

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

APRIL 26, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Robert Cahill, Wanda Clegg, Greg Federline, Donald O'Brien, Barbara Revels, Joseph Marotti, Mike Gill, Jim Ulsamer, Frank Zedar

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Helga van Eckert, Director
Lili Tuggle-Weir, Administrative Assistant

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.
2. **Roll Call:** A silent roll call was taken. A quorum was present.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** March 22, 2017 minutes
4. **Partner Presentations**

Dr. Thomas LoBasso, President, Daytona State College (DSC)

Dr. LoBasso's presentation included:

- There are 27,000 students attending DSC on five campuses
- Tuition was reduced this year by 3% on top of five years of no tuition increases. DSC students pay 65% less than the national average for state colleges.
- Students can apply for scholarships of \$1,000 to bridge the gap between loans and grants. Grants are provided through the college. Money for scholarships is provided through the school's fundraising efforts.
- The math department has developed an online text book that is offered to the students for free.
- DSC entered into the Direct Connect program with UCF allowing students counseling and enrollment from DSC to UCF.
- Capital projects include the transition building at DSC. The groundbreaking ceremony will be held on May 4th at 10:00 A.M.
- New programming includes the Added Manufacturing program which utilizes 3D printers.
- DSC earned the American Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation. DSC is the only state college with this accreditation.
- Added a daytime half-day dual enrollment construction and machining program.
- A new Associate Degree in Television Production is being offered starting this fall. Students will be filming live sporting events.
- A new soccer stadium is being built and will host a national soccer tournament.
- A new Academy of Hospitality and Beverage Science has been introduced. Besides hospitality the program will introduce the students to beer brewing and wine making.
- The college is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Over 100,000 certificates have been handed out during that time.

Jacob Oliva, Superintendent, Flagler County Schools

Mr. Oliva addressed the council highlighting the following:

- How Flagler Schools drives the local economy. Flagler Schools is the largest employer in Flagler County with over 2,500 employees. There are more than 200 types of jobs within the school system. 85% of the total budget goes to salaries and benefits. These employees live and shop locally.
- Millage rates generate funding for the schools. Flagler County is the 6th highest millage rate in

the state of Florida. Those dollars go into a complicated formula set by the legislature. By the time the dollars go to Tallahassee and come back to Flagler County, we are the 64th lowest funded school system in Florida. The problem is antiquated formulas called the District House Differential. The system needs to be rectified to provide more funding.

- Workforce development relationships: The schools enjoy a close relationship with DSC, the Chamber of Commerce, CareerSource and Economic Development. They meet monthly to discuss challenges, accomplishments and initiatives to increase the workforce talent pipeline.
- Since 2012 the number of students taking advanced placement classes has increased by 52%, with a 42% increase in pass rate. The number of students participating in dual enrollment is 40%. There are 160 after-school clubs and programs.
- The Flagship program which revolves around the county targeted industries had more than 8,100 students participate.
- New programs in agronomy and drone piloting had been introduced this past year. Students are also working with underwater unmanned vehicles.
- The Fire Academy was staffed and fully funded by Flagler County.
- The Construction Academy was introduced at Flagler Palm Coast High School. Students are able to construct buildings and take them down on site.
- Recognitions include: Most challenging high schools (both schools) – Washington Post; Silver and Bronze ratings for each high school – U.S. World and News

5. Executive Director Report

Ms. van Eckert reported on the following:

- Community engagement – Sun and Fun has offered the department a two-page presence in their quarterly periodical
- MRO Convention – Katrina Austin, Project Manager, attended the aviation MRO convention the night before and was meeting with a prospect company.
- IEDC Conference – Ms. van Eckert attended and met with several site selectors that she will be following up with.
- Spec building – A local company is willing to invest. The department is working with them to help facilitate the development.
- EFlorida Marketing Grant – The department was awarded a \$10,000 grant for marketing. Those monies will be combined with the Brownfields Grant money to create a US 1 corridor marketing video to include a virtual spec building.
- Flagler Beach Economic Development Council – Formed last year, we will be engaged with that council moving forward.
- Projects – Polly and Bags are still in the works.

6. Council Comments

Mr. Gill said we need to watch the federal tax policy for opportunities once the monies are repatriated to the United States. This could be a huge opportunity. We should have a workshop to investigate how we can position ourselves to take advantage of funds.

7. Public Comments

Heather Thomas, Interim President, Flagler County Chamber of Commerce, asked the council members to share the Town Hall meeting that is scheduled for May 18th at 8:45 a.m. at the Flagler Auditorium.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the EOAC will be Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Board Chambers.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m. upon motion, seconded, and unanimously carried.