

Broward School Board agrees to pay \$108 million to charter schools

BY JIMENA TAVEL
jtavel@miamiherald.com

The Broward School Board voted to pay \$108 million to charter schools by 2027 — about \$67 million of an original debt and about \$41 million from interest accrued.

The payment plan fixes an issue that had put the Broward school district in trouble with state officials but creates a budgetary dilemma that could affect employees. The board on Tuesday decided to delay that conversation for a week.

The school district's debt

with charter schools, which are financed by taxpayers but managed by private entities, stems from a voter-approved referendum that the school district pushed in 2018.

At the time, Broward County voters agreed to raise their property taxes over the next four years to increase compensation for teachers and other employees and improve school safety, among other initiatives. The school district used most of the money, and only shared about \$4.6 million of the \$453.6 million generated with 21 charter schools with an enrollment of at

least 900 students.

Last fall, some of the charter schools sued the district over the money, arguing a 2019 state law mandated the district to share the money with all charter schools. In late March, the Florida Department of Education ordered the school district to settle the disagreement.

In April, the School Board members approved a payment plan, and on Tuesday, they green-lighted the details of that agreement. The \$67 million will come from a referendum approved in 2022 and the interest will come from the district's

general fund. The \$41 million in interest stems from a 12% interest compounded annually.

Debra Hixon, the board's vice chair, criticized the high interest. "There's no negotiation here," she said. "We were forced to just take it on the chin."

She and another board member, Allen Zeman, also raised concerns about what the budget impact would be on district employees because if referendum funds go toward the debt, there will be less for paying teachers, school security and resource officers and mental health



CARL JUSTE cjuste@miamiherald.com | May 9, 2023

Debra Hixon, the Broward County School Board's vice chair, criticized the high interest rate in the payment: "There's no negotiation here. We were forced to just take it on the chin."

counselors.

Superintendent Howard Hepburn said they would discuss those details at next Tuesday's board

workshop.

Jimena Tavel:
786-442-8014,
@jimenamtb

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select the schools to close; Foganholi didn't explain his reasoning.

HOW WILL SCHOOLS BE PICKED FOR CLOSURE?

In the district's first attempt, Licata and his Cabinet decided which schools to impact and then presented the ideas to the community in town halls.

Hepburn is going a different route.

He wants to create committees of students, parents, staff and other stakeholders in July and August. Then he will train those committee members and send them out to speak to communities in September and October.

Each committee will have a list of potential schools that could be closed or changed. That way, each community will come up with a few ideas on how to solve their own issues and name at least

one school to close there.

The school district will come up with the lists for the committees to consider by narrowing down their 239 schools using the following criteria:

- Enrollment
- The school's historical significance
- Whether the school was built before 1960
- The school type (elementary, middle, high)
- The performance grades that the state has given the school (the district will look at a five-year average)

• Student demographics in the neighborhood (how many kids live there and what percentage is attending charter schools)

"If the schools in question are not considered historically significant, have concerns around aged facilities in poorer condition, and have lower percentages of assigned students attending, these



PHOTOS BY ALIE SKOWRONSKI askowronski@miamiherald.com | May 2, 2023
Broward School Board member Allen Zeman says decisions should be made on a school-by-school basis.

conditions would make them more practical and appropriate candidates for closing," a Hepburn memo reads.

ISSUES WITH HEPBURN'S PLAN?

Alston disliked the criteria because, he said, it will disproportionately affect Black and brown communities. To prevent that, he proposed ensuring that at least one school closes in each board-assigned district.

His idea would mean



PHOTOS BY ALIE SKOWRONSKI askowronski@miamiherald.com | May 2, 2023
Broward School Board member Torey Alston says closures will disproportionately affect minorities.

that seven out of the nine board members experience at least one school closing in the communities that elected them. The other two board members hold at-large seats, meaning they represent the entire county.

"We need to do this fairly," he said. "We need to do this so there is an impact countywide."

Board member Allen Zeman challenged Alston's notion.

"It is a false choice to say we either pass this or

"I DO NOT BELIEVE IN USING POLITICAL BOUNDARIES IN MAKING THESE TYPES OF DECISIONS."

Sarah Leonardi, a Broward County School Board member who says she refuses to mix politics and school closures

we're being racist," he said. "I think we need to think about our decisions on a school-by-school basis with an equity lens."

Sarah Leonardi, another board member, said she refused to mix politics and school closures.

"I do not believe in using political boundaries in making these types of decisions," she said.

OPTIONS IN NOVEMBER

The board approved Hepburn's suggestion, along with the criteria. That means once the committees bring back feedback from the public, the school district will present to the School Board in November some options

of programs to implement and schools to close.

Zeman said that although the motion asks for a minimum of five, he hopes the district presents a lot more than five schools to close. He wants that because of the severity of under-enrollment and because it will be hard for the board to agree on a final list.

"Barring any emergencies in the fall, we'll be able to meet this timeline," Hepburn said. "If there are any obstacles we'll let the board know, but right now we're pretty confident we'll meet it."

Jimena Tavel:
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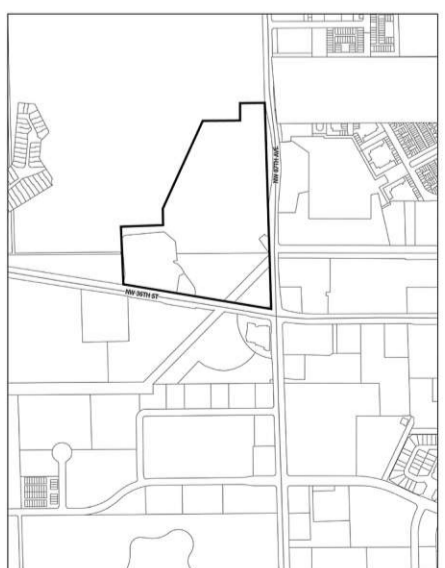
CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF ZONING WORKSHOP

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Zoning Workshop on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** The Meeting will take place at the City of Doral, Government Center, 1st Floor Multipurpose Room located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.

The following application will be presented:

HEARING NO.: 24-06-DOR-13
APPLICANT: Trump Endeavor 12 LLC c/o Felix M. Lasarte, Esq. (the "Applicant")
PROJECT NAME: Trump Endeavor 12 LLC Rezoning to DMU & Doral International Towers Site Plan
PROPERTY OWNER: Trump Endeavor 12 LLC
LOCATION: 4400 NW 87 Avenue, Doral, FL
FOLIO NUMBER: A portion of 35-3021-001-0010; 35-3028-000-0050; 35-3021-008-0010; 35-3028-029-0020; 35-3028-029-0010; 35-3022-010-0010
SIZE OF PROPERTY: ±52 acres
FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and Urban Central Business District (UCBD) overlay.
ZONING DISTRICT: Multi Family Residential 4 (MF-4) and Industrial Commercial (IC)
REQUEST: The Applicant is requesting a zoning map amendment from Multi Family Residential 4 (MF-4) and Industrial Commercial (IC) to Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) for the property located at 4400 NW 87 Avenue, and site plan approval for the proposed 1,498 new residential units and 141,694 square feet of new commercial development.

Location Map



ZONING WORKSHOP PROCESS: The zoning workshop consists of two sessions:

1. First Session. The first session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for members of the public to learn about proposed developments within the city. Developments may be presented to the public simultaneously, in several locations within the meeting site. During this session, members of the public are encouraged to ask questions

and to provide feedback to the applicant about the proposed development. The applicant shall provide visual depictions, such as renderings, drawings, pictures, and the location of the proposed development. In addition, representatives of the applicant shall be available to answer questions that members of the public may have about the proposed development. The members of the City Council shall not be present during the first session of the zoning workshop.

2. Second Session. The second session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for the City Council to learn about the proposed developments discussed at the first session of the zoning workshop. No quorum requirement shall apply. Developments shall be presented by the applicants sequentially, one at a time, for the City Council's review and comment. The applicant shall again present visual depictions of the proposed development. In addition, the applicant shall be available to answer any questions that members of the City Council may have about the proposed development.

No quorum requirement shall apply nor will any vote on any project be taken, but roll call will be taken, as it is a publicly noticed meeting.

Information relating to this request is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

NOTE: If you are not able to communicate, or are not comfortable expressing yourself, in the English language, it is your responsibility to bring with you an English-speaking interpreter when conducting business at the City of Doral during the zoning application process up to, and including, appearance at a hearing. This person may be a friend, relative or someone else. A minor cannot serve as a valid interpreter. The City of Doral DOES NOT provide translation services during the zoning application process or during any quasi-judicial proceeding.

NOTA: Si usted no está en capacidad de comunicarse, o no se siente cómodo al expresarse en inglés, es de su responsabilidad traer un intérprete del idioma inglés cuando trate asuntos públicos o de negocios con la Ciudad de Doral durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación, incluyendo su comparecencia a una audiencia. Esta persona puede ser un amigo, familiar o alguien que le haga la traducción durante su comparecencia a la audiencia. Un menor de edad no puede ser intérprete. La Ciudad de Doral NO suministra servicio de traducción durante ningún procedimiento o durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral



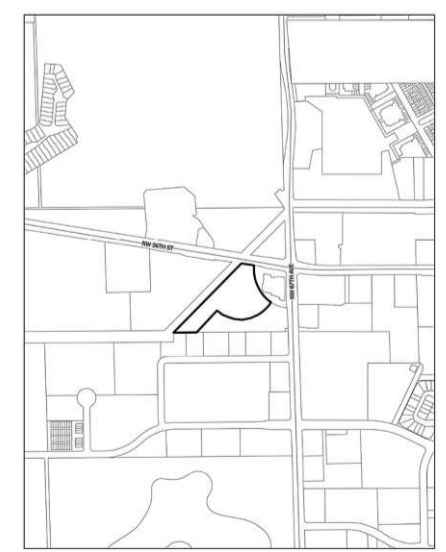
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The following application will be presented:

HEARING NO.: 24-06-DOR-10
APPLICANT: Centrum Doral Owner, LLC (the "Applicant")
PROJECT NAME: Gateway DMU MDA & Pattern Book Modification / Gateway East Site Plan
PROPERTY OWNER: Centrum Doral Owner, LLC
LOCATION: 8750 NW 36 Street & 3750 NW 87 Avenue, Doral, FL
FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3028-010-0020; 35-3028-010-0030; 35-3028-010-0050
SIZE OF PROPERTY: ±13.2 acres
FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and Urban Central Business District (UCBD) overlay.
ZONING DISTRICT: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU)
REQUEST: The Applicant is seeking approval of the previously approved Development Agreement and approval of the proposed site plan for a new 330-unit multifamily residential building and the expansion of an existing parking garage.

Location Map



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