

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, December 15, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**Joint Workshop with School Board of Broward County**

**City Commission Conference Room**

## **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II  
BRUCE G. ROBERTS - Commissioner - District I  
ROBERT L. McKINZIE - Commissioner - District III  
ROMNEY ROGERS - Commissioner - District IV***

***LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager  
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk  
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Seiler called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Romney Rogers, and Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

Not Present: Vice Mayor J. Trantalis (excused)

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Auditor John Herbst, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, and City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett

Superintendent of Schools: Robert W. Runcie

School Board of Broward County Members: Heather P. Brinkworth - District 3, Dr. Rosalind Osgood - District 5, Laurie Rich Levinson - District 6, Robin Bartleman Countywide At-Large, Seat 9

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Seiler announced that both City Manager Feldman and the Broward County Superintendent of Schools Robert Runcie agreed to follow the meeting agenda as listed.

Mayor Seiler began the meeting by thanking those members present from the Broward County School Board (School Board) for their attendance at this Joint Workshop Meeting. Mayor Seiler stated that Vice Mayor Trantalis would not be in attendance due to ongoing business in conjunction with his Air Emirates trip to Dubai.

Mayor Seiler announced those in attendance from the School Board. Commissioner Roberts noted there were many Broward County school principals in attendance. Each person in attendance from the Broward County School System announced their names and their titles.

**BUS-1** [16-1549](#)

Operational Items:  
a. Joint Use of Facilities

- b. Status of Croissant Park Bathrooms
- c. Need for Soccer and Lacrosse Venues
- d. Training for Police/Fire - Bayview Elementary; Sunrise Middle; Dillard High

City Manager Feldman laid out the issue of Joint Use of Facilities by stating that the City of Fort Lauderdale is a built-out community and land is not readily available for needed parks and recreation programming. City Manager Feldman noted the reciprocity agreement reached with the School Board in the area of parks and recreation programming, emphasizing the City's desire to meet the needs of its residents. His comments focused on the City's ability to use the school fields when they are not being utilized by the schools and the charges related to use.

City Manager Feldman cited the improvements made by the City at Dillard High School with the installation of lights and noting part of that agreement included sharing the field at Dillard High. He further commented that the City has not been able to utilize this field due to the field's high usage by the school and the alternating times of rest required by the field. As a result, the City never has an opportunity to use the Dillard High School Field. Additionally, the City is planning to put lights in at War Field Park which will be used by Northside Elementary School. He noted the importance of working on solutions for the reciprocity of sharing the School Board's fields with the City.

City Manager Feldman discussed the four-year negotiation process and issues relating to rest rooms sharing at Croissant Park which resulted in the City being required to install a fence and also being responsible for replacing consumables in the bathrooms despite the fact that it will be used by both the City and the School Board. He noted the City needs more venues for Soccer and Lacrosse and the process needs to be sped up, stating that all of these decisions are made by the school principals and noting the appeals process.

Mayor Seiler asked the School Board members if they were aware of these issues. He cited the City's past positive experience with reciprocity between the City of Wilton Manors and the City of Fort Lauderdale as an example of joint community efforts in the past.

Heather Brinkworth, District 3 School Board Member, stated she is aware of this issue and her concern with the lengthy process involved noting that many of the County's elementary and middle schools are adjacent to and share property with public parks. She acknowledged the need to have a more reciprocal relationship to serve the needs of the students.

Dr. Rosalind Osgood, District 5 School Board Member, stated her philosophy from a community perspective in recognizing the positive aspects of having a good reciprocal partnership between the School Board and the entities outside the School Board for the benefit of the students. Dr. Osgood also cited an issue with alarm fees that should also be part of a reciprocal relationship.

Robin Bartleman, Countywide At Large School Board Member Seat 9, acknowledged that the School Board has numerous shared use and reciprocal use agreements across the County. She stated the one complaint heard across the board was the lengthy process involved and it needs to be addressed. She stated that through the budget crisis things were affected and the process changed due to economic factors. She stated that the process now needs to be readdressed and reciprocity is a great idea. Ms. Bartleman also noted that safety issues, such as the requirement of a single point of entry into bathrooms from the schools, are important and need to be addressed in these reciprocal negotiations.

Leslie Brown, School Board Staff Member - Chief Officer of Portfolio Services, Broward County School Board, addressed the attendees stating she felt the relationship between the School Board and the City is very strong. Ms. Brown outlined the procedures involved in these reciprocal use agreement negotiations emphasizing that it needs to be developed in a cooperative manner between the School District, the schools, and the City. Ms. Brown cited the circumstances and issues during the lengthy negotiations for Croissant Park. She also noted the costs for the necessary fencing for safety that needed to be negotiated with the City.

Mayor Seiler clarified for the record that three years ago the City had offered to staff the bathroom facilities for the maintenance and the clean-up. Ms. Brown stated this was not in her understanding and she was not in her current position at that time. Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director, confirmed Mayor Seiler's point. Ms. Brown noted these issues are addressed in the reciprocal agreement.

City Manager Feldman stated that the City ran a cost analysis of the costs for the both the City using the School Board's facilities for parks and recreational activities and the School Board using the City's park and recreation facilities for school activities. The result of this analysis showed if the City billed these charges to the School Board, it would owe the City a large sum.

Further discussions ensued including the circumstances associated with the use of Fort Lauderdale High School's swimming pool which

bears no incremental costs to the pool itself because it must be maintained 24/7 regardless if it is used. He also stated the pool would be maintained and staffed by the City's Parks and Recreation personnel during non-school activity usage.

City Manager Feldman also noted the leasing of an area used by the School Board for one of its schools located west of 441 for the minimum amount of \$1.00 per year for 30 years. Moreover, he stated in the spirit of partnership, the City and the School Board should not be "nickel and diming" each other and there should be reciprocal use of facilities.

Ms. Brown responded that it is the School Board's responsibility to follow policy and the need for principals not to be in conflict with what the policy requires of the School Board.

Dr. Osgood stated if the issue is the policies of the School Board, she would like those policies to come before the School Board and be revisited in order to set policy that would reflect the spirit of the School Board's relationship and collaboration with the City of Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Osgood also raised her concern and recommended that the City's parks and recreation activities need to be inclusive with the all children at those schools where the City's Parks and Recreation programming will occur to meet the needs of the children in these communities.

Ms. Bartleman agreed with City Manager Feldman's points regarding usage at Fort Lauderdale High School's swimming pool. However, she noted that any reciprocal agreement requires the School Board Staff to be on campus after hours due to union contracts and weekend staffing costs.

Mayor Seiler stated that any City activities at the School Board's facilities would be staffed by the City's Parks and Recreation personnel, non-direct costs should be borne by the user, and direct costs should be discussed and agreed upon in a short time frame. Further comments ensued on this issue.

Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Broward County Schools, commented on how the negotiations become circular and recommended clear guidelines to make this policy City wide and not on a school by school basis. Discussions continued on weekend staffing and the need to properly schedule and notify the schools when the fields are needed in order to be circulated to the appropriate responsible parties.

City Manager Feldman emphasized that the policy, preference and

answers to these requests should be “yes” if the field space is available and not be arbitrary so as to negate the need for appeal. Additionally, if there is a need for staffing during the activity timeframes, the City would provide City staff for those duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Runcie stated once the parties sit down and identify the calendar of activities at school facilities and the City agrees to address staffing and maintenance issues, this is a straightforward manner in which to proceed. Mayor Seiler confirmed everyone was in agreement and on the same page on this issue.

Ms. Brinkworth stated that if the School Board’s Policy needs to be brought for review and updated before the School Board, the School Board’s Staff should inform the School Board on the issues that have been problematic with the City of Fort Lauderdale and other municipalities in Broward County. Ms. Brown stated the School Board’s Policy 1341 (Policy 1341) is reviewed annually. Ms. Brinkworth asked if this is the case, why these issues have not been brought forth to the School Board.

Jeffrey Moquin, Chief Officer of the School Board’s office of Chief of Staff, addressed Policy 1341 stating much of the issues related to a mindset caused by economic issues during the recession.

Dr. Osgood requested the Policy 1341 review be brought before the School Board within the next couple of months and Mr. Moquin confirmed this would happen. Dr. Osgood also emphasized the importance of working with the City on the needs of the community’s children as it relates to having access to parks and recreational programming by the City, stating this should never be overshadowed by other issues. Dr. Osgood went on to state that making this a priority assists in many areas including crime, children’s continuity and their engagement in positive activities.

City Manager Feldman pointed out the needs of the older, eastern communities are different than other municipalities in the County and it cannot be a one-size fits all policy. Mr. Runcie stated the need to make them as general as possible so management can exercise common sense to do what it needs to do. Mr. Runcie stated everyone at the table understands where the School Board needs to go moving forward.

City Manager Feldman stated in the new RUA adopted by the School Board and the City, it contains a provision allowing training for Police/Fire personnel for an active shooter emergency and other types of emergency responses at the City’s cost during off school hours. He

also said the City would waive any staff time associated with this at the School Board's facilities. City Manager Feldman noted the agreement states this is at the discretion of each individual principal and the City has identified three schools, Bayview Elementary, Sunrise Middle, and Dillard High School. It was confirmed that all three schools have agreed. Mayor Seiler emphasized this is being done for the protection of the students. Further comments and discussions ensued and City Manager Feldman confirmed the Active Shooter Drills at these schools is being conducted by the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Roberts stated the goal is to not only know each school's campus but to establish relationships with each of the school's staff. He recommended a tabletop exercise be conducted at all City schools that would include administrative personnel, teachers, and other school staff along with the City's Police and Fire personnel to achieve a coordinated effort should an emergency occur.

City Manager Feldman stated he will commit to having the above noted tabletop exercise at all of the City's schools prior to the end of the year. Mayor Seiler confirmed there everyone's full agreement and a consensus on this issue.

Chief Robert Hutchinson, Special Investigative Unit, Broward District Schools, discussed active shooter training being conducted and coordinated by the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Discussions and comments continued on this topic.

Fort Lauderdale Assistant Police Chief Michael Gregory clarified for Chief Hutchinson that though several police officers from the City's Police Department participate in the Broward County Sheriff's Active Police Shooter Drills in schools throughout Broward County, should there be an emergency call from one of the City's Schools, it will be the City of Fort Lauderdale's Police Department who will be responding to the emergency calls. Hence, the importance of Commissioner Roberts's recommendation that first responders not only know each school's campus and have established relationships with all of the City's schools staffs, as the previously recommended for a tabletop exercise be conducted at all City schools with both the City's Police and Fire personnel. Further discussions ensued on this topic.

In addition to the above table top exercises, City Manager Feldman stated the City's Police Department would also like to have Active Shooter Drills at all Fort Lauderdale City Schools within the next year, at no cost to the School Board. Dr. Valerie Wanza, Office of School

Performance and Accountability, Broward County Public Schools, stated she would work with the City on achieving this goal.

Dr. Osgood discussed the importance of partnering with the City to have law enforcement presence at the City's schools by offering a police officer in each third grade classroom. This builds trust and positive relationships between children and law enforcement in the community and helps City children's understanding of the appropriate role of law enforcement. A trust and a bond allow appropriate communications with law enforcement when situations arise. Dr. Osgood also thanked the City for the initiatives put forth through the City's Police Department for the benefit of the community and the City's additional efforts to strengthen community partnerships between the communities, the City and the School Board.

Mayor Seiler confirmed a consensus on this item.

**BUS-2** [16-1550](#)

Schools, Demographics, Enrollment and Student Achievement - Including plan for accommodating students residing in new downtown developments

Leslie Brown, School Board Staff Member - Chief Officer of Portfolio Services, passed out hard copies of her presentation which was shown on the monitor for attendees. Ms. Brown's presentation included the topics of the City's Schools, Demographics, Enrollment and Student Achievement, and the plan for accommodating students residing in new downtown developments.

***A copy of Ms. Brown's presentation is attached to these minutes.***

City Manager Feldman asked Ms. Brown to meet with the City's Planning Staff to address the City's schools needs with the Broward County School Board. Mayor Seiler confirmed this and noted the Education Advisory Board has a great deal of knowledge but its responsibility does not encompass approving plans, permits and items of that nature. Ms. Brown confirmed she would meet with the City's Planning Staff.

City Manager Feldman referenced the City's map of the City's schools projects noting there were approximately three times as many projects than listed in Ms. Brown's map. He stated that there has been a significant amount of new development in the downtown area of the City. Commissioner Rogers commented on the City's desire to keep residents in the new downtown area by addressing the educational needs of those families who reside in this area. The Commission would like to participate and know where this area of the City is in the School Board's priority scheme to address these needs.



Mayor Seiler commented on Stranahan High School's (Stranahan) scholastic achievements. He also emphasized the need to address Stranahan's facility issues. Dr. Osgood commented on the importance of the need for a collaborative partnership between the City and the School Board, the importance of the City to address and promote the positive, good things happening in the City's schools by working together to improve the City's Schools and advising the community on what progress is happening to improve education.

Commissioner Rogers emphasized the need to address specific issues, a clear dialogue and to communicate clearly, citing Stranahan High School as an example. Ms. Bartleman responded stating she mentors at Stranahan High School weekly and is aware of the issues. She further noted the bond is on its way to address Stranahan's facility issues and needs but the cafeteria is still an outstanding area of concern as it was not included as part of the bond.

Leo Bobadilla, Chief Officer, Officers of Facilities, addressed those in attendance on the Stranahan High School's (Stranahan) numerous facility needs and issues. He gave an update on the completed items at Stranahan. Mr. Bobadilla also noted the outstanding items that are currently in the design phase for Stranahan.. He discussed the School Choice Enhancement Program and stated it is currently in the implementation stage at Stranahan.

Mr. Bobadilla also stated work has been completed on the gym floor. The pool work is underway acknowledging that this construction has taken longer than anticipated due to the replacement of pipes which was not anticipated. He noted the cafeteria at Stranahan is also a high priority. Mr. Bobadilla stated the firm doing the aforementioned design work has been requested to work on addressing the cafeteria at Stranahan as well as fifteen other schools in the County. The design firm will come back to the School Board with recommendations as to how to address cafeteria needs at Stranahan and the other fifteen schools noting this is a high priority. He noted that many of the items in the design phase should begin construction in mid-2017.

Commissioner Rogers requested that Mr. Bobadilla provide the Commission with a timeline and deadlines for the completion of these items at Stranahan. Mr. Bobadilla provided Commissioner Rogers with an information sheet addressing his request.

***A copy of this handout is attached to these minutes.***

Ms. Brinkworth had a question with Mr. Bobadilla's comment that

Stranahan's cafeteria needs are being tied to the other fifteen schools as this was not her understanding. Discussions ensued on this topic. Superintendent Runcie stated they were not connecting Stranahan's cafeteria needs with the other fifteen schools that have cafeteria needs but the same approach would be taken. Dr. Osgood commented that the Board's philosophy and the need for the board to adopt a different philosophy.

Commissioner Rogers noted his constituents have lost trust in the School Board due to Stranahan High School's issues and the need exists to rebuild that trust through giving those affected the facts and a clear map as to what is going to happen and doing what is fair. He recommended Stranahan's issues should be addressed head on and separate and apart from every other school in the County because it is broken.

Ms. Bartlemen commented that the School Board members in this room are proponents of a new cafeteria and have asked for a larger footprint to build a new cafeteria at Stranahan due to the increased development in the City and rebuilding the current cafeteria will not adequately serve the needs of the increased student population. The issue of taking money from the School Board's Capital Reserves were discussed to fund this project as it was not included in the bond. Dr. Osgood stated she has the same concern at Plantation High School which is just as urgent as the situation at Stranahan. Dr. Osgood also noted she was not on the Board when a new Stranahan High School was promised. Dr. Osgood raised the need for the School Board to partner with the City and other County municipalities to raise our voices in an aggressive way taking these education issues to the State level for increased funding for upgrading of the Cities' basic infrastructure and education needs.

Superintendent Runcie reiterated that the design work currently going on part is of the determination as to the costs for building a new cafeteria at Stranahan and the cost is not currently available but will be presented to the School Board when available in order to move forward.

Mayor Seiler commented on the importance of a new cafeteria for Stranahan to Commissioner Rogers. Moreover, the information sheet passed out by Mr. Bobadilla does not give any timeline for Stranahan's issues. It is a countywide information sheet and he respectfully stated the need for a school specific timeline/deadline information sheet on Stranahan.

Mayor Seiler stated the quality of the education at Stranahan is not the

issue. Rather, the perception of the education is negatively affected by the poor perception of Stranahan high due to its current condition. Further comments and discussions continued.

Superintendent Runcie stated he would provide the City and the Education Advisory Board with a timeline sheet that will include the scope of the work that is yet to be done and what has been completed.

**BUS-3** [16-1551](#)**School Programs Update**

Dr. Valerie Wanza, Office of Performance and Accountability, continued with the second portion of the School Board's presentation to the Commission.

Mayor Seiler asked about the space around Arthur Ashe that is currently not being used. Commission McKinzie noted the space around the Arthur Ashe facility is currently being used for parking in the area and the ball parks in this area have been impeded upon with surface parking. Discussions ensued on the City possibly using this location's fields for its Parks and Recreation programming needs.

Principals in attendance from the following Fort Lauderdale Schools each gave an update and input on their current school programs as noted in Dr. Wanza's presentation. It was emphasized during this input that the focus on the students include addressing both their emotional and educational needs:

Phillip Bulluck, Walker Elementary School  
Rendolyn Amaker, North Fork Elementary School  
Jodie Washington, Westwood Heights Elementary School  
Mike Walker, Sunrise Middle School  
Melinda Frame-Wessinger, New River Middle School  
Shernette Grant, William Dandy Middle School  
Priciscila Riberio, Fort Lauderdale High School  
Michelle Padura, Stranahan High School  
Bonnie Clemson, Seagull School  
Wylie Howard, Jr., Whiddon Rogers Center

Comments also ensued from the Commission and the School Board Members including Ms. Brinkworth's discussion on the importance of working in a partnership manner for greater communications to ensure the community is aware of what is going on in the City's schools, noting there can be significant gains in the schools' programs which are not reflected in a school's grade.

Mayor Seiler commented that the City's Public Information can be

utilized to achieve these goals and this information needs to be communicated to the City's Public Affairs Office to get the message out to the community. He also emphasized the importance of having families reside in the downtown area and the School Board needs to address educational needs in this area. Further discussions ensued on the principals getting this information to the City's Public Affairs Office.

Commissioner Roberts stated this information could also be disseminated in the Commissioner's Newsletters, at their District Meetings, Homeowners Association Meetings, noting the importance of communicating this information to the community.

Ms. Brown outlined the "Broward Reads" reading programs available in conjunction with City Parks' Little Libraries in support of literacy, noting the Commission will be endorsing this program by resolution in March 2017.

Ms. Brown discussed the other areas of cooperation and partnership the School Board and the City can work together to achieve as noted in her presentation. Mayor Seiler and Commissioner Roberts requested all of the information regarding this be sent to the Commission so they can disseminate it to their constituents to ensure they know what is available. Ms. Brown noted the contact person for these opportunities is Dr. Valerie Wanza. City Manager Feldman stated the City's contact person for its volunteer program is Jorg Hruschka.

**BUS-4** [16-1552](#)**Disposition of Edgewood Property**

Mayor Seiler discussed Edgewood Park's field space. City Manager Feldman stated following conversations with Ms. Brown, the School Board has placed it under contract for sale for \$5,600,000 to be used for commercial purposes.

City Manager Feldman stated that when the School Board desires to sell property within the City, the City should have the right of first refusal. Superintendent Runcie stated the conversation at the School Board was these properties need to be put out on the market to get fair market value. Mayor Seiler commented requesting that the municipalities receive notice when a School Board property becomes available for sale. Further discussions continued and Superintendent Runcie said the School Board would make an extra effort going forward to give notice to the City for its surplus properties.

**BUS-5** [16-1553](#)**Unpaid Alarm Fees**

Mayor Seiler discussed the School Board's Unpaid Alarm Fees totaling approximately \$250,000 and gave a brief history of past discussions and negotiations. Discussions ensued on this topic.

City Manager Feldman stated the City would accept \$30,000 as payment for the alarm fees with the balance to be credited for staff costs for using the School Board's field facilities. Comments ensued on the date discussions on this topic began. Mayor Seiler noted the need for reciprocity with this issue and these negotiations would take place privately. Ms. Brown stated the School Board has advised that the alarm fees need to be paid on a continuing basis.

**BUS-6** [16-1554](#)

Opportunities for Collaboration and Partnership - City, District and Schools

Opportunities for partnership were included in all of the previous items discussed. Closing comments were given by each Commissioner, the School Board attendees, and Mayor Seiler.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Seiler adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.