

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

Minutes of November 3, 2022

Suite 559 – 1450 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33132

Members Present

Dr. Diane Adreon, UM/NSU-CARD (Physical)	Blanca Malagon (Physical)	Dr. Lissette Rodriguez, M-DCPS (Physical)
Sandy Ames, Family Care Council (Physical)	Laurie Malman (Physical)	Patrick Salmasi, M-DCPS (Physical)
Enrique Escallon, Chairperson (Physical)	Lynn Miskiel, UM Mailman Center (Physical)	Elias Seife (Physical)
Beverly Heller 2 nd Vice Chairperson (Physical)	Sandra Rancano, Parent to Parent (Physical)	Kathy Vergara, (Physical)
Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, M-DCPS (Physical)	Maria Ratti (Physical)	Mark Thompson, Special Olympics (Physical)

Members Absent

Rosa Maria Barbara
 Sabrena Bishop
 Dr. Michelle Cumming
 Irenaida Diaz
 Magaly Ercilla
 Brenda Lampon
 Anthony Julio
 Ernie Martinez
 Gisel Prado
 Shirkyla Trimble
 Alicia Walford
 Hermine Wilson-Lang

School Personnel Present

Reagan Chalmers (Virtual)
 Ava Goldman (Virtual)
 Olga Gonzalez-Olivera (Physical)
 Jose Gregoire (Virtual)
 Yvonne Leon (Physical)
 AnSeing Partridge (Physical)
 Marie Sellek (Virtual)
 Natalie Tappert (Physical)
 Angie Torres (Physical)

Ray Novo (Physical)

Guests

Claudia Lequerica, Special Olympics (Physical)
Amanda Ley, Advocacy Network (Physical)
Jesenia Orellana, Parent (Physical)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

Welcome and Introduction of Panel Members/Visitors

Mr. Enrique Escallon welcomed all members and visitors to the Panel meeting. Mr. Patrick Salmasi welcomed all members and visitors as well. Each member and guest introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Consent Agenda was approved. Mr. Escallon asked if there would be any requests for changes to the September 2022 Panel Meeting. Attendance was corrected. Minutes were approved.

Mental Health Presentation

Lianie Cuba
Executive Director
Office of Mental Health and Student Services

Ms. Cuba provided a general overview of services and emphasized that the services were for all students. She reviewed the mission and vision statements of the Office of Mental Health and Student Services, as well as the purpose, which is to enhance school-based supports. She reviewed the threat/risk assessment and referral processes, and discussed trainings that have been provided for staff, parents, and community members. Ms. Cuba discussed the Mental health/SEL programs, strategies, and initiatives for students. The phone number to the parent assistance line (305-995-7100) was provided, and the mental health website, mentalhealthservices@dadeschools.net was shared as well.

District Updates

Exceptional Student Education

Patrick Salmasi
District Director
Department of Exceptional Student Education

Mr. Patrick Salmasi shared information about the Adaptive Driver Education Program, a collaboration between ESE and the Department of Life Skills, which provides access to adapted vehicles. The program will ensure that students with physical impairments have access to driver's education. The Program will be discussed when students are articulating to high school and by staffing specialists at the onset of the IEP.

Gifted

Dr. Lisette Rodriguez
Executive Director, Advanced Academics
Division of Academics

Dr. Lisette Rodriguez shared that the number of schools with itinerant gifted services has been reduced from 54 schools to 32 schools. New partnership with Miami Dade College concerning dual enrollment courses was discussed. Dr. Rodriguez explained that students are able to take certain courses even when they don't meet the statutory requirements.

Pre-K ESE

Dr. Josee Gregoire
Executive Director
Pre-K Program for Children with Disabilities

Dr. Josee Gregoire shared that the Pre-K ESE department is now aligned with K-12 ESE instead of Early Childhood, although they will continue to collaborate with Early Childhood. There will be no changes to the Early Steps process. Enrollment increased to 177 from 168 and VPK Inclusion from 55 to 59.

Subcommittee Reports

Purpose of Sub-committee meetings was provided to clarify that they are informational and fact-finding meetings. The legal implications of in-person and virtual meetings was discussed. Suggestion was made to review by-laws to address this question.

Awards Subcommittee

Preplanning for Awards: Awards tentatively scheduled for the end of April. Next subcommittee meeting is scheduled to take place virtually on December 2nd, 2022 at 2:00 PM.

Early Childhood

Reviewed minutes and the committee's goals: 1) Supporting Families, 2) Supporting PreK ESE Program Awareness and Participation, and 3) Expanding and Supporting Inclusive Opportunities. Updates on community events provided.

Educational Services and Inclusion

Review of M-DCPS LRE Rate which is currently at 71% (increase of 4% from October 2021). Goals for the Educational Services and Inclusion Subcommittee: 1) Identify and amplify the work that exemplar schools are doing related to inclusion; 2) Make connections with exemplar schools-learn about what they are doing and share that information.

Family Engagement

The committee agreed to increase parent participation on the panel for children with exceptionalities. Subcommittee goals: 1) Invite parents of children with exceptionalities to become active members of the various subcommittees. 2) Increase the active participation of agencies that serve families of children with exceptionalities on the Family Engagement subcommittee.

Financial Subcommittee

The subcommittee discussed the budget presentation for the January 2023 Panel meeting. Goal for the year is concerning grant opportunities for teachers. Subcommittee also discussed how #210 will impact the ESE department.

Gifted

Gifted enrollment trends, Gifted/Advanced Model Implementation, professional development for teachers, administrators, and parents/community, and NNAT3 were shared. Gifted Sub-Committee Goals for 2022-2023: 1) The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports increasing identification of underrepresented students in gifted education. 2) The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports professional development for teachers of the gifted, administrators, and staff members on instructional resources and strategies to address the needs of gifted learners. 3) The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee will share important gifted updates and information, with an emphasis on social/emotional development, with parents, school staff, and community members.

Low Incidence

Goals set for 2022-23: 1) Continue to evaluate professional development needs for teachers in relation to instructional strategies for use with students with Low-Incidence exceptionalities. 2) Create padlet for family resources for students with sensory impairments. 3) Evaluate program needs throughout the district with low incidence exceptionalities and incentives to retain and recruit Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Teachers of the Visually Impaired.

Mental Health

Goals set for 2022-23: 1) Improving execution of mental health services. 2) Increasing awareness and acceptance of neurodiversity 3) Distribute the following resources to families: Navigating Mental Health through Schools and Other Agencies and Mental Wellness and Your Child.

Transition

Secondary Transition Subcommittee Goals were developed: 1) Increase parent and staff engagement and awareness of Transition opportunities, programs, and agencies. 2) Increase collaboration with community agencies to bring support and resources to students and families.

Community Updates

- Mr. Thompson shared information on the following events:
 - Special Olympics Fall Classics taking place 11/2022
 - Inclusion 5K Race taking place n 12/8/22 at Bayfront Park

Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Mr. Escallon made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.