



**CITY OF DELRAY BEACH  
EDUCATION BOARD WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
1st DRAFT**

100 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33444

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Monday, October 25, 2023,

5:30 p.m.

City Hall, 100 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

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**Janai Bowens**, Education and Workforce Coordinator explained the format for this presentation is a Workshop. She stated the goal is to receive information concerning Delray Full-Service Center and possible programming or any plans involving Delray Service Center. She advised the first half of the workshop will be solely the presentation by District Staff and the second half, will be opened for Board Q/A. She explained that no recommendations for motions will be made during this workshop but can be brought back during the Regular Education Board Meeting scheduled for 11/6/23.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, **Dr. Raiko Knight** at 5:33 pm

**2. ROLL CALL**

***Present:***

Angelica Nevin (absent)  
Anitra Grant-Straughn  
Anneze Barthelemy  
Barbara Stark  
Joan Dorow (absent)  
Kae Jonsons (absent)  
Kendra Williams  
Marjorie Waldo  
Raiko Knight

**Guest Presenters/PBC School District:**

Edwin Ferguson  
Ed Tierney  
Fred Barch

***Staff present:***

Janai Bowens, Education and Workforce Coordinator / Board Liaison  
Monica M. Daniels, Executive Administrative Assistant / Minute Taker  
Dani Vega, City Attorney's Office  
Jeff Oris, Assistant City Manager

Roll was called and quorum was present.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

NA

**4. PRESENTATION(s)**

***School District of Palm Beach County Presentation regarding Delray Full-Service Facilities and Programming – Mr. Edwin Ferguson, District 7 Board Member, Mr. Fred Barch, Director of Adult and Community Education, and Mr. Ed Tierney, Chief of Schools.***

A PowerPoint presentation was conducted; The first presenter was **Edwin Ferguson, District 7 Board Member**. He explained once the architect and contractor has been selected, the new two-story building (phase 1 = Buildings 1 & 12) should be constructed approximately within the next two years (2025 / 2026). A copy of the artistic rendition of the school was provided as a visual. **Edwin** advised that the renovation of the Gymnasium (phase 2) has already been completed and encouraged the board members at some point to do a tour of the site. He also provided an update based on the district board recommendation that building 2 is set to be demolished due to its dilapidated state; the district decided it was in the best interest of the overall site to put the dollars behind buildings 1 & 12. **Edwin** stated that there is \$20 million dollars earmarked for buildings 1 & 12.

He also discussed phase 2 and the potential of what that building would hold. He briefly discussed programming which is already in place for phase one as outlined in the modules. He stated that a Culinary Program has already been set up in that area of building 12. He advised the district is requesting input as to what programming is needed and what the board/community wants to see in that area. **Edwin** suggested that within the next few weeks they would like to host a Charrette or Town Hall meeting for their shareholders and provide more information and updates also to find out what the stakeholders want.

The second presenter was **Ed Tierney, Chief of Schools**. He stated that the site has been an Adult Ed Site for the past 20 years and will continue to serve as such. He stated they will make it a more modern and effective site we all can be proud of. Ed highlighted the pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs which are HVAC and Electrical. He stated the pre-apprentice is entry level which can become very lucrative careers which flow into apprenticeship where students are getting paid, employed by a company, continuing to learn these skills, earn a certificate and go on for career progression and financial progression, which is the goal for all of their programs. He stated the new building of phase 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor will have what's best and flexible in the industry as the needs of employers involve.

**Ed** stated their goal is to introduce career progression with the acquisition of English language being taught in the classrooms for many of the non-English speaking students while acquiring skills for a career to support a family.

The final presenter was **Fred Barch, Director of Adult and Community Education**. He advised the State is pushing for them to move forward on, which they have already started called Integrated Education & Training (IET). Their focus is on students that may not have a HS Diploma or students who are learning the language and learning a trade with some kind of career path to take them to other levels. He stated there are variety of different programs and mentioned a few of them such as Home Health Aide, EKG Tech, Phlebotomy, and Medical Assistant that are entry level positions which training is being provided for as a continued career path while getting their HS Diploma or learning the language. He stated they will be exposed to the medical field and jobs that they can acquire then decide if they want to stay in that field or go on to PB State for continued learning. Some of the trades (i.e., Electrical) also have mathematics being taught which is tied into their trades which result in students obtaining HS Diplomas, a Trade, and a job.

**Fred** mentioned that with pre-apprentice, which is **free to the students** they have a grant and if you have no skills, they will train you in HVAC or Electrical; upon successful completion you will have 4-5 certifications with a startup tool packet worth \$1000.00. Those students can walk out with the necessary skills and tools to start a job. **Fred** stated they are also targeting HS Seniors that may not go off to college. He stated they establish their programs in the evening/night. He advised they also have a Career Navigator onsite to assist and help students with writing a resume, applying for jobs, and securing jobs. Once they secure a job **Fred** stated they also direct them into apprentice support programs which those students can **continue with 4 years of additional free training** where they work on the job train, then come back 2 nights a week and after that they are considered journeymen; they can open their own business and more. He also mentioned that they have scholarship funds available for those wanting to go in to training in the medical field such as EKG, Medical Assistance just to name a few.

**Fred** also mentioned that a Pearson Vue Authorized Testing Center has also been added. He stated they provide over 250 tests, which organizations and business use when they have to test for certain trainings, they must go to a Pearson Vue Testing Center which they offer. He stated not only does testing take place during the week, but also is offered on Saturdays. He stated that entrepreneurial and state approved training for the soft skill training is also built in which some of the employers are requesting these types of training prior to hiring.

**Ed** also stated that the programs they have listed and laid out, is not something they have solely done but are Career Source based in the jobs that are in this area. **Fred** also stated that they work directly with the City of Delray Data person regarding looking at jobs which are in great demand and training associated with that can be offered at the Full Center.

5. **QUESTIONS (Q/A)**  
a. **Board Members**

**Questions raised by board members - Marjorie** inquired about what is being done about HVAC across the board; concerns about the Health Care industry training as there are no livable wages. She also asked how are livable wages being tracked? **Fred** stated he doesn't have all of the data on salaries at this time. **Marjorie** expressed her concerns and her hope for this facility is that it takes the planning and shape it was designed to do, which is to create results which allow the participants in the program to be independent financially. **Fred** stated these are entry level positions / initial steppingstones. He stated their students are normally not college ready until they progress along to get their HS Diploma and learn the language, these are steppingstones which they are providing opportunities for them to be able to advance.

**Raiko** inquired about the length of the pre-apprenticeship program. **Fred** replied stating the State typically requires them to be 6 months and a day. **Fred** stated they provide additional training which goes on for about 7 months. He stated that they give them multiple certifications. He stated every job requires them to go through OSHA 10, which they also provide, along with First Aid Personal Safety, High Reach Certification (for Electricians & HVAC) and DOE Certification in the pathway which they choose. **Raiko** also inquired if the pre-apprenticeship program is done in semesters. **Fred** stated programs start generally in September and are normally completed in April. **Raiko** also inquired if there is a direct pathway. **Fred** stated it is not necessarily direct, but they make the pathway available; and help direct them to the apprenticeship pathway.

**Barbara** asked what the normal fee schedule and or scholarships are to enter the programs. **Fred** stated the pre-apprentice and apprentice programs are free to the students entering the program. He stated for the medical programs, he currently doesn't have the amounts, however the HHA is typically \$600.00, and their medical assistance program is typically around \$3000 which they also provide scholarships for (private institutions typically start or charge \$20,000). **Barbara** asked if financial aid was provided for higher education/ more expensive programs. **Fred** stated they currently do not have financial aid at this time, but something they can look forward to in the future. **Barbara** asked if you need to be a US Citizen. **Fred** confirmed that you do not have to be a US Citizen for *most* of the programs, he believes apprenticeship does require you to be an American Citizen due to being employed with an employer which requires the documentation to go from pre-apprentice to apprentice, you must be an American citizen or on the pathway to be. **Anneze** asked if this was for Residents or American Citizens. **Fred** stated he would need to clarify, but they would need to be eligible for employment.

**Kendra** asked about weekend testing. **Fred** stated that is for the Pearson Vue Testing center based on what the industry needs. He stated we are a 3<sup>rd</sup> party tester. He stated

they have to reapply which can take 6-12 months to get back those certifications. **Fred** stated they have Adult and Community Education. He stated adult education is focused on Workforce Training; Community Education is fun and leisure, which is open to whoever which are community interest classes which can be done, and the flex space allows them to flex. **Raiko** asked if the Village Academy site can take on students. **Fred** stated before the facility can take on students, it must be accredited by the (COAE) Council on Accredited Education. Which is a 2-year process. Delray will eventually be done in that process. He stated the State requires them to be accredited before they can offer courses and with some of the Medical Training if they keep advancing, they will be able to articulate to PB State as credit hrs. This is a process and will take time. **Edwin** stated that he is working on something with Village Academy and by the end of the year should be able to speak more about it.

**5.. ADJOURNMENT**

The workshop concluded and *adjourned approximately at 6:29pm*

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Board Liaison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[Summary of the Minutes prepared by Monica M. Daniels)