

## MINUTES

### Miami-Dade County Public Schools SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT ADVISORY PANEL FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Minutes of March 14, 2019

School Board Administration Building – Room 559  
1450 Northeast 2nd Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33132

#### **Members Present**

Diane Adreon – CARD	Elias Seife – Parent	Ernie Martinez, Parent
Sandy Ames – FCC	Mark Thompson – Sp Olympics	
Rosa Maria Barbara – Parent	Angie Torres – MDCPS	
Lauren Bustos – PTP -Phone	Chris Reigadas – Honorary (T)	
Michelle Cumming – FIU	Kathy Vergara – Parent	
Enrique Escallon – Parent	Hermine Wilson-Lang - Parent	
Ava Goldman-MDCPS	Lisette Rodriguez - MDCPS	
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard-MDCPS	Jalon Howard-Sejour - SR	
Lynn Miskiel – MCCD	Emily Andrade' - SR	
Mary Wilson Palacios – Parks	Beverly Heller - Parent	
Maria Ratti – Parent - Phone		

#### **Parent Alternates**

None

#### **Agency Alternates**

Michelle Schladant (MCCD)

#### **School Board Member Designee**

Maria Delgado (Dr. Martin Karp)

Laurie Malman (Dr. Lawrence Feldman)

#### **Members Absent**

Elsa Clarke

Irenaida Diaz – ACT

Dr. Lawrence Feldman – Honorary Member

Dr. Martin Karp – Honorary Member

Janet McDaniel – Parent

Amara Condon – Easter Seals

Miguel Suau – Honorary Member

Madeline Spado - Member

### **School Personnel Present**

Dr. Angel Rodriguez  
Maria Selleck  
Sara Walkup

### **Guests Present**

Dashawniese Howard  
Christian Giraldo  
Jazmin Clements

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 pm.

### **Introduction and Welcome**

Ms. Rosa Maria Barbara, Panel Chair, welcomed all members and guests. She also provided a special welcome to our new members and our new student representatives. She opened the floor for all visitors and members to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Barbara opened the floor to review the minutes for the meeting held on January 24, 2019. Sandy Ames moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Michelle Cummings seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the question. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Chair Report**

Ms. Barbara reported her concerns about processes and procedures that are in place for first responders and how they relate to and prepare students with disabilities. Ms. Barbara stated that she is pleased that there will be six (6) four hour courses provided to Police Officers to train officers on how to interact with students with disabilities. Ms. Barbara commended the Panel for their support in promoting the development of this professional development. Ms. Goldman mentioned that plans will also include processes and procedures for specific disabilities for lockdown and emergency procedures.

### **Attendance Boundary Committee**

Ms. Barbara reported that the last ABC meeting was held. The recommendations from this committee affect student population and programs. There were some questions that were posed regarding Students with Disabilities and data was provided about the number of students served in ESE Programs. The next meeting for the ABC Meeting be April 17, 2019. All that are interested in participating in this meeting are encouraged to attend.

### **Family and Community**

#### **Involvement Advisory Committee**

Ms. Barbara opened the floor to Sarah Walkup to speak on the purpose of the FCIAC Committee. Ms. Walkup stated that during meetings various priorities are developed and presentations from selected departments are presented. A FCIAC meeting will be held next Monday and all are welcome to attend. It was noted that the recommendations from the committee are shared with the Superintendent.

## **Presentations**

### **Twice Exceptional Students**

Ms. Barbara welcomed Ms. Lisette Rodriguez and Ms. Maria Selleck from the Department of Advanced Academic Programs to present on Twice Exceptional Students. Ms. Rodriguez defined Gifted student as “one who has superior intellectual ability and is capable of high performance.” She explained that Gifted students are identified by IQ Tests. The District utilizes a variety of IQ tests to ensure that all cognitive abilities are assessed. In 2017-2018, eight thousand seven hundred twenty-three (8,723) students were referred for Gifted evaluation. Ms. Selleck stated that Gifted students differ due to the pace of their learning and depth of understanding. Twice Exceptional Students may present themselves as average but may qualify as Gifted. Presently, there are 1,000 Twice Exceptional Students in Miami Dade County Public Schools. Twice Exceptional Students are normally bright but difficult. They may not complete homework and are usually disorganized. Ms. Selleck discussed what we want to see in a twice exceptional student – offer enriching environments, eliminate drills. Ms. Palacios asked if there was an age where you should look to identify Twice Exceptional Students. Mr. Escallon suggested that we have Universal testing or screening for Gifted programs. Ms. Selleck mentioned that it is important to offer opportunities that challenge students to prepare them to fail. Mr. Seifie mentioned that it is important to encourage supports for Twice Exceptional Students and asked if there are any interventions in place within the District to meet this need. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the District works collaboratively to support students. Mr. Escallon asked how the Panel could support the goal of making Gifted programs and the identification of students more readily available and equitable. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the Panel could help through sharing information with the general population and explain that all schools provide the opportunity to be considered eligible for the program. Ms. Heller mentioned her joy in including the needs of Gifted students on the Panel. Ms. Barbara recommended that any professional development provided to assist with the identification of Gifted students should be provided to ESE teachers as well. Ms. Rodriguez stated that they have provided training, but understands the need to provide more.

### **Evaluation Process**

Mr. Jesus Aviles explained that Child Find is the driving force behind the Evaluation Process. The suspicion that the student has a disability can be triggered by multiple stakeholders. Step 1 is to inform your child’s teacher of concerns. Step 2: prepare for a meeting within 30 Days. Step 3: participate in the meeting to discuss the needs of the student. Step 4: Be Patient – as the process requires the collection of data. Step 5: Mr. Aviles said it is important to encourage parents to speak to the student about the impending test and encourage them to do their best and not be anxious. Tell them that it is okay to not know everything on the test and that the test does not relate to their grades. Step 6: Meetings will be held to discuss results and determine if the child is eligible for ESE programs. Re-evaluations can be held if the student needs additional supports. Mr. Aviles informed the Panel that over 10,000 initial evaluations were performed this year. Ms. Barbara asked for data that will define how many students were evaluated by MDCPS by age, private, and public.

### **School Board Agenda Item H-13, February 13, 2019**

Ms. Goldman discussed Statute 1006.062 requires school districts to adopt a policy and a procedure for allowing a student who is a qualified patient. To capture input from the Panel, recommendations can be provided by listing information on the form or email your recommendations to Ava Goldman by March 22, 2019. A recommendation from Comprehensive Health was that school personnel should not be responsible for the administering of Medical Marijuana. Mr. Seife stated that this issue is a legal matter and feels that this may be a matter beyond the scope of the Panel. Ms. Goldman clarified that the Board

encouraged the input from various stakeholders and that the concerns from the panel should be shared so recommendations can be presented to the Board. Dr. Abrahante stated that the Board Item requires input from the Panel. She explained that as a parent, this forum serves as resource for feedback regarding the item. Also, all members are not compelled to contribute opinions about this issue.

Ms. Barbara requested a change to the meeting agenda to allow for Panel Elections. Lynn Miskiel moved to accept the motion and Diane Adreon seconded the motion.

### Elections

Ms. Barbara opened the floor for Panel Elections. Ms. Goldman stated that Article VIII of the By-Laws guides the election of officers for the Panel. Only voting members can submit a ballot. Ernie Martinez stated that he was interested in having his name added to the ballot for the position of Vice Chair. Dr. Abrahante clarified based on the by-laws all nominations must have been submitted in the month of January. Ms. Goldman stated that there were two ways that individuals can be nominated. **The first is** by the Nominating Committee during the January meeting. The second is that nominations may be made from the floor during the month of January meeting. Therefore, it would not be possible to add Mr. Martinez' name to the ballot.

Mr. Martinez asked Ms. Ratti, who was participating via telephone, if she wanted to be Vice Chair. Ms. Ratti stated that she wanted to withdraw her nomination for Vice Chair. Ms. Bustos, **who was also** participating via telephone, stated that she would withdraw her nomination for Secretary. Ms. Goldman stated that we will reopen the nominating process. Ms. Vergara suggested that the voting process should move forward and then Ms. Ratti and Ms. Bustos should submit the withdrawal of their nomination in writing.

The voting process was conducted and Enrique Escallon was elected Chair. Members congratulated Mr. Escallon.

Dr. Abrahante requested that all Panel Members who are interested in being Vice Chair or Secretary submit an email to Ms. Goldman by April 9, 2019. The election will be held during the June meeting.

### Committee Reports (Review Submitted Minutes)

Awards Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Kathy Vergara/Angie Torres
Early Childhood Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Kathy Vergara
Educational Programs and Inclusion Sub-Committee	No Report
Gifted Education Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Marie Selleck
Low Incidence Disability Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Lynn Miskiel
Mental Health Committee	Report submitted by Michelle Cumming
Nominations Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted

Parent Engagement Sub-Committee

No Report Submitted

Secondary Transition Sub-Committee

No report submitted

**Other**

The Superintendent's District Advisory Panel Awards Ceremony is scheduled for May 28, 2019 at Miami Arts Studio @ Zelda Glazer

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm. Ms. Vergara moved to adjourn. Ms. Miskiel seconded the motion.

**Next Meeting**

The General Membership meeting is scheduled for at 3:00 pm on June 13, 2019.