale, recommends that the Mayor and City Commission 1) Express support for the School Board of Broward County's current allocation of 2020 Smart Bond dollars for critical and essential facility renovations at Bennett Elementary School, and 2) Support City staff and the Education Advisory Board's continued collaboration with Bennett Elementary School and its neighboring Fort

Lauderdale communities to capture residents preference for long-term facility and program enhancements”. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (12-0)

Ms. Lovell suggested adding that the Board works together with Broward County to #1 since Broward County will be voting on this.

Vice Chair Ellowitz suggested, “The School Board in conjunction with Broward County”.

Mr. Lukic commented that based on information provided during previous meetings, it seemed that a greater amount of public support was needed to push this through. At the last meeting, Principal Walker from Sunrise Middle School was present to show support, and from his understanding, Bennett Elementary School also has the feeder system into Sunrise Middle with the Cambridge program into Fort Lauderdale High School. He questioned if it was possible to include Education Advisory Board Administration of those two schools within the Communication to show there is a greater support from the local education environment.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that one of the challenges the Board has is that they want everyone to attend the meetings and feel publicly open in their conversations with the Board, but one way to continue a relationship is not to quote them. If the Education Advisory Board goes to the City Commission and says this is a big deal and they want them to relay something to the School Board, they will know a vote is coming and will either ask the City Manager and Ms. Saunders to write a letter as a deputized representative of the City and call the Superintendent or the School Board members to let them know. It is risky to cite other people’s comments in a Communication to the Commission.

Mr. Lukic clarified that he was not suggesting this be included now, but that they should reach out to the Commission and have them give written approval and then for it to be amended. He would not want to take anyone out of context.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Principal Smith thought the way Vice Chair Ellowitz wrote the Communication was very concise and specific.

Vice Chair Ellowitz repeated the Communication to the Commission as follows:

COMMUNICATION TO CITY COMMISSION

Subject: Bennett Elementary School

The Education Advisory Board, as part of a larger effort to engage our community in shaping the future of public education in the City of Fort Lauderdale, recommends that the Mayor and City commission:

1) Express support for the School Board of Broward County's current allocation of 2020 SMART bond dollars for critical and essential facility renovations at Bennett Elementary School, and

2) Support City staff and the EAB's continued collaboration with Bennett Elementary School and neighboring Fort Lauderdale communities to capture residents' preference for long-term facility and program enhancements.

Dr. Strauss thanked the Education Advisory Board for their support and collaboration; it is noteworthy and greatly appreciated.

Ms. Saunders requested Vice Chair Ellowitz send her the revised language for the Communication to Commission. Upon confirmation, the Commission requests a member of the Education Advisory Board attend and she would also be there and could help to explain. This opens the conversation with the Commission and helps get the direction that they support this as a City Strategic focus. She appreciates being part of a larger effort and anticipates that being a conversation with the Commission once the Communication is read.

- Joint Use Parks Initiative Update

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned the Joint Use combined effort between the Education Advisory Board, the Commission, and Ms. Saunders, plus countless Principals and Broward County staff. He recognized Ms. Saunders as the Education Officer and Chief Change Agency for Joint Use Parks in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Saunders provided a brief Power Point Presentation, which included the Strategic Initiative established by the EAB to promote joint community and school use of all publicly funded parks and recreation areas in the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Ten-Minute Walk Campaign in 2018, the renewed Recreational License Agreement in 2018, the Parks Bond Referendum in 2019, the establishment of the Joint Use Parks Working Group, hiring of the Parks Bond Program Manager in 2020, developing and scoring criteria by the Joint Use Working Group, focus on short-term projects, and defining the scope of each of the projects next year. Also included was the \$200 million Parks Bond, proposed projects for Joint Use which were identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan executed in 2016 with two key points; identifying short-term opportunities and long-term opportunities, "Voice of Customer", where they engaged closely with the schools, milestones included in the discovery phase, asset inventory of 15 new sites selected to explore Joint Use opportunities, and finalization of criteria for each of the 15 sites scored and validated. The intent was to develop a win-win for the school and community, which is bucketed into three main categories: 1) Community need, 2) Feasibility of the school site, and 3) Evaluate the benefit to the school program or design.

In response to Ms. DeINegri, Ms. Saunders advised that funding has been a discussion with the Parks Advisory Board regarding upkeep, maintenance, or additional Park Rangers. In terms of Park Rangers, that is something the Parks Department has worked on to make sure there is coverage to make more Joint Use sites available.

Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks, stated there is a lot of support to build, but maintaining it is always a challenge. They try to build in a replacement schedule for all playgrounds, facilities, and equipment, so they are replaced as needed, but they fell so far behind after the recession that this Bond was needed. The City had a ten-year Bond in the 80's and 90's and have not had one since. They hope to build this into their regular budgets.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned if this is a quantitative process where there are ten categories, which are given points for an overall score. He mentioned criteria related to aesthetics and curb appeal and questioned if that came from school Principals or the City.

Ms. Saunders indicated many of the Principals have efforts to increase their enrollment and to improve the overall external environment of the school. They saw these external portions of land in front of the school, many of which were in high traffic areas, so making improvements to that section could help with possible interest in the schools. The School Board does not have specific dollars earmarked to maintain parks on school properties, so this is the time to make that investment to make the school more attractive.

Principal Levina Robinson, of North Fork Elementary School, stated that she supported the indicator of curb appeal to increase enrollment. She is one of the under-enrolled schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale and making the school visually appealing and attractive can help increase enrollment. Her school is located on Broward Boulevard on the New River and curb appeal would capture passersby.

Ms. Coetzee commented that the irony is that their school is on one of the busiest roads in Broward County and many people do not know all that North Fork has to offer. The New River is a beautiful experience and a great area the community could enjoy with recreational activities, but it cannot be seen from the front or side of the school.

Ms. Saunders advised that the first question was if this was qualitative or quantitative. As a group, they were trying to establish a score, so they did quantify and establish a score for each school. As the process continues, new variables might be identified, or they might be able to refine or expand the scoring methodology. When assigning a score to each school, it aligned with conversations the group was having descriptively and qualitatively. A few schools were found as candidates for Joint Use, so it was found to be helpful.

Principal Robinson indicated that this is a technical endeavor as well because everything they do is around their students to ensure safety is embodied with regulatory laws and ordinances. The aesthetic value and first impression when approaching an institution is supposed to be safe and educational. Some parcels are easy to comply with and others entail a lot of dollars; the end product may not be a friendly and appealing because the school starts to look like an institution full of fences, which is not welcoming. The type of fences used is another aspect discussed by the group and she thought it was a comprehensive approach in valuing the aesthetic theme.

Ms. Saunders continued the Power Point Presentation. Most parks discussed are School Board property; they are closed to the community during the day and open after school hours; sometimes they might only be open on weekends, depending on school activities. In other cases, the park may be a City park that is closed to the community during the day to benefit the school and open after hours. The Joint Use can happen on both City owned and School Board properties and the map displayed a combination of both. Opportunities were shown for Joint Use parks at schools, which was established based on the criteria of need. Scoring identified nine projects that were great candidates to move forward with Joint Use. Areas identified were in the western side of the City of Fort Lauderdale, both in the northwest and southwest sections. Two standout projects mentioned were short-term and long-term. Stephen Foster Elementary School is a beautiful large property nestled within a neighborhood; however, there is no park within a ten-minute walk. What makes it a short-term opportunity is that the fencing needed is straight forward, but they will still have to go through the approval process prior to opening.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned the status of the basketball courts and if they are restricted for school use only. He commented that taxpayer dollars pay for school parks and City parks, but the idea is to do what was presented. This is an example where a school had great facilities, but they were not available after school hours for the community. This opportunity should not have been missed.

Ms. Saunders advised that is currently not a Joint Use park.

Ms. Saunders continued with the Power Point Presentation. She reiterated that North Fork Elementary School is not within a ten-minute walk of a park. It was noted there are a lot of walkability challenges to those parks, which might be due to access to major thoroughfares. Many fencing opportunities have been explored for this large property and it might be a chance to connect to separate pieces of land on either side of the school. There is also a tie-in with different education programming.

Principal Robinson indicated that North Fork Elementary School was a former Marine Science Magnet, so they still have remnants of the Sciences at the school through their

STEM program and Robotics Club. Even though they are not a formal magnet, they still have Marine Sciences and other Sciences infused in their curriculum. The river is used as a space for an outdoor classroom or outdoor Exploratorium to enhance the Science curriculum and could perhaps be expanded to community members after school hours, so they could enjoy and learn some facts about nature. She mentioned wildlife in the river and noted there are crabs and different species of fish. It is a great opportunity to engage the community.

Ms. Coetzee mentioned the bridge in that area that was recently done, and she always wondered what it was. There is a great opportunity to partner with the Marine Association and she could make that introduction to see if they have some dollars to do some type of partnership because it is a learning opportunity. The river is beautiful, and the space is unlike any other school; it could be unique for other schools to visit.

Ms. Saunders continued the Power Point Presentation. Key milestones in the beginning of the presentation showed that the City of Fort Lauderdale and Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified key opportunities to the City to be able to make some improvements including where they might be able to expand in their partnership with the School Board in leveraging Joint Use Parks. It was based on that report that the Parks Bond projects were proposed. The Joint Use Working Group has established criteria to look at 15 schools that have not been identified as Joint Use Parks and objectively went about scoring them. Active Joint Use Parks have now become amenities currently available for the City. The initial list proposed showed that five out of six schools scored high according to criteria and another four were identified that seemed to be viable in win-win projects. The next phase would be continuing to work with the community in defining scope and how to get to the implementation phase.

Chair Dr. Zeman requested that Ms. Saunders comment on the \$11 million in the original plan and the list shown on the proposed project slide.

Ms. Saunders advised that dollars have not been earmarked to the group of schools shown on the proposed project slide. The initial Parks Bond list proposed dollar amounts for projects listed and the goal is to stretch and maximize the dollars to have the largest benefit across the City. When criteria come into play, decisions would have to be made around prioritizing and investing dollars.

Mr. Sanchez indicated that during the Master Planning process for new Joint Use sites, the group helped them identify opportunities at certain schools to increase park amenities for residents of Fort Lauderdale. This was done through a collaborative input process but based on needs they felt needed to be filled, certain parks and amenities were identified and suggested. By visiting schools, talking with Principals, and through a public

engagement process, everything will be confirmed. There will be some opportunity to shift some of those dollars to where it makes the most sense.

Chair Dr. Zeman interrupted Mr. Sanchez and stated that he would be invited to next month's meeting to continue this discussion. The specific topic the Board would like to address is the allocation of Bond money to Joint Use Parks. The issue is how to allocate money that was set aside for school parks and what is left off that list should at least be considered at some point with the Bond money or other money the City has for parks. Critical information is missing, and they must be very precise, so the Board knows what they can do. He thought scoring criteria was critical because the Commission is going to look for quantitative numbers that allow projects to be prioritized. He believed some opportunities were not made aware to the original planners and he hoped those would be put back on the table.

Mr. Sanchez went back to the current Joint Use Parks and noted that recommendations were based on things that might need to be renovated or replaced. Regarding actual spending of Parks Bond dollars, even though it is in the Plan, they are not able to take it to the Commission to spend unless it goes before the Parks Advisory Board.

Dr. Chair Zeman wanted to be clear that the original list was created before the concept of Joint Use Parks took off and that money must be spent in a way that makes sense for everyone in Fort Lauderdale. Before decisions are made, he hoped the Parks Advisory Board would ingest the information put together in this effort and come up with the best possible recommendations for the Commission.

Ms. Williams spoke on behalf of Guard Solutions, the Program Management Team for ACOM for Broward Schools and the General Obligation Bond. They are closely aligned with the team working with the City of Fort Lauderdale for the Park Bonds, so they have a unique opportunity to make sure both interests are aligned when it comes to stakeholders for the parks; they also represent stakeholders for Broward County Public Schools. They have been working closely with Ms. Saunders as it relates to schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale and are very attuned to initiatives on the table, so they can make sure all initiatives are aligned for the parks and Broward County Public Schools.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Ms. Williams advised that she had a conversation with Ms. Saunders and Guard Solutions and ACOM, and the new Program Director, are working with the Broward County Public Schools Facilities Team and others with regards to making sure all initiatives for the Smart Program are carried through. They are here to help provide insight on what is happening with Bennett Elementary School and North Fork Elementary School. When the alignment for parks and Joint Use was mentioned, she felt obligated to try to assure the Board that however they need to align with the ACOM Team

for Parks and Recreation, that they would make sure Broward County Public Schools is meeting any obligations needed.

Ms. Saunders indicated there is criteria. They have identified a process to prioritize, and the next step is getting concrete around specific projects and understanding the budget around that. A lot of effort has been put into making sure they are all in alignment as to how they prioritize. The next focus moving forward will be critical to the success of the project. A list of the short-term projects was shown, which will be pursued and go through the process. A memo will be forthcoming to the Education Advisory Board to get input and initiate short-term planning, then there will be some community meetings. The next time she reports back she should have a clearer sense as to how the project scope would be designed and what those community meetings would look like.

Ms. Saunders continued the Power Point Presentation. The next slide was related to the Bennett Elementary School Strategic Initiative and to Joint Use and pictures were shown of the Joint Use Park with a play area and basketball courts.

Ms. Saunders made the following announcements:

- The ribbon cutting for Bennett Elementary School will be coming up soon; however, a date has not yet been finalized.
- High School football is returning to Lockhart Park, and the first game will be on October 29, 2020 between Fort Lauderdale High School and Dillard High School. The Commission is doing a small Commemorative Ceremony; there are covid restrictions in terms of event size.

Chair Dr. Zeman suggested putting details together that compare the original plan and these opportunities and that the Board think about scoring criteria. Perhaps the opportunities could be put into one bucket and either the City or the Education Advisory Board could participate in an effort where priorities of those things would be clear to the Commissioners. Residents and voters in the City of Fort Lauderdale entrusted the City to spend \$200 million on things that give the greatest value and he thought Joint Use Parks, which is a new thing, was not considered. There are some amazing values where a small investment makes a tremendous investment. He would like to talk about projects next month, so the Board could crosswalk projects in the original plan.

- Early Learning Initiative Update

Ms. Saunders introduced Dr. Lori Canning.

Dr. Canning advised that the Early Learning Coalition previously attended an EAB meeting at which time they discussed how many childcare centers were in the City of Fort

Lauderdale, how many public schools in Fort Lauderdale had VPK programs, Head Start programs, and Early Head Start programs; they applied for a grant opportunity, but have not received a response. When the grant was written, three schools were included in the City of Fort Lauderdale so they could possibly expand the Early Head Start program, which would be for infants and toddlers. Once the grant is received, they will return to the Education Advisory Board to share and make this a partnership opportunity. Once received, the programs would be added to Westwood Heights and to other Early Head Start schools throughout the District.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Dr. Canning stated there are currently 80 seats and they applied for an additional 60 seats, which would be 16 additional seats at each of the schools, which include infant and toddler classes.

Dr. Canning announced Read for the Record Day on October 29, 2020; the book is Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away. Thanks to their partnership with Children's Services Council and their Broward Leagues teams and all those partners, 40,000 books will be distributed in the spring, so every four and five-year-child in Broward County will go home with a book. Because volunteers are not allowed in the schools, they are doing Virtual Guest Readers. If anyone would like to be a Guest Reader at a Fort Lauderdale school or any school throughout the County, go to the Hands on Broward website; Ms. Saunders has a flyer. There will also be a virtual book this year and she will send a copy to Ms. Saunders to distribute.

- Fort Lauderdale School Reopening Update

Chair Dr. Zeman skipped the update but commented that schools are open, and students are going for all grades and programs. There was a lot of confusion about the survey and he wished better words than survey would be used in the future because many people felt it was optional, so a lot of students showed up on day one thinking the survey was just a survey rather than the definitive process in which you were supposed announce whether your children were going to attend or not.

V. New Business

- "Fort Lauderdale Cares" Initiative

Ms. Saunders advised they are partnering with Principal Robinson and one thing they are identifying is that there is a big need at three of the Fort Lauderdale elementary schools in supporting the homeless families. Jorg Hruschka, Chief Service Officer, started this "Fort Lauderdale Cares" initiative at the beginning of the covid pandemic and made sure they were able to connect people with the resources needed. They are working with North Fork Elementary School, Walker Elementary School, and Northside Elementary School, and with Heart Coordinators, who are assigned at the schools to support

homeless families. They would like to expand the program; currently they are able to serve about 80 families. An event will be hosted every Saturday at a park and the first one will be at the Old Dillard Museum; the idea is to set up as a convenience store, so there are different stations where families can shop for what they need. There are some foundations that might be interested in supporting this effort. Ms. Saunders also spoke with Dr. Canning about bringing in some Early Literacy activities. There are two primary ways to be involved; 1) You can have your own collection drive, which can be seen on the flyer she shared and 2) Volunteer support.

Principal Robinson thought that was a wonderful initiative and believed more than 80 families were probably serviced over the last three weeks because her school alone has 30 homeless families. The families appreciate this and there is a great need.

- North Fork Elementary School

Chair Dr. Zeman apologized for being short on time and stated they would talk more about North Fork Elementary next month.

Principal Robinson appreciated the opportunity to be in attendance.

Dr. Strauss indicated that just as he supervises and supports Bennett Elementary, he does the same with North Fork Elementary. Principal Robinson is in her second year at North Fork and has brought such a beautiful brightness to the school in so many ways; the school is a gem that so many people do not know about. It is a school where people work hard to do good things for the children, especially for the most underprivileged and underserved students. North Fork Elementary School would probably be the poster child for serving less fortunate children.

VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2020

It was requested that Maureen Dinnen and Terry Large be removed from the list of Board members.

Motion by Chris Relyea, seconded by Ruchel Coetzee, to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes as amended. **Motion** passed unanimously. (12-0)

VII. Closing

Chair Dr. Zeman stated there is a lot of opportunity and the Board has consistently picked Strategic Initiatives. Currently, no one is allowed in schools as guests or volunteers. Next month some of the details on projects will be discussed and the Board could think about what they could do related to Joint Use Parks that would be a value add to the City and residents. He noted that the next meeting would be live.

Ms. Lockwood thought attendance in schools was optional and she was not sure about in person Advisory Board meetings, especially in that room. She thought optional virtual attendance should be considered.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated he was not sure there would be a rational solution in November or December. The risk of the pandemic is not over and not having virtual attendance is a way of prohibiting a way of making a difference. He is working on virtual meetings.

In response to Ms. Lockwood, Ms. Saunders advised that Chat and Q & A is a Sunshine issue; therefore, Chat was disabled. She stated there have been many conversations around the City regarding Advisory Boards and in person meetings; this is a directive from the Governor's office. There may end up being some sort of hybrid model, but an understanding is needed as to what is required for voting members and what exemptions are available. Once that information is received, she will share those details with the Board.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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