

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

Minutes of January 21, 2021

SBAB Room 559

Members Present

Diane Adreon, UM/NSU CARD (Virtual)	Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, M-DCPS (Physical)	Sandra Rancano, Parent to Parent (Virtual)
Emily Andrade, Student Representative (Virtual)	Brenda Lampon, VR (Virtual)	Lisette Rodriguez, M-DCPS (Physical)
Rosa Maria Barbara, Vice Chair (Physical)	Hermine Wilson –Lang (Virtual)	Elias Seife (Virtual)
Michelle Cumming, FIU (Virtual)	Yvonne Leon, M-DCPS (Virtual)	Mark Thompson, Special Olympics (Virtual)
Irie Diaz (Advocacy Network)	Laurie Malman (Virtual)	Angie Torres, M-DCPS (Physical)
Enrique Escallon, Chairperson (Physical)	Lynn Miskiel, UM Mailman Center (Virtual)	Kathy Vergara (Virtual)
Beverly Heller (Virtual)	Maria Ratti (Virtual)	Alicia Walford, PEN (Virtual)

Members Absent

Sandy Ames
 Sabrena Bishop
 Ernie Martinez
 Gisel Prado
 Chris Reigadas

School Personnel Present

Magaly Abrahante (Virtual)
 Liane Cuba (Virtual)
 Marisol Diaz (Virtual)
 Martha Diaz (Virtual)
 Magaly Ercilla (Physical)
 Ava Goldman (Virtual)
 Juan Carlos Gonzalez (Virtual)
 Shannon Gottardi (Virtual)

Arlene Lindsay-Marshall (Virtual)
Mary Paz (Virtual)
Angel Rodriguez (Virtual)
Patrick Salmasi (Physical)
Orfirio Sanchez (Virtual)
Ann Marie Sasseville (Virtual)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Panel Members/Visitors

Mr. Enrique Escallon welcomed all members and visitors. He explained that only 6 members confirmed that they would attend in person, therefore quorum is not met. Three voting members were identified as present physically at SBAB Room 559.

Angie Torres shared that Irie Diaz is now on the panel from the Advocacy Network on Disabilities. She also shared that Sabrena Bishop is a parent member. Rosa Maria Barbara asked to change her membership status to honorary member.

All members and guests were introduced. Mr. Escallon then reviewed meeting norms. He also shared that the meeting would be recorded.

Review of Agenda

Mr. Escallon reviewed the agenda. He explained that voting could not take place since quorum was not established, however the panel can proceed with presentations.

Presentations

IDEA Budget

Shannon Gottardi, Executive Director
Exceptional Student Education

Shannon Gottardi provided information and descriptions of the IDEA K-12, IDEA Preschool, FDLRS and SEDNET grants. She reviewed the 2019-2020 IDEA Grant budget. She provided the summary of final budgeted amounts and expenditures for the grants. Ms. Gottardi provided an update on the 2019-2020 IDEA K12 budget. Salary and non-salary expenditures were also reviewed. A summary of the 2019-2020 IDEA Pre-K Budget and expenditures were discussed. Ms. Gottardi provided information about the 2020-2021 IDEA Grant.

ESE Budget Report for 2019-2020

Martha M. Diaz, Chief Budget Officer Budget Management
Office of Financial Operations

Martha Diaz provided a description of the 2019-2020 General Fund ESE Budget. She reviewed the costs coded as direct instructional functions. School and district indirect expenditures were discussed.

Mr. Escallon asked for the presentations with budget and numbers can be provided to the panel before the meeting. He opened the floor to questions. Mr. Seife asked about the salaries and fringes. Ms. Gottardi and Ms. Diaz provided clarification. He also asked about the costs for software licenses. Ms. Gottardi shared information about several programs that are in this category. Rosa Maria Barbara asked about the teachers that are funded by the general fund and by IDEA. Ms. Diaz explained that IDEA funds teachers beyond the general fund. Rosa Maria Barbara asked about the open ESE teacher positions, and how many of those are gifted teaching positions. Ms. Gottardi and Ms. Diaz provided clarification.

Mr. Escallon asked how the district is making funding projections for next year. Ms. Diaz shared that initial meetings for next year's FTE have taken place and that estimates were made based on the data from 2020-2021. Rosa Maria Barbara asked how the district is working to bring back students who have been disengaged during distance learning. Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard explained the functions of social workers, community involvement specialists, and administrators in identifying students and connecting with families.

ESE Nominations for Panel Officers

Enrique Escallon
Angie Torres

Enrique Escallon reviewed Article 7 – Election of Officers and Article 9 – Executive Board Officers, Appointees and Duties from the By-Laws. Angie Torres read the articles during the meeting. Angie Torres asked for nominations for Second Vice-Chairperson. Elias Seife was nominated for Second Vice-Chair. Mr. Seife thanked the panel for the nomination but declined. Ernie Martinez was also nominated for Second Vice-Chair. Angie Torres asked for nominations for First Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Seife nominated Hermine Wilson-Lang.

Angie Torres reviewed the criteria for the position of chairperson. Mr. Escallon opened the floor for nominations. Rosa Maria Barbara nominated Enrique Escallon for Chair. Elias Seife nominated Ernie Martinez for Chair. Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard nominated Elias Seife for Chair. Elisa Seife declined. Maria Ratti nominated Enrique Escallon.

Angie Torres reviewed the names of individuals nominated:

Nominations for Chair: Enrique Escallon and Ernie Martinez
Nominations for First Vice-Chair: Hermine Wilson-Lang
Nominations for Second Vice-Chair: Ernie Martinez

Hermine Wilson-Lang was asked if she accepted the nomination for First Vice-Chair. Hermine Wilson-Lang shared that she needs additional time to make a decision on whether to accept or decline. Ernie Martinez is not present and cannot accept or decline at this time. Enrique Escallon explained that more nominations can be made at the next general meeting and referenced Article 7. He reminded the voting members that quorum must be established at the next panel meeting to be able to vote.

Meeting Wrap-Up

Enrique Escallon shared information about other committee meetings he has attended within the last month.

Angie Torres reminded subcommittee chairs about scheduling the next subcommittee meetings.

Rosa Maria Barbara shared that she formally requested to change her member status with the panel.

Ally Walford thanked district personnel for partnership in offering sessions for the community. The last session about Transition will be posted online in mid-February.

Adjournment

Rosa Maria Barbara made a motion to adjourn at 4:30 PM. Dr. Lissette Rodriguez seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.